

Philip Barkley Shaw (Espin 1965 - 1969)

EP Herald article 19/01/2011:

Philip Barkley Shaw was a true gentleman whose presence will be sadly missed, his colleague, Pagdens Attorneys' Rob Parker said yesterday. Shaw, who was the media attorney for Avusa in Port Elizabeth, died on Saturday 15 January 2011 after a three year battle with cancer. He was 59.

After joining Pagdens Attorneys as an articled clerk in 1971, Shaw progressed through the ranks and became the firm's chairman, a position he had upheld with "much dignity for a number of years", Parker said. Apart from his work with The Herald and Weekend Post, Shaw's areas of specialty were litigation, maritime law, insolvency, mediation and arbitration, family law and insurance. Parker said Shaw had been a font of expertise and knowledge for other members of his firm, earning for himself among his colleagues the nickname of the "Grey Wizard". His memory of events was prodigious and this, with the wise counsel he offered, especially in times of difficulty, was frequently called upon by all the members of his firm," Parker said. "Everyone at Pagdens has their own special memories of Philip and what he has meant to them over the years and will feel his loss most keenly."

Shaw was also associated with the Pirates Hockey Club, both as a player and official. "He loved South Africa and all the wildlife that inhabited it," said Parker, adding that Shaw had taken many trips over the years with his wife Karin "to all the corners of the country to spend quiet time surrounded by nature".

Karin said last night Shaw had been ill with cancer for three years. He died of complications at Greenacres Hospital on Saturday. "He had a wonderful fighting spirit. I will miss his smile and sense of humour. He played a pivotal role in the family." "He was very loved and respected in all circles," she said, adding that besides his active role in Rotary, he had also been actively involved in the Grey Junior, Grey High and Alexander Road High schools' governing bodies, of which he had been chairman.

Shaw, who was born in Barkley East in 1951, attended St Andrew's College in Grahamstown and studied through Unisa while doing his articles at Pagdens. His father Cyril was a well-known Anglican minister. His sister Paula lives in Zimbabwe. He is survived by Karin, and their three children – Simon, 30, a pilot and musician in Port Elizabeth; Andrew, 28, who works for an investment bank in Frankfurt, Germany; and Amy, 25, a pilot in the Democratic Republic of Congo.