

MARION SIMMONS QC  
1949-2008

On Wednesday, 12 March 2008, an audience of academics, practitioners and students gathered at Charterhouse Square for the Annual Competition Law and Policy Lecture 2008, organised by Maher Dabbah on behalf of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Competition Law and Policy (ICC), and delivered by Bo Vesterdorf until recently President of the European Court of First Instance (CFI). I came accompanying our senior chairman, Marion Simmons QC, who was an enthusiastic and committed supporter of the ICC, indeed one of its earliest affiliated members. For Marion, her support to the ICC, to Maher Dabbah and to students studying competition law was an important aspect, not just of her commitment to the subject area of competition law but of her great commitment to those who study the law and to Queen Mary, University of London as her alma mater. Marion had provided lead thinking especially on 'competition and arbitration' and pushed forward the research agenda in an area that fits extremely well with the interdisciplinary nature of the ICC.

Marion showed her commitment to individuals and to their development both publicly and privately. She worked assiduously through the structures of the Bar to promote the effective training of advocates and, behind the scenes, operated a remarkably open policy towards Queen Mary students. Whatever the query and whoever the person, she would always find time in her crowded diary to help students. She also took great time and trouble in developing the référendaires whose work is invaluable to the Tribunal.

Between 2003 and 2008, her contribution to the Tribunal and to competition and communications law went beyond the obvious and substantial case load that she carried. One lawyer encapsulated what many seemed to feel when writing of Marion's unerring courtesy, good humour, careful and thoughtful chairmanship and of her insightful analysis. Marion became an integral part of the team at Victoria House, relating to individuals throughout the Competition Service that supports us as well as providing particular leadership during the interregnum between Presidents. She was a particular support to Sir Gerald Barling as incoming President and she had been a great support to the first President, Sir Christopher Bellamy, after the untimely death of Professor Dan Goyder who was due to serve as a chairman alongside her.

Marion showed her courage and determination not just in working right through her battle with cancer and continuing to enjoy entertaining and evenings out but also in enjoying her great network of family and friends. The family and friends whose appreciation and attention she so valued in the closing period of her time with us have sustained a loss that is both deepened because of how she related to us and moderated by our having known a remarkable person who lived such a full and fruitful life.

Adam Scott  
Member, Competition Appeal Tribunal