

Media release

Australian takes reins at international body

Australian insurance lawyer Michael Gill has been elected president of the International Insurance Law Association (AIDA) for a four-year term.

It is the first time an Australian has been president of the prestigious international organisation, which in 2010 celebrates its 60th year.

Mr Gill's elevation to the top role occurred during AIDA's X111 World Congress in Paris this week. He has been a member of the AIDA Presidential Council for the past 20 years and was most recently the council's vice-president. Mr Gill is a consultant at DLA Phillips Fox, in Sydney, having been a partner there from 1971 to 2008.

He thanked the Australian Insurance Law Association (AILA) for supporting his nomination as president and assisting him to attend Presidential Council meetings. He thanked DLA Phillips Fox for "encouraging me to seek the role and agreeing to provide support during my term of office".

Mr Gill was a founding father of AILA, which had its inception at the 1982 AIDA World Congress, in London. Mr Gill and Sydney solicitor John Hastings were the only two Australians present and the then-AIDA president asked them to establish an AIDA chapter in Australia.

During his AIDA term of office, Mr Gill will invite the association to revisit and revalidate the legal and scientific research work for which it is renowned.

He is keen to see AIDA strengthen the quality of its work in legal research and law reform and will examine relationships with stakeholders, including the insurance industry, governments, regulators and academics, to ensure the relationships are strong and that AIDA is still relevant to its stakeholders.

AILA president David McKenna, who is currently representing AILA in Paris at the World Congress, welcomed Mr Gill's election. He said it was a great honour to have an Australian as the AIDA president and Mr Gill, who has a long-standing reputation for excellence in the insurance law field, was a very fitting appointment.

Released by: Kate Tilley, AILA communications consultant, ph (07) 3831 7500 or 0418 741606, email ktj@ktjournalism.com.

Editors: A high-res photo of Mr Gill is available. Please email KTJ for a copy.