

Dr GORDON HUGHES AM – BIO

Dr Gordon Hughes AM was elected chair of SPLA in 2017.

Dr Hughes is a former President of LAWASIA (2001-2003), the Law Council of Australia (1999-2000) and the Law Institute of Victoria (1993). He was also Chair of the International Law Section of the Law Council of Australia (2008-2014), and has been the Chair of the Business Law Section of LAWASIA since 2015.

Gordon is a principal in the Australian law firm, Davies Collison Cave, practising in the area of intellectual property, commercialisation, information technology law, ecommerce and data protection. He has authored or co-authored eight legal texts,

Dr Hughes has received numerous professional awards in recognition of his achievements, including the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Australian Law Awards in 2004. He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law in 2011.

Dr Hughes has had a longstanding interest in the welfare of the legal profession in the South Pacific. In 2002, he represented the Law Council of Australia at the IBA Pacific Leaders Forum in Fiji which resolved to establish a "South Pacific Bars Secretariat". This proposal ultimately metamorphosed into SPLA.

He led a fact-finding mission to Fiji in 2009 in the wake of the Fijian constitutional crisis, and participated in subsequent formal visits to Fiji on behalf of LAWASIA in 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015 and 2017. He has spoken at two Fiji Legal Conventions and he also addressed the 2013 SPLA Conference in Vanuatu.

In 2017, Gordon was awarded an Order of Australia “for significant service to the law, to professional organisations and to international affairs and legal practice in the Asia-Pacific region”.