

Sir Alex Jarratt, Life President of the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution

It is with great sadness that CEDR announces the passing of Sir Alex Jarratt last month at the age of 95. Sir Alex was CEDR's Chair for the critical first 10 years of the organisation's existence from 1990 to 2000, seeing CEDR on its journey to become Europe's largest independent ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) organisation, working with disputants in the UK and helping businesses and legal systems around the world.

CEDR's thoughts are with the family, the children and grandchildren, of Sir Alex, whose wife Lady Philomena Jarratt passed away in 2018.

When Sir Alex joined CEDR in 1990 it was after an exceptional career in government and in business. As CEDR's first Chief Executive (now its Founder President), Dr Karl Mackie CBE said of Sir Alex's retirement in 2000 and his becoming a Life President: *"CEDR benefited enormously from Sir Alex's guidance. He had the perfect background for an organisation breaking new ground in public and private sector dispute management. Following senior experience with the Civil Service, Sir Alex also brought hands-on experience of the corporate world having been Chairman of several leading organisations including Reed International and Smiths Industries."*

Sir Alex was an engaging and supportive individual, who committed to sharing his wisdom to benefit CEDR in its mission to bring new, more effective dispute resolution techniques into business. Eileen Carroll, CEDR Founder and Principal Mediator, said of his legacy *"Alex was an inspirational leader and mentor to those of us who had the privilege of working with him – it was beyond fortunate when he accepted my invitation in 1989 to become Chairman of this start-up and untested organisation. I could not have foreseen the depth of his influence on our founding years or the deep friendship that continued with Alex and his wife Phil over 30 years"*.

With a career and life as rich and varied as Sir Alex had, CEDR was privileged to have his counsel and friendship. An abridged CV that demonstrates his experience follows below:

- Sir Alex joined the Civil Service in 1949 and served in various departments, including the Ministry of Fuel and Power, the Treasury and the Cabinet Office. He resigned from the Civil Service in 1970 as a Deputy Secretary, and entered industry as a Managing

Director of the International Publishing Corporation (part of Reed International). From 1974 to 1982 Sir Alex was Chief Executive of Reed International and then Chair until 1985.

- Between 1985 and 1991, he was Chair of Smiths Industries plc and then continued as the senior Non-Executive Director until 1996.
- Sir Alex was involved in a number of charitable activities, including the Rank Prize Funds Trust, St Francis Hospice, Haveringatte-Bower and was president of the Mid-Essex Medical Academic Trust, Hon. Vice President of the British Red Cross (Essex) and a Friend of the College of Physicians.
- Previous activities included being Director of Goodyear, Associated Communications, ICI PLC, Midland Bank (Deputy Chair), Prudential (Deputy Chair) and Thyssen Bornemisza; Member of the National Economic Development Council; Chair of the CBI's Economic Policy and Employment Policy Committees; Chair of the Industrial Society; Chair of Henley Management College; President of the Advertising Association; Vice President of the Institute of Marketing and President of the Periodical Publishers Association.
- He was Chancellor of the University of Birmingham from 1983-2002, the university he attended as an undergraduate after his service in the Second World War.
- Sir Alex was knighted in 1979 and awarded the Companion of the Bath in 1968. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Essex in 1995, which was the county where his home and family were based.