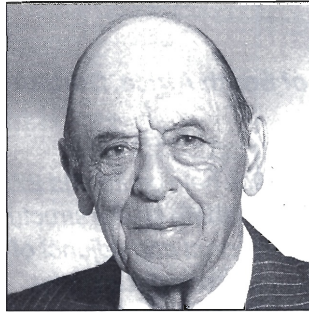


## The late Justice Oscar Galgut QC OBE

Oscar Galgut was born on 31 July 1906, and matriculated in 1923. He then attended the Transvaal University College (now Pretoria University) from 1924 to 1928, acquiring the BA and LLB degrees. He practised as an attorney in Pretoria from 1928 to 1935. In 1935 he commenced practising as an advocate in Pretoria (save for a break during the war years 1939-1945) until his appointment to the Bench in 1957. During the war he served with the SAAF in North Africa, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.




He was at one stage the Commanding Officer of 24 Squadron, and subsequently of 3 Wing. He was awarded the OBE and was mentioned in dispatches. He took silk in 1950 (in those days QC). After returning to practice after the war, he served as the Chairman of the Military Pensions Appeals Tribunal. He was for many years a member of the Pretoria Bar Council, for some as chairman, and an executive member of the General Council of the Bar. He was appointed to the Supreme Court, Transvaal Provincial Division, in 1957 and as a judge of the Appeal Court in 1975.

Shortly after his permanent appointment to the Bench Judge Galgut sold his library to the Pretoria Bar. This purchase, together with that of Findlay QC, became the nucleus of the library of the Pretoria Bar,

which was ceremoniously named "The Oscar Galgut Library" on 15 November 1991.

He retired in 1976, at the compulsory retiring age of 70. From 1977 until 1986, when he was 80, he remained an acting Judge of the Appeal Court. While still an acting Judge of the Appeal Court he was, from 1977-1984, chairman of the South African Press Council, and for nearly ten years was the president of the Advertising Standards Authority for South Africa. From 1986 until 1996 when he finally stopped

working at the age of 90, he was in daily demand to do service as an arbitrator, and as commissioner in company investigations. He was President of the Pretoria Club for about six years until his death on 22 May 1999.

Although he was not awarded Springbok colours, he came close in two sports. In 1926 he was selected to represent a Springbok athletics team to tour Canada as a 110 yds hurdler, but due to study commitments he was unable to accept. He was appointed vice-captain of the South African Hockey Union team which toured Kenya in 1938. This was the first ever South African hockey team, and it seems that it was for that very reason that its members were not awarded Springbok colours. He was also a keen golfer, at his best his handicap being two. 

# Trevor Foster

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