

Profile on *Sukhwant Singh*



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Sukhwant Singh is rather unique. And it’s not just the fact that he wears a turban (something Sukhwant lists as a “little known fact” about himself - though we would beg to differ, particularly as rumour has it he campaigned for the inclusion of the ‘APLA turban’ in APLA’s range of merchandise). Sukhwant is also APLA’s longest standing Branch President. He has practised law in three different countries, speaks several Asian languages, and enjoys listening to the music of John Farnham.

So if that last fact hasn’t scared you off, read on...

On His Background

Sukhwant was born in Singapore. After completing his Masters degree at the University of London in 1982 he practised law in both London and Singapore, in the areas of commerce, building and construction, company law, shipping law, general and marine insurance and public and private international law.

Sukhwant believes living in England was one of the most significant

influences in his life: “It is an entirely different society to Singapore’s” he says, “for the first time I really understood the significance of the rule of law.”

And it would seem Australia has had a different influence again. “I moved to Perth in 1988, because I preferred the Western Australian lifestyle. Perth’s the best city in the world,” he says

On Being a Plaintiff Lawyer

On his arrival in Perth, Sukhwant initially joined a large commercial firm, however in 1990 he moved to Smith Williamson Singh Solicitors. Today, as a partner at Friedman Lurie Singh, Sukhwant’s current areas of practice are personal injury, estate succession and international law.

“It can be a hard slog getting a result for clients in this environment of injured-worker and claimant bashing,” says Sukhwant, “But the best thing about being a plaintiff lawyer is pushing the frontiers to new law.”

On APLA

Sukhwant has been a member of APLA since 1994 and is the first (and current) President of the WA Branch.

“I believe APLA’s biggest challenge is enhancing the image of plaintiff lawyers – and I consider this to be absolutely essential,” he says. “In 10 years time I would like to see APLA as a powerful lobby group with federal members of Parliament as APLA members and a good public image.”

And the best thing about being APLA’s WA Branch President? “The role a Branch President can play in the lobbying process, the reform of law and uniting plaintiff lawyers against the ‘dark forces’,” he says. **PL**

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