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John Butler was President of AIDA for eight years from 1990 until 1998 when, having served the maximum term permitted he stepped down and became, *ex officio*, an Honorary President of the Association. As President of AIDA he initiated the foundation of AIDA Reinsurance and Insurance Arbitration Societies (ARIAS) as an international body to regulate reinsurance and insurance arbitrations and was instrumental in establishing ARIAS (UK) (serving as its Vice-Chairman) as well as ARIAS (US) and CEFAREA in France. He was also a President and Chairman of the British Insurance Law Association (the UK Chapter of AIDA).

Legal Officer (General Counsel) of The Mercantile & General Reinsurance Company London from 1961-91 until, upon his retirement, he joined Barlow Lyde & Gilbert Solicitors as a Consultant from 1991 until 1999.

John served on many London Insurance Market Committees over the years including the Reinsurance Offices Association's (now IUA) Wording Committee, of which he was Chairman from its foundation in 1979 until 1991. He has also acted as an arbitrator and Umpire/Third Arbitrator on numerous occasions in the United Kingdom, Bermuda, Europe and the United States.

Co-author of Butler and Merkin on *Reinsurance Law* published by Sweet & Maxwell. John has also published many articles on reinsurance law in various journals and was the Legal Correspondent of *Reinsurance* for over 30 years as well as being editor of *Insurance and Reinsurance Law International* and other publications. In addition he has given frequently presentations on reinsurance law and related matters in the Far East, Europe and the United States.