

# This charming man Memories of David Aronsen

Geoff Coates, Managing Editor



*A fine man died recently. David Aronsen a Plaintiff lawyer to his bootstraps drew his last breath on 24th January, 1999.*

Dave was a barrister who taught me as much as anyone about being a lawyer. I recall being in one of the Workers Compensation Boards presided over by a very ill-tempered judge (rumoured that he suffered badly from piles) when Dave Aronsen ambled into the court, immaculately dressed as usual, but some little time after the matter in which he was briefed had been called. The judge in question on his irritable days would routinely strike out matters where barristers or solicitors had not been present when their matter was called. This was a fairly frequent occurrence at the Board as it was in 6 divisions on 3 different floors and all commenced their lists at the same time. When Dave approached the bar

table and announced his appearance the judge responded "why, Mr. Aronsen, shouldn't I strike this matter out having regard to your failure to be here when the matter was called over. What can you say to convince me that I shouldn't deal with your matter as I do with everyone else's?" Dave, as it was his custom, took a very long time to respond before glancing over the top of his half moon glasses and responded "I suppose if I was your honour I might make some allowance for the fact that I had never had anyone quite so old appear before me." As it was said in the most charming and self-effacing way, it drew a smile from this otherwise irritable judge and the matter was allowed to remain in the list.

So I remember Dave Aronsen as a champion of Plaintiffs, a skilful lawyer and mostly a very charming man.

Another memory I have is of sit-

ting in a coffee shop with Dave talking about a wide range of interesting issues that had absolutely nothing to do with the case in which we were both involved.

The co-author of the obituary that follows, Fran Hogan, then a relatively young lawyer like myself came over and spoke to us for a little while and then departed. Dave turned to me and said, "Fran is a very attractive young woman isn't she." I was shocked because I had regarded Dave something like a father figure (my own father having recently passed away) and it struck me I suppose in the same way that it would if my father had mentioned it. I am sure it won't have shocked Fran though, Dave was a most charming man and we will all miss him greatly.

The following obituary is prepared by Fran Hogan in conjunction with Mark and Linda Aronsen.