

Vale
Ross Ray QC

Members of the South Pacific Lawyers Association were saddened to learn this week of the unexpected death of its Inaugural Chair, Mr Ross Ray QC.

The South Pacific Lawyers Association consists of the fifteen countries, large and small, in Oceania or the South Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand, as well as our own Norfolk Island which is treated as a separate country (a distinct and separate settlement). The Norfolk Island Bar Association was a founding member of the S.P.L.A, which is supported by the International Bar Association and the Law Council of Australia.

Dr John Walsh of Brannagh, President of the N.I.B.A, had worked with Ross Ray and his international team over the years and saw the great improvements made in legal education and research in that time. Ross was not only a competent and well respected lawyer but also a leader which showed in the many programmes introduced to the South Pacific members.

Death of Ross Ray QC

The sudden and tragic death of the Law Council of Australia's former President, Ross Ray QC, is a tremendous loss to his family, friends and the entire Australian legal profession.

Ross served for a number of years on the Executive of the Law Council of Australia, and was President in 2007/08. Since 2007, he has been the inaugural Chair of the South Pacific Lawyers' Association.

During his time as Law Council President, Ross strongly advocated for the rule of law and had the vision to see the importance of strengthening justice in the Asia-Pacific region. Ross was a leading national practitioner in the field of Work, Health and Safety.

He also practised in common and criminal law; appearing in many significant criminal trials. Ross was committed to bettering Australia's legal system through education and training, particularly advocacy training.

His many educational contributions included serving as a member of the Australian Bar Association Advocacy Training Council, where he taught Advanced Advocacy courses Australia-wide.

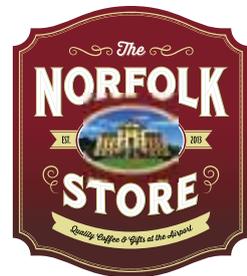
Ross wasn't just a brilliant legal mind, he was a close friend and confidant of many in the legal community, including a number here at the Law Council. His sharp wit, coupled with a down-to-earth character and great sense of humour, was cherished by all who met him.

To say that Ross will be missed by those who knew him is an understatement. He was a truly extraordinary individual who will leave a hole not easily filled in our community.

[The above statement can be attributed to Mr Stuart Clark AM, President of the Law Council of Australia.]

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