# STUART RITCHIE

Managing Director & Principal Forensic Consultant, Commercial and Criminal Forensic Pty Ltd.

Stuart Ritchie has over 34 years of professional experience providing forensic fire cause and origin consultancy services to industry, government, legal practitioners, insurance loss adjusters and claims staff and factual investigators, and has attended and examined over 3300 fire scenes, and has provided expert evidence and opinion on over 300 occasions, to all levels of legal and judicial review, including the Coronial, Local, District and Supreme Courts in NSW, the ACT, and Queensland.

Stuart commenced his involvement in fire investigation with the NSW Police Department in 1983 as a Crime Scene Examiner, and was dux of his Crime Scene Examiners Course, ending service as a Police Officer in 1990.

Stuart commenced his career in the private sector in 1990 as the fire investigator for the

N.R.M.A Insurance Limited (IAG Ltd), based in Sydney, Australia, where he conducted specific scene examinations and factual investigations, as well as instigating and managing the fire investigation section within the NRMA special claims unit.

From 1991-1992 Stuart was employed as a forensic consultant with S.G.S Forensic Limited, Sydney, where he continued to provide specialist forensic scene examinations consultancy, and continued such consultancy from 1992-1995, when he moved on to Forensic Services Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney.

In 1995, Stuart started Commercial and Criminal Forensic Pty Ltd, and has continued to conduct forensic fire cause and origin investigations, and has continued to provide specialist consultancy services for over 20 years.

A graduate of Macquarie University, NSW, Australia, Stuart has a Bachelor of Science, and retains professional memberships of the Association of Fire Investigators (NSW Chapter, International Association of Fire Investigators), and the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society, and is a Justice of the Peace.

Stuart has attended numerous AFI and IAAI conferences in both Australia, the USA, and the UK, and has provided both in house, and professional training and seminars, to a variety of public and private forums, most recently to the UK AFI 2016 conference and the NSW AFI conference in 2017.

