

LexisNexis Professional Development Conference Highlights - July 2008

[Industrial Relations QLD](#) | [Wills & Estate Planning QLD](#) | [Legal Drafting Training Series](#) | [Risk Management](#)

8th Annual Contract Law Masterclass

16-18 July 2008 Stamford Plaza Melbourne

The conference commenced with a 'Driving successful government Procurement Workshop', **Manik Meah** from Minter Ellison, who treated attendees to a highly interactive and stimulating session teasing out the important issues and techniques. Delegates at this workshop were very enthusiastic and Mr Meah's skill and efforts in illuminating this area received much positive comment from the participants.

Other highlights of day one included such well-known personalities from the Melbourne contract law community as **Stewart Nankervis** from Minter Ellison, **George Golvan QC**, **Peter Little**, Owen Dixon Chambers East and **Sebastian Greene**, Middletons.

Day 2 commenced with an intensive case law update which received rapt attention from the audience as **Jeffrey Goldberger** from Blake Dawson's Canberra office delivered insightful and entertaining analyses of some of the more substantial issues confronting practitioners.

Day 2 delegates also heard from **Katrina Howie** of Mallesons Stephen Jaques who spoke eloquently on the Trade Practices Act. The delegates were particularly appreciative of Ms Howie's obvious expertise and comfort in the area, as well as her ability to elucidate the most relevant and technical impacts on contract law practitioners in a digestible fashion.

Marko Misko of Clayton Utz and **Josh Marchant** of Maddocks were a formidable team delivering sessions on Alliance Contracting and Risk Exposure during Projects respectively, giving our audience very commercial and practical perspectives on these aspects.

Emma Warren of Allens Arthur Robinson bravely accepted the last session of the day. Undeterred, Ms Warren delivered a session on Tender Process: risks for participants which engaged the delegates with a discussion highlighting some of the technical requirements and principles governing the tender process. This session, with its supporting paper, provided delegates with methods of ensuring that the tenders of their clients are viable and compliant. Ms Warren received high praise from the delegates for her presentation.

LexisNexis and the delegates were privileged to have the participation of such a wide range of highly qualified and entertaining speakers. In addition to the informative sessions, the papers produced by our speakers for this conference will comprise a valuable resource to refer to in the future and were particularly appreciated by delegates.

We would also like to express our gratitude to **Nick Rudge** of Allens Arthur Robinson, who despite having an addition to his family only the prior week, was able to meet his commitment to facilitate the three hour workshop on Drafting Essential Clauses on the first day. Congratulations, Mr Rudge!

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Industrial Relations Masterclass QLD

29 & 30 July 2008

Law firms **Cooper Grace Ward**, **McCullough Robertson**, **Blake Dawson, Deacons** and **Freehills** led the LexisNexis Industrial Relations Masterclass, with further authority from the Queensland Bar, on 29 July 2008.

With established expertise on issues associated with workplace relations, presenters delivered informative presentations at a time when millions of Australians face new conditions of employment under the Labor government reforms.

The widespread and industry-specific content of the Rudd government's dramatic rewrite of Australia's workplace laws highlighted numerous repercussions for both employers and employees operating within the new system, with particular regard to:

- The rush towards negotiating increases in rates of pay before award modernisation enters the market at full force,
- Managing the resurgence of union activity and the mechanisms for representation,
- What employers are most at risk in relation to, and how employers can benefit under the new system, as well as
- Knowing what trends are emerging in different employment sectors and how matters are being approached from a strategic point of view.

Jonathon Hadley provided more practical insight into the approach and management of industrial relation than could have been hoped for. With specific talk-through approaches to dealing with a variety of industry-specific issues, delegates walked away with practical skills that exceeded black letter awareness and reached into the commercial and structural realities associated with the applied reforms.

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Wills, Estate Planning and Agreement Management QLD

16-17 July, Hilton Hotel, Brisbane

Fred Smith, Partner, McInnes Wilson Lawyers led this conference with an astute introduction describing the way in which people are living longer, accumulating more types of assets, and distributing them in more ways than ever before.

The team at **McCullough Robertson** comprised of **Tim Whitney**, **Scott Whittle** and **Betty Leung** once again presented as one of the most coordinated and authoritative practice groups in Queensland, after having the bar set very high in the first session by the renowned practitioner and author, **Dr John De Groot**.

Justine Woods and **Kay Feeney** of **Cooper Grace Ward** struck right to the reality of partners having regard to the protection of assets at a time when defacto relationships and blended families are the norm.

With **Michelle Sheehan** of **Sheehan & Co** highlighting the most practical tips to ensuring that the right assets end up with the right people, Susan Gardiner of the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal rounded off what was described as an ideal dose of expert knowledge with immediate importance to practice today.

Dovetailed with practical pen-to-paper workshops on the second day, the presentation of material on the 16th laid the foundation for a new level of knowledge in structuring and passing the financial affairs and resources within relationships as they exist in 2008.

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5th Annual Legal Drafting Training Series

Managing & allocating risk - Drafting indemnities, limitations of liability, assignments of risk, insurance & agreed damages clauses - Sydney 2 July & Brisbane 9 July

Jay Leary, Partner, **Freehills** delivered an intensive workshop on key issues in contract law. The convenient half day workshop form part of the LexisNexis Professional Development Training Series currently offered.

Delegates explored best practice approaches to drafting and left with practical tips for drafting effective clauses. 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.

Preparing, Drafting & Using Affidavits - Brisbane 4 July

John Levingston, Barrister, Arbitrator and Mediator from Queens Square Chambers in Sydney delivered a successful and well attended intensive practical workshop on Affidavits.

The workshop focused on:

- Preliminary work
- Drafting - Rules lay witnesses
- Drafting - Rules for expert witnesses
- Dealing with objections

IP Agreements - Best practice, Drafting & Unlocking Enforcing Rights - Brisbane 9 July

Dimitrios Eliades, Barrister delivered a well attended and intensive workshop on Intellectual Property focusing on current trends and unlocking enforcing rights. The practical workshop allowed attendees the opportunity to build on knowledge by reinforcing IP due diligence, developing structures for commercialising IP as well as providing attendees the opportunity to build a model case for a technology licence agreement.

Dimitrios will be running another workshop in Sydney on 27 August, to register for the event please see the attached brochure.

[Click here to see upcoming events in this series.](#)

5th Annual Risk Management Conference

28-31 July, Marriott Hotel, Sydney

LexisNexis' 5th Annual Risk Management conference was a resounding success, and covered current issues including the new ISO 31000:2009 risk management standard, challenges faced by risk managers in global financial markets and integrating risk management into organisational culture.

The audience of risk professionals heard from key experts such as **Robert Oldfield**, Group Risk Officer, **QBE**, **Paul Muir**, Executive Manager Risk & Compliance, **Suncorp**, **Mike O'Loughlin**, GM Risk Assessment & Audit, **CSIRO** and **Sean Sweeny**, Compliance Officer - Pharma Australasia, **GlaxoSmithKline**.

The panel discussions also gave participants the opportunity to have their say on a variety of issues while the **Accelerated Networking Session** and post conference drinks provided a great forum in which to meet like minded peers.

Feedback from participants included comments such as ***"It was one of the best risk management conferences that I have attended"***.

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