My modern-day ED&I hero is Edwin Cameron who started his legal career as a human rights lawyer pitted against the apartheid regime in South Africa. He was involved in drafting the post-Apartheid constitution and ensured gay rights equality was recognised, a significant milestone in the early 1990s. He fought for human rights and, in a country ravaged by HIV, he spoke out against the denialist HIV/AIDs policies of Mandela’s successor, President Mbeki. He had a remarkable judicial career leading to an 11 year stint as a justice of the Constitutional Court. If his campaigning and career accolades were not enough then his personal fight for justice and recognition surely carves out a place for him in modern history. He managed to succeed in his career as an openly gay man, in a country not readily recognised for its liberal societal values; and later in his career disclosed that he was a person living with HIV. An ardent campaigner on various human rights issues who has broken the taboos and stigma about being gay and being HIV positive in South Africa. Cameron is not just “one of South Africa's new heroes” (as Mandela said) but someone who should inspire lawyers everywhere.

