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Profile of

Richard Faulks

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At APLA's national conference at the Gold Coast recently, while most of the 350 delegates recovered from the night before, Richard Faulks was out running a minimum of 10km each morning. Sound tough? Not compared to the 'Host City Marathon' he completed in April this year, although "it nearly killed me in the process," says Richard.

Active beyond the physical sense, Richard is also a keen APLA member. Formerly the ACT Branch President, Richard recently assumed the role of National Secretary.

"After attending the Coolool Conference in 1997, I realised what an important role APLA could play," says Richard.

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is associating with people who are passionate about fighting for the rights of the injured or disadvantaged."

Born in Newcastle, Richard grew up in Canberra and completed Arts/Law at the Australian National University. Of his uni days, Richard says in hindsight he wishes he had worked less and played more.

Richard went straight from Honours in law to being an Articled Clerk, where he was earning a pittance and working at a petrol station on the side to subsidise his income. He also worked as a kitchen hand. Richard says "Things haven't changed much but at least I'm not a kitchen hand anymore".

Richard says the issues he encounters in his role with APLA's National Executive are similar to those at State branch level, particularly "the constant

threats to our precious common law rights". However, Richard also comments that his new role has given him the chance to have a greater say in the move to make APLA a truly national organisation.

Richard's areas of practice include workers' compensation, medical negligence, motor vehicle and industrial accidents. And he has had his share of 'interesting' cases. "The strangest thing I've had to do is argue that my 56-year-old client would have been earning \$2000 a week as a prostitute if she hadn't fallen in a supermarket," he says.

Outside of work, Richard loves going to see musicals – Les Miserables being his favourite. He likes music, particularly Paul Kelly, Taxi Ride and The Whitlams, but definitely not "the head-banging stuff", he says. ■