

Women Lawyers Association Obituary

Vale Patricia Ann Rae Dale OAM (1930-2012)

Patricia Ann Rae Dale OAM was a founding member of the Women Lawyers Association of NSW in 1952. Born, Patricia Green in Mosman, she began her legal career in 1948 at the Sydney firm Boyce & Boyce, was articled to Ken Tribe and admitted as Solicitor, Proctor and Attorney in 1954.

Patricia ran a private practice from her home in Cheltenham from 1956 to 1971 while raising, with her husband Philip Dale, a family of four children. Patricia's practice included locum legal work in Parramatta and the city and voluntary legal work with the Congregational Church.

Patricia Dale became a partner at RD Mulray and Co in Pitt St in 1971. Her work with the Congregational Union saw church work become an important part of the practice. Patricia was proud of her contribution to the formation of the Uniting Church in 1977 and was especially thrilled to witness the passage, through the NSW Parliament, of the Act enabling the Church's formation.

Patricia Dale was a member of the Joint Constitution Committee prior to the inauguration of the Uniting Church in Australia and Member and Chairperson of the Legal Reference Committee of the Assembly. She was Chairperson of the Board of Finance and Property of the NSW Synod of the Uniting Church. Patricia was a Trustee of the Uniting Church Property Trust of NSW and the ACT.

Patricia established several self-care aged facilities in Epping as a board member and Chair of Coombah and Carinya Uniting Care self-care retirement units. She gave ten years service as a volunteer Director of the Uniting Church NSW Trust Association.

Patricia became a consultant at Hunt and Hunt in 1988 with her firm's merger there, and retired in 2000.

Patricia remained an active member of the Women Lawyers Association of NSW and represented them at meetings of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) where she served four terms as International Secretary. Between 1984 and 1998 she attended FIDA conferences in Helsinki, Brussels, Accra, Madrid, Cartagena, Nassau, Stockholm, Paris, Hong Kong and Nairobi.

Patricia Dale was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia OAM in 2005 for service to the community, particularly through the provision of honorary legal assistance to the NSW Synod and Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia and to Amnesty International.

Patricia died peacefully at home in Mosman after a several years of declining health from heart/lung disease and carcinoma.