

# RULE OF LAW

## INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

12 December 2011

### media release

#### **RoLIA congratulates Nicola Roxon for her appointment to Attorney-General**

RoLIA welcomes the appointment of the Hon Julia Roxon MP to the position of Attorney-General of Australia.

RoLIA CEO, Richard Gilbert, said, 'RoLIA congratulates Ms Roxon on her appointment to this fundamentally critical role as first law officer in the Commonwealth of Australia. Also, we congratulate her on being the first woman to be appointed to this position.

'The Attorney-General has the paramount role in giving legal advice to the Australian Government which respects the rule of law by upholding the doctrine of the separation of powers. Also, this advice must respect the principles and laws which are embodied in the Australian Constitution and the Commonwealth statute and case law.

'RoLIA has three outstanding matters that it would want the Attorney to address, viz:

- the demonstrated need to review the Model Litigant Rules and the administration thereof, with such a review to be the task of the Australian Law Reform Commission;
- the development of an appropriate outcome in relation to the proposed statutory tort on privacy that inter alia upholds and respects freedom of speech and freedom of the press; and
- the need to address the imperative of open justice in Australia via the development of uniform laws which ensure that as far as possible the courts are open for public viewing, and that their decisions are openly available for public scrutiny.'

For further information please contact RoLIA CEO Richard Gilbert on 0417 247 998