



**SUPREME COURT  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**  
Stirling Gardens  
Barrack Street  
Perth WA 6000

---

## **MEDIA ALERT**

9 September 2004

### **Sir Francis Burt AC KCMG - Statement from the Hon David K. Malcolm AC, Chief Justice of Western Australia**

The Chief Justice, speaking from Fiji, where he is sitting as a member of that country's final Court of Appeal, said he was deeply saddened by the death of Sir Francis Burt.

Sir Francis had been a great influence in his own education and legal career. It had been a great privilege to work with Sir Francis since he had been first employed by Sir Francis' law firm as a summer clerk in 1955 -56, before starting at Law School.

Sir Francis was a brilliant teacher, lawyer, counsel, friend and mentor over many years. He was an inspiration to successive generations of lawyers who had been taught by him or worked with him.

He was without pretension. His humanity was deep and sensitive. Sir Francis' knowledge of the law and understanding of the human condition was extensive. He had a great amount of common sense. While an intellectual giant, he could relate to people of almost any background.

Sir Francis was the acknowledged leader of the Bar when in practice. He remained the leading lawyer in the State in his capacity as a Judge. His appointment as Chief Justice was universally acclaimed. His judicial work and leadership on the Court were recognised throughout Australia. Above all, he earned the great respect and affection of all of those who worked with him or came into contact with him.

To have the benefit of his friendship and advice was something to be treasured.

**Media Contact: Val Buchanan**  
**Manager, Media and Public Liaison tel: 9421 5303**  
**or pager 9324 4319**