

LexisNexis Professional Development Conference Highlights June 2008

5th Annual Family Law Conference

16 June, Crowne Plaza, Sydney

17 June, Stamford Plaza, Brisbane

The 5th Annual Family Law conference was a resounding success with key speakers in both states providing their analysis of the hottest topics in family law.

Representatives from the Child Support Agency delivered a timely breakdown of the imminent child support scheme reforms. **Zoe Cameron** impressed the Sydney delegates with her informative and well-delivered presentation while in Brisbane **Trent Waller's** guidance on avoiding professional negligence claims was on the mark.

While all topics were well received, it was the **Shared Parental Responsibility** amendments and their effects on relocating clients that were issues of main concern to delegates. Lawyers and Barristers in each state sought to unravel the complexity of this confounding area in an attempt to guide practitioners in their approach.

Joe Harman, Lamrocks delivered a popular session with his enthusiastic analysis of the Less Adversarial Trial while superannuation, de facto property and binding financial agreements all received a thorough update.

In summary, we can confidently say that LexisNexis' 5th Annual Family Law conference evaluated, examined, inspected and scrutinised the hottest issues in family law right now.

[Click here to purchase conference papers from this event.](#)

4th Annual Commercial & Retail Leasing

17 June, Sir Stamford, Sydney

18 June, Stamford Plaza, Brisbane

19 June, Langham Hotel, Melbourne

The 4th Annual Commercial & Retail Leasing conferences were well attended, with over 70 delegates in Brisbane alone.

The conferences showcased green issues in leasing matters and audiences in each state were benefited by the presentation of former **Green Buildings Council Executive, David Craven**, who is now with Woods Bagot. It was invaluable to have David explain the intricacies of the ratings systems in a practical and digestible fashion.

David's presentation was followed by the teasing out of the legal nuances in green leases – by **Lily Mitchell, Senior Associate, Baker & McKenzie** in Sydney, **Stephen Jones, Partner, McCullough Robertson** in Brisbane and **Dora Stilianos, Senior Associate, Baker & McKenzie** in Melbourne. Delegates in each state came away with a greater understanding of not only current implications, but also of future issues which are likely to arise in the area of green leases.

This session was followed by avoiding common traps in leasing documentation, which was at times a very entertaining and interactive session delivered by practitioners who are well known in the leasing fraternity. In Sydney, the opportunity for chocolate rewards for participation and correct audience responses proved to be a crowd pleaser, and delegates maintained a high level of interest throughout the session – our thanks to **Anthony Herro, Principal, Herro Solicitors** for this unique approach. **John Nicolas, Senior Associate, Dibbs Abbott Stillman** and **Derry Davine, Special Counsel, Dibbs Abbott Stillman** delivered the same

sessions in Brisbane and Melbourne respectively, receiving high praise from delegates for both a stimulating session and papers which delegates will no doubt be able to use as a valuable reference into the future.

To summarise, other sessions on the programme included: –

- Decreasing risk through effective insurance provisions
- Complying with disclosure requirements and avoid engaging in unconscionable, misleading or deceptive conduct
- Rent review provisions
- Resolving your client's issues with struggling tenants
- Assignment, subletting, mortgaging, renewing and terminating

In Melbourne, **Dr Clyde Croft QC** and **Mr Michael Redfern, Russell Kennedy** received a high level of appreciation for their presentations and substantial papers.

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Indemnities, Good Faith and Termination for Convenience

16 June, 365 Little Collins, Melbourne
19 June, Portside Centre, Sydney

The workshops, facilitated by two well-known experts and LexisNexis authors, **Prof. John Carter** and **Prof. Elisabeth Peden** was a great success.

The convenient half day workshops form part of the LexisNexis Professional Development **Training Series** currently offered.

The event was well attended by contract experts from well known Government agencies, construction organisations and major banks, with over 40 delegates present at the workshops.

As part of the event, LexisNexis offered the first 10 registered delegates an autographed copy of Prof. John Carter's new book "*Carter's Guide to Australian Contract law*" which was well received.

The masterclass focused on key issues in:

Indemnities discussion areas:

- Using an indemnity to control liability
- Using an indemnity to protect third parties
- Restricting the scope of indemnities

Good Faith discussion areas:

- What is the impact of failure to act in good faith?
- What should you say about good faith in the contract?

Termination for Convenience discussion areas:

- How do you draft a termination for convenience clause for the whole or part of a contract?
- How do you ensure that the clause is valid?
- What impact does good faith have?

In summary, the sessions examined the hottest issues in indemnities, Good Faith and Termination for convenience in a practical environment allowing delegates the opportunity to openly discuss current cases.