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Press Release

Title: Phillips mourns founder partner

Date: February 2009

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With 44 years in the legal arena to his credit, John Phillips, who died unexpectedly on 28th January, will be sadly missed by his family, his partners and colleagues at Phillips Solicitors, his clients and all his business contacts in Basingstoke.

Mr Phillips, who qualified as a solicitor in Hampshire way back in 1960, quickly became well known around town when he set up a branch office for Foster Wells and Coggins above Griffins pork butcher in Church Street in 1968. He was there when buses and cars used to hurtle up and down London Street, directed by the local policeman on point duty in the middle of the, as it was then, town square.

Property conveyancing was always Mr Phillips main specialisation; he saw many changes in the way business was conducted, from hand delivered bankers draft on the day of moving house, to a computerised system - but John always believed that the personal touch is what counts. From its inception in 1986, John Phillips was proud to help Phillips develop and grow into a thriving full service practice with 50 members of staff, in a modern building on the corner of London Street.

Howard Gardener, Alex Preshaw and Jonathan Pender, who joined Mr Phillips' partnership originally, paid this tribute: 'When we started, we badly needed John's experience, gravitas, humour and ability to secure a bank account and overdraft. John was a true gentleman, polite and helpful to all and fully committed to and focused on the personal touch. John is much missed for his cheerful nature and compelling personality, not just by the Phillips team but also by all his former clients and the townspeople of Basingstoke.'

John Phillips' funeral takes place on 11th February at 2pm at Bentworth Church and Phillips Solicitors will be closed during the afternoon as a mark of respect.

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