



# Justice Peter Hannon

By Karen Hannon and Bob Whyburn

**L**ong-time member of APLA and the Australian Lawyers Alliance, Peter Hannon was sworn in as a Judge of the District Court of South Australia on 12 August 2004. His Honour has been assigned to the Industrial Relations Court of SA and consequently also sits as a deputy president of the Workers Compensation Tribunal of SA.

Peter was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of SA in March 1974, having completed his articles at Cocks Duncan & Co. Subsequently he became a partner in 1974, and he remained a partner in that firm and its successors until his appointment. Until January 2000, the firm was known as Duncan and Hannon (following amalgamation it became known as Duncan Basheer Hannon). For the last 10 years, Peter filled the role of managing partner.

In a long and distinguished career as a solicitor and barrister, Peter gained experience in a wide range of areas, but he was principally recognised for his work representing unions and their members in workers' compensation, common law and industrial cases. Peter appeared as a barrister in many significant matters at first instance and on appeal before the Industrial Relations Court and Industrial Relations Commission of SA, the Australian Industrial Relations

Commission and the Supreme Court of SA, as well as the Federal Court and High Court assisting Senior Counsel. In his latter years in the practice, the duties of managing partner meant that he had to confine himself to working exclusively in the industrial/employment law and defamation areas but Peter continued to represent major unions in SA and appeared regularly as counsel in the federal and state industrial tribunals. Peter also acquired qualifications as a mediator in 1994 and participated as a mediator or party representative at mediations on numerous occasions up to the time of his appointment.

As well as his membership of APLA and the Lawyers Alliance, Peter was a founding member of the Labour Lawyers Society of SA, serving as assistant secretary and secretary. At the time of his appointment, he was a member of the committee of the Society and had been a member continuously for 15 years. Because of his particular expertise, Peter was appointed a member of the Industrial Relations Committee of the Law Society of SA in 2001, and through his role as a mediator he became a member of Leading Edge Alternative Dispute Resolution in May 1994, and attended various LEADR workshops and seminars. He was also a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars for the Law Society at state legal

conventions and industrial relations conferences. Since May 2001 Peter has been a member of the Board of INVICTA Services Limited, a disability services organisation.

For many years Peter's firm was a member of the PeopleLaw group of firms, which included law firms in most states and territories and in New Zealand with a particular interest in acting for trade unions and union members. Hall Payne of Brisbane, Phillips Taglieri of Hobart, Ryan Carlisle Thomas of Melbourne, Dwyer Durack of Perth and Whyburns Legal of Sydney were all members of the PeopleLaw group, and all of those firms have also participated in APLA and the Lawyers Alliance for many years.

Even though his duties as a judge keep Peter very busy he now has more time to spend with his wife Karen and their daughter Claire, and to indulge in his interests, which include cycling, reading, politics, history and his enjoyment of fine food and wine. Peter's contribution to APLA and the Lawyers Alliance has been greatly appreciated and the organisation wishes him well in his new role. ■

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**Karen Hannon** is Peter Hannon's wife.  
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