

Qui est Michael Bula? The Man Behind the French Prize.



Michael Leopold Bula (1975) was awarded Summons House Colours for theatre in 1975 and won the French Prize in both 1974 and 1975 — an award that now bears his name.

Since graduating from CGS, Michael has built an extraordinary international legal career. He holds a B.A. in French and Italian, LL.B. (Melbourne University) and a Graduate Diploma in Notarial Practice (Victoria University). He is a Barrister and Solicitor (Victoria, ACT, NSW & Vanuatu) and a Notary Public (ACT, Victoria & Vanuatu), first admitted to practice in Victoria in 1982. Fluent in French and Italian, with additional languages including Spanish and Portuguese, Michael drafts legal and notarial acts in multiple languages.

Michael is Legal Counsel accredited to the French, Belgian and Estonian Embassies and the Italian Consulate General in Melbourne. He is also a NAATI certified French↔ English translator, operating his agency, Traductions Françaises.

He has served two terms as President of the Society of Notaries of Victoria (SNV), is a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Notaries (ANZCN), and has represented Australia at the International Union of Notaries. As Delegate for International Affairs, he has signed cooperation agreements with notarial bodies across Europe, Africa and beyond, promoting international collaboration where treaties do not exist.

In 2003, Michael was appointed Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Senegal. In 1998, he was decorated as Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite by the French Government for his legal and cultural service, including as co-founder and Executive Director of Melbourne French Theatre Inc.

Michael has lectured at Victoria University's Sir Zelman Cowen Centre since 2004, now serving as an Adjunct Research Fellow and is also a casual lecturer at Bond University. His work in multicultural affairs was recognised with the State of Victoria Award for Excellence in 2006.

As principal of Michael Bula Solicitors, International Lawyers and Notaries, founded in 1985, his firm specialises in cross-border legal matters with associated offices in Paris, Rome, Milan and Valletta, and partnerships across Europe, Africa and the Pacific.

Michael is a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Scriveners — the first and only resident Australian practising notary to hold this distinction. He lives in Melbourne with his wife Maggie and daughters Heidi and Olivia.