

Citation for Posthumous Life Membership of SCoLA: Professor Roman Tomasic

SCoLA bestows Honorary Life Membership on scholars who have made a sustained and outstanding contribution to Corporate Law in Australasia.

SCoLA has posthumously awarded Professor Roman Tomasic Honorary Life Membership.

Professor Roman Tomasic passed away peacefully on Sunday 10 July 2022. We were all deeply saddened by his death. On behalf of SCoLA, a floral tribute was delivered at his funeral. At the time of his passing, Roman was Professor in Justice and Society at the University of South Australia.

Roman's accomplishments as a distinguished corporate law scholar of national and international repute are well known and a short summary cannot do justice to a full and rich career. However we have attempted to capture in this Citation a sense of Roman's contributions and the breadth of his professional engagement.

In its tribute, the Australasian Law Academics Association (ALAA) of which Roman was a past Chair, described Roman as a giant of Australian corporate law. Indeed, Roman was not only influential in that academic association (ALAA), but was an integral part of the Corporate Law Teachers Association (CLTA). His lengthy association and contributions to the CLTA extended all the way back to the key role he played as part of the founding members of the CLTA. Roman worked closely with Paul Redmond, Ian Ramsay, Stephen Bottomley and others to nurture the CLTA and went on to host the 2nd Conference in Canberra and later to become the President of the CLTA.

In common with the tribute paid by the Australasian Law Academics Association (ALAA), we also acknowledge the huge and influential role Roman played in the development of the Australian Academy which he deeply cared about. Colleagues have described, and we have witnessed, his razor sharp mind brought to bear upon issues. Roman's other professional associations included membership of the Law Council of Australia, the Law & Society Association and as a member of the Australia-China Business Council.

Roman was a graduate of the University of Sydney (BA, LLB, MA), University of NSW (PhD) and University of Wisconsin (SJD). Roman worked as a corporate law teacher and researcher in Australia, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong and Beijing. He has also held visiting positions in law schools in the USA, Hong Kong, Beijing and Malaysia and was a Visiting Professor of Company Law at Durham Law School for approximately 4.5 years. He held administrative positions in law schools and business schools in a number of Universities in Australia and served as Dean in the Faculty of Business and Law at Victoria University, Melbourne and was the Head of the Sir Zelman Cowan Centre for Continuing Legal Education. Roman also served as a consultant in regard to corporate law and insolvency issues for bodies such as the World Bank and the OECD.

Roman had a strong interest in comparative corporate and commercial law, with a particular interest in East Asia. He published many ground-breaking scholarly works in this area. He had a long-standing interest in issues of legal education and the work of law schools.

Romans left us with many lasting legacies, including his seminal role as founding editor of the Australian Journal of Corporate Law.

As a leading figure in Australian legal education, it is fitting to posthumously award Roman Tomasic honorary life member of SCOLA.

February 2024

Vivienne Brand
SCoLA President

The work of Anil Hargovan in preparing this Citation is acknowledged with thanks.