



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

Law Council Gala Dinner 2023 – President-Elect speech

Speech delivered by Mr Greg McIntyre SC, President-elect, Law Council of Australia at the LCA Gala Dinner, Canberra.

1 December 2023

Good evening. I am honoured to be with you tonight among so many distinguished guests.

I echo the acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners of this country.

It will come as no surprise that my thoughts, in recent months, have had a focus on the role which the President of this organisation plays, noting the 63 Presidents who have performed that role in the last 90 years. We are particularly privileged to have among us tonight 22 past Presidents – in order of the year of their service:

- Gerry Murphy AM, 1982
- Alan Cornell, 1984
- The Honourable Darryl Williams AM KC, 1986
- David Miles AM, 1991
- The Honourable John Mansfield AM KC, 1993
- Michael Phelps, 1995
- Fabian Dixon RFD SC, 1998
- Dr Gordon Hughes AM, 1999
- Anne Trimmer AO, 2000
- Ron Heinrich AM, 2002
- The Honourable Bob Gotterson AO QC, 2003
- Judge John North, 2005
- John Corcoran AM, 2009
- Glenn Ferguson AM, 2010
- Catherine Gale, 2012
- Vice-President Jo Catanzariti AM, 2013
- Michael Colbran KC, 2013-14
- Stuart Clark AM, 2016
- Fiona McLeod AO SC, 2017
- Morry Bailes AM, 2018
- Magistrate Pauline Wright, 2020
- Tass Liveris, 2022

As has been pointed out, when you take into account our current and 63rd President Luke Murphy, that historical list is book-ended by the Murphy clan, marking a remarkable feat of family service to the legal profession.

As I have observed the manner in which Luke has performed the role of President this year, I have been hugely impressed by the level of energy and passion he has applied to the task. At times I have felt exhausted just listening to his quarterly reports of the numbers of meetings he has had both nationally and internationally with our colleagues among our constituent bodies, international law associations, The Commonwealth Courts and Commonwealth Government agencies, some of which has been detailed in his speech this evening.

Luke's personable manner has built on the relationship the Law Council has with the Commonwealth Government, contributing to the prevalence of the Law Council's views being enthusiastically welcomed and valued by the Attorney, his Department and numerous Parliamentary Committee and Government agency inquiries.

A major advocacy area which Luke has been obliged to embrace from a standing start this year is the impending introduction of an Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing regime regulating the legal profession. He has participated in many meetings with the regulator and with those in other jurisdictions around the world teasing out the issues which will need to be addressed, picking up information from the experience of others who have had experience with the various versions of the regime which exist around the world and educating the regulator as to how such a regime will impact upon the range of legal practices which exist in Australia, emphasising the different capacities which the different sizes of legal practices around the country will have to comply with regulation in this area and the low level of risk of anti-money laundering which exist within the legal professions.

The Law Council's standing in the international legal community has been greatly enhanced by Luke's engagement with International Bar Association members, which had a particular focus this year on an Australia-United Kingdom Free trade agreement.

I know that Luke has made a point of getting around the country and meeting up with the Constituent Bodies of Law Council fostering the strong partnerships that exist between the Law Council and its Constituent Bodies.

The legal profession has been very well served by Luke Murphy our 63rd President and those who have gone before him.

I would ask you all to be upstanding and raise your glasses to toast the Presidents, both past and current: The Presidents.

When I assume the mantle of 64th President of the Law Council on 1 January 2024 I note that I will be only the 6th President from Western Australia, following the Honourable Oscar Negus, 1958-59, the Honourable Peter Brinsden QC, 1972-73, Ian Temby QC, 1983, the Honourable Darryl Williams AM QC, 1986 and Rob Meadows AM KC 1992

All that the Law Council has achieved over the past 90 years, and all it will continue to achieve as the Voice of the Legal Profession would not be possible without the dedicated work of our Constituent Bodies, each and every dedicated member of our Sections and Committees and the hard work and painstaking attention to detail of the Secretariat. Let me take this moment to thank each of you and express how much I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

Some of you are aware of the history of my engagement with the Law Council; with the Australian Environment and Planning Law Group and, more recently, the Climate Change Working Group, the Access to Justice Committee, the National Human Rights Committee, the Governance Committee and Finance and Risk Committee, the Indigenous Legal Issues Committee and the Voice Referendum Working Group. There is much work to be done in those areas in 2024, to which I will add a role on the Executive Council of Lawasia, in representing you in relation to the full range of national and international legal matters the specialist Law Council and its Sections and Committees will address during the coming year. I look forward to receiving as much help as you are able to offer in doing the possible job we can for the legal profession and the community we serve.

Disclaimer:

This document remains the property of the Law Council of Australia and should not be reproduced without permission. Please contact the Law Council to arrange a copy of this speech.