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TIMES
12/5/97

CAWS - Richard Byron Caws CVO CBE FRICS died on 13th May 1997. He was the much loved husband of Fiona and father of Geneva, Elan and Alessandra. Private funeral services to be followed by burial in Gloucestershire. No flowers please. Memorial Service will be announced later.

TIMES
15/5/97

GENEVRA CAWS

Genevra Caws, QC, barrister, died of a thrombosis on April 14 aged 48. She was born on February 21, 1949.

GENEVRA CAWS was considered by many to be the outstanding woman barrister of her generation. And, if her name was less well known to the public at large than that of some of her contemporaries, it was because of her range of qualities — the most outstanding of which was her modesty.

The daughter of Richard Caws, a chartered surveyor who was for 26 years a Crown Estate Commissioner, and his wife Fiona, she was christened Genevra Fiona Penelope Victoria, but was always known as Jenny.

She was educated at Notting Hill and Ealing High School, where she was an outstanding pupil, and of which she subsequently became a local governor. Awarded an exhibition in Classics to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, she went up in 1966 at the age of 17 to read law.

Her Oxford career was one of unblemished academic success. As the first woman to be elected to such a position in the Oxford University Law Society, she greatly enjoyed the title of Mistress of Moots. She won a distinction in Law Moderations, the Gibbs Law Scholarship, and a first in the Honour School of Jurisprudence in 1969.

A Duke of Edinburgh scholar of the Inner Temple, she did her first pupillage with Gordon (now Lord) Slynn, the then Treasury devil, at No 1

Hare Court, and then with David (now Mr Justice) Keene at Gray's Inn Chambers, now 4-5 Gray's Inn Square, where she spent the rest of her professional life. While awaiting the interview for a scholarship from Inner Temple, she met her husband James Curtis, QC, who invited her out to tea. They married in 1985. Jenny Caws developed a wide-ranging practice in commercial, employment, competition and administrative law, and featured in many reported cases. She was also well-known in the field of professional negligence and was recently described in a law journal as the "first choice" on any case of substance". She took silk in 1991. Shortly after she had put in her application, she was invited by the Attorney-General to become Junior Counsel to the Inland Revenue — the second most senior appointment open to the Junior Bar on the common law side. Had the invitation come a few weeks earlier, she might have accepted it; but after anxious consideration, she decided to pursue her chosen course and duly became a Queen's Counsel in the next Easter list.

The success she achieved in the front row can be seen by enumerating the clients who sought in recent years her services for important cases: the Law Society, the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, the Further Education Funding Council, government departments and various local authorities.

Between 1993 and 1995 she acted for the Director-General of Fair Trading in the Restrictive Practices Court in contempt proceedings brought against 13 ready-mixed concrete suppliers. This was one of the largest litigation actions in the history of the Office of Fair Trading and resulted in record fines. In 1996 she acted for the Director-General of Fair Trading in bringing to an end the Net Books Agreement. She was elected a bencher of her Inn, the Inner Temple, in 1996.

She was as at home in Coln Rogers, Gloucestershire, where she and her family lived and farmed at weekends, as she was in her professional life in Chambers. She loved the beauty and simplicity of life in the country and particularly gardening and wild flowers.

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She and her husband became expert in sheep breeding, which she studied and on which she grew very knowledgeable. She was a voracious reader. She was also a proficient fisherman and skier and it was in Val d'Isère, Switzerland, while on a skiing holiday, that she suddenly died.

Jenny Caws was a formidable lawyer. She had many strengths as an advocate, a gentle but firm voice and calm judgment. But what was best about her as a barrister, was what was best about her as a human being: patience, reasonableness, a courteous capacity to listen and a real warmth and understanding.

She is survived by her husband, a nine-year-old daughter, her parents, and a brother and a sister.

