



Charles Richard Xuereb

Charles Richard Xuereb was born in Birmingham in the UK in 1955, the middle son of Victor and Romilda Xuereb. Charles' father was in the British Army and, following service in the UK, the family moved to Hong Kong and then settled in Sydney in 1958.

Charles attended De La Salle College at Kingsgrove until he completed Year 10 and then spent the final two years of secondary school at Kingsgrove North High School. Those final two years at Kingsgrove North High School were the happiest of his schooldays and the many friendships he formed then lasted his lifetime.

Soon after enrolling in the Solicitors' Admission Board diploma course, he signed Articles with Marcus Conomos. Charles eventually took over Marcus' firm at Marrickville where he practiced for some 20 years before taking up a consultancy position with TressCox in February 2000. In 2004 Charles set up his own firm in Pitt Street, Sydney, where he practiced until May 2018.

Although a sole practitioner, Charles ensured that he immersed himself in serving the community through his work with the Law Society.

Between 1987 and 1990 he was President of the Inner West Law Society, following which he continued to serve as a member of the Inner West Law Society's Executive until 2005.

Between 1991 and 1998, he served on the Council of The Law Society of New South Wales, and again between 2004 and 2007.

During his terms on The Law Society Council, he served on some 29 committees, sub-committees and task forces. He was Treasurer of The Law Society during 2006.

Between 1994 and 2000, he served as a Director of the Solicitors' Mutual Indemnity Pty. Limited (now LawCover Pty. Limited), during which time he served on four Committees.

Charles represented The Law Society on the Local Courts (Civil Claims) Rules Committee (1992-1998); the Local Courts Civil Litigation Sub-Committee; the Model Courts Advisory Committee; and the NSW Standing Committee on Arson

During 1996 and 1997, as a Councillor of The Law Society, he conducted a regular legal talk-back programme on Saturday mornings on ABC Radio 2BL with Bob Hughes.

In addition to his work with the Law Society, Charles for many years was a member of the Management Committee of Stepping Stone House Inc. Stepping Stone House cares for young people who are homeless, through no fault of their own, and want to be helped. This organisation seeks to encourage those homeless teenagers to develop and mature in an environment which enables them to, in time, take responsibility for their own lives. Stepping Stone House is located in Dulwich Hill.

In June 2008, Charles was appointed Co-ordinator of the Lawyers' Assistance Program, a service established by The Law Society of New South Wales. The service is designed to help solicitors in difficulty (be it practice-related or emotional or financial) with advice and assistance. Charles continued in this role until May 2018.

In April 2018, having been treated for some months for what was thought to be a hiatus hernia, Charles was diagnosed with an inoperable, malignant tumour of the oesophagus and stomach. Despite undergoing chemotherapy treatment, Charles' cancer metastasised to his peritoneum, lungs and pelvis, and he died on 20 September 2018.

Charles and Deborah had married in 1993. In 2016 their family welcomed a grandson, Jamie, whom Charles adored. His second grandson, Will, was born in June 2018, and although weakened greatly by his illness, Charles delighted in holding and cuddling baby Will whilst he was able.

Charles was a man of great Christian faith, honest, reliable and trustworthy. His knowledge of the law was outstanding and always up to date. He was the "go to" person for many good lawyers, and in particular there is a group of 12 Inner West lawyers who for many years regularly enjoyed testing his knowledge of the law and its practice.

He has been described by colleagues as "a beacon of honesty and integrity in the legal profession. "

A good friend of Charles' described him thus: "He was not only a wonderful human being but a great and compassionate lawyer as well. He could be described as the Atticus Finch of the legal profession as illustrated in the film that all lawyers should see - a role model for all lawyers in every respect."