

PROFESSOR SIR MARK HEDLEY DL (G56-65)

Born in London in 1946, he grew up in Africa and was educated at Framlingham. He joined the University of Liverpool's law school in 1965 and was called to the bar at Gray's Inn in 1969. In a ceremony at the university in 2003, he was said to be "the epitome of a modern judge, in touch with society and its issues".

After spending a year in Sudan, he returned to a pupillage in London before moving back to Liverpool in 1971 to take up a place in chambers. It was in Liverpool that he developed his expertise in law relating to children. He became a recorder in 1988, a circuit judge in 1992 and then a high court judge in the family division in 2001.

He has been involved in a number of high profile cases, including whether a seriously ill 11-month-old daughter should be allowed to live or die in peace and whether an infertile man whose former partner became pregnant after IVF with the sperm of an anonymous donor had the right to be legally regarded as the child's father.

In July 2005, Mark received an Honorary Fellowship from Liverpool John Moore University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the legal profession. He was recognised for the outstanding professional and non-professional contributions he has made to family and child law and his local community in Liverpool - he has lived in Everton since he was offered a place in Chambers in the city in 1971. In the mid 1990's, he helped establish the Alder Hey Children's Rights Advisory Group, created to help with difficult cases of medical treatment of children. He also acts as Chancellor of the Diocese, the ecclesiastical judge for the Diocese of Liverpool.

Picture: Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law, Professor James Kirkbride, the Vice Chancellor Professor Michael Brown, Sir Mark Hedley and Finance Director, Denise Stewart

He lists his recreational pastimes in Who's Who as cricket and railways

For further information on Mark, see these articles on SOF website
<http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/article.php?story=20041001153122248> - The Charlotte Wyatt case

<http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/article.php?story=20030918153827880> - OF Knighted

Richard Sayer (S56-61) spotted that he was awarded a prize in *The Times* Law Page's annual awards for 2009. He won the prize for **Judicial Anger Management** in response to the incompetence of a public authority.

In his judgment criticising Orkney Island Council and Cambridgeshire County Council for their failures to give priority to the needs of a very vulnerable child, he revealed that he "found it necessary to adjourn the hearing briefly so as to ensure that no wholly improper judicial observations escaped my lips", and he had not given his judgment immediately "because I did not trust myself to express my views in a temperate manner".

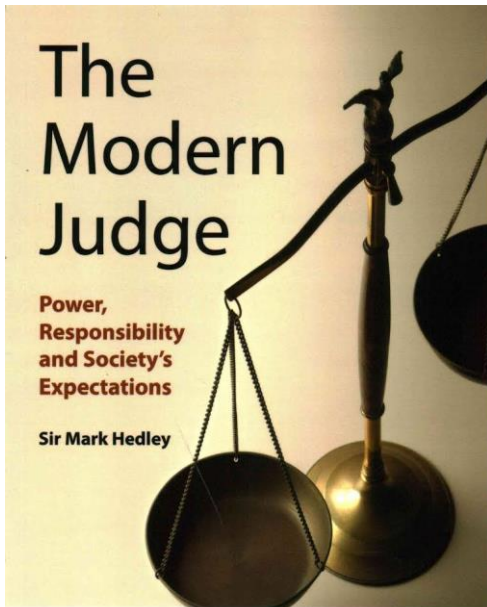
Mark sent a copy of his judgment to both Westminster and Holyrood to draw attention to the behaviour of the two councils. You can read the full article on Mark's judgement here
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6954564.ece>

He retired from the High Court (Family Division) on 10 January 2013 and since then has been the Visiting Professor of Law at Liverpool Hope University.

He became a Deputy Lieutenant of Merseyside in 2015.



In May 2016 it was announced by the then Home Secretary that he had been appointed to a panel of experts who will undertake an independent review into the application of Sharia Law in England and Wales.



In late 2016 he published his first book entitled "The Modern Judge: Power, Responsibility and Society's Expectations", a copy of which he has donated to the College library. The book conveys in a very short compass the fruits of a lifetime in the law, and displays the wisdom that made him one of the most respected family and Court of Protection judges. In a series of short chapters, originally delivered as lectures at Liverpool Hope University, Sir Mark asks profound questions as to the place of the judge in society and to the basis and justification for their role in determining cases involving the welfare of children and those falling within the scope of the MCA 2005.

LexisNexis

Family Law