

## **Curriculum Vitae**

### **Chief Justice Emeritus Hugh W. Harding**

Hugh W. Harding, son of Judge William D. Harding and Lucy nee Psaila Manche`, was born in Valletta on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1925. He studied at the Lyceum and came first in order of merit in the 1941 matriculation examination. He joined the University wartime Course of Legal Procurators and became Legal Procurator in 1943. Continuing his studies at the University he graduated B.A., in 1946 and LL.D in 1949 when he was called to the Bar. As first student in his course he was awarded the Government Travelling Scholarship and followed a postgraduate course in Law at London University (1949-1950).

He was appointed Lecturer in History of Legislation at the Royal University of Malta in 1950 and he then carried out, as required by the said University, research work relating to Malta in the State Archives of Palermo and Naples during the period 1955-1957.

Before being appointed Judge, besides exercising an extensive legal practice, including that of legal adviser to Malta Drydocks, to motor insurance, oil and several other companies, he was appointed an Independent Member of the Labour Board in terms of Section 3 of the Conditions of Employment (Regulation) Act 1952, as well as Chairman of the Cinemas and Theatres Wages Council, the Printing and Publishing Industry Wages Council, The Laundries Wages Council, The Leather Goods and Shoes Industries Wages Council, the Food Manufacture Industries Wages Council and the Domestic Service Wages Council.

Dr Harding also served as Election Commissioner in the 1962, 1966 and 1971 general elections, and as Independence Referendum

Commissioner in 1964 as well as Electoral Commissioner for Gozo in terms of Regulation 3 of the Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1961.

He was appointed Judge with effect from the 17<sup>th</sup> November 1980 and sat in the Criminal Court as well as in the Civil Court and in the Court of Appeal.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> August 1985 he was informed by letter from the Rector of the University that the Council of the University at its sitting of the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1985 had unanimously agreed that the title of “Professor” be conferred upon him “in its desire to reciprocate in some way the honour you have rendered to the University.”

Mr Justice Hugh W. Harding was appointed Chief Justice with effect from the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1987. On retiring from the Bench in 1990 he was in 1991 appointed Chairman of the Permanent Law Reform Commission.

He was elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (F.R.Hist.S.) in 1969 and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London (F.S.A.) in 1971.

His publications include the two University textbooks “History of Roman Law in Malta” and “Maltese Legal History under British Rule (1801-1836)”. He also published in the Law Journal (of which he was Editor during 1947-1948) articles entitled “Some considerations on case law” (1945), “The Accused in Maltese Law” (1947) and “First offenders under Maltese Law”(1948), as well as in the “Rostrum”, No 9 of January-June 1958 an article on “Customary Law”. In 2003 he published a detailed study on the life of Sir Giuseppe Borg Olivier under the Order of St John, during the French occupation and at the beginning of British Rule.