



Nigel Cotman, Retired Barrister, formerly of New Chambers

Nigel studied accounting at Sydney University, graduating B Ec with a major in accounting. While studying, he was working at Peat Marwick Mitchell, now KPMG, in audit and then tax and in the staff training of the annual university student intake.

In order to study Law, he commenced teaching accounting at UNSW in the Commerce Faculty and enrolled in the new Law Faculty as a part time student. He continued teaching while completing his Law degree, initially teaching only accounting and, later, accounting and commercial law.

On graduating he became the head of the Legal Studies Department of KCAE, delivering a legal studies stream in a commerce school. He completed a Masters degree in Law at Sydney University.

Nigel commence full time practice at the Bar in 1978 with a practice that developed in Commercial, Equity and Trade Practices matters. He appeared frequently in civil and criminal cases involving significant accounting, finance or numerical evidence and analysis and the deployment and deconstruction of expert accounting or other numeric evidence. He has been periodically involved in the training of accountants to be effective expert witnesses and of practicing lawyers in how to use, or challenge, accounting evidence. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 1996. In 2000-3 he was appointed an Assistant Commissioner of ICAC to enquire into and report on the collapse of the NSW Grains Board. He retired from practice in 2019.