

Statement



Friday, 11 September 2020

Vale the Hon Justice Stuart Fowler AM

On behalf of the Law Council of Australia and the Family Law Section we are deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of the Honourable Justice Stuart Fowler AM.

Amongst the many of achievements of Justice Fowler throughout his distinguished career, he served as Law Council President during 1994-95 and was the first Law Council President appointed following his tenure as Chair of one its Sections.

He is the only Law Council President who has had this honour. During his term as President, the Law Council adopted a strong focus on human rights and rule of law issues, releasing for public discussion a *Draft Australian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, urging the Australian Government to implement the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Justice Fowler was one of the founding Executive members of the Family Law Section and is fondly remembered by his contemporaries within the Family Law Section for his quick wit, drive and enthusiasm. Admitted as a solicitor in 1966, he dedicated his career to the practice and administration of family law both domestically and internationally.

In 2007, then Attorney-General, Philip Ruddock appointed Justice Fowler as a judge of the Family Court of Australia.

His international achievements included the establishment and Co-chair of the World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights and through this work and his services to the law in Australia and overseas he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2005.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Gail Hawke, and his family.

Pauline Wright
President
Law Council of Australia

Paul Doolan
Chair
Family Law Section

The Law Council of Australia is the national voice of the legal profession, promoting justice and the rule of law.