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# media release

## **Arnold Bloch Leibler expands employment & industrial relations practice**

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Commercial and advisory law firm, Arnold Bloch Leibler, today announced the expansion of its employment law services with the appointment of Gary Rothville to head its employment & industrial relations practice.

The employment & industrial relations group will offer the full range of employment law services with a focus on strategic high-end advice to employers.

According to Senior Partner, Mr Mark Leibler AO, the expansion of the firm's employment law services will enable it to better fulfil the needs of clients, many of whom are large employers with significant human resource and industrial relations issues.

"The employment & industrial relations practice will naturally complement our existing services, particularly in the areas of commercial litigation, dispute resolution, taxation, reconstruction and insolvency," he said.

Arnold Bloch Leibler's Managing Partner, Henry Lanzer, says the firm's decision to strengthen this practice area reflects the needs of a diverse client base, involved in a range of industries from retail, commercial property development to manufacturing.

"The employment & industrial relations practice is a natural and strategic fit with the firm's positioning as a niche law firm involved in some of Australia's most significant corporate reconstructions, mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures," he said.

Mr Rothville, formerly a partner and head of Andersen Legal's National Industrial Relations and Employment Services Group, joined the firm as a partner on 1 June 2002. He is currently acting for Ansett's administrators on a range of key industrial relations and human resource management issues. Another Arnold Bloch Leibler partner, Leon Zwier, acts for the administrators as a specialist insolvency adviser.

Speaking about trends in the area of employment and industrial relations, Mr Rothville believes there is a current move away from the traditional English model of class-based industrial relations, where employers and employees pursued their own goals from opposing corners. He has recently witnessed a move towards the US based entrepreneurial philosophy of sharing knowledge and common objectives.

"With human resource and industrial relations issues emerging as critical success factors for both employers and employees, it's clear there is a trend away from viewing the workplace as a battlefield. Rather, employers and employees are exploring new ways of achieving their respective goals of profitability and reward by developing and maintaining a productive workplace," he said.

“Appropriate human resource and industrial relations strategies go a long way in helping to balance performance and reward, while maintaining the fundamentals of the business,” he added.

Gary Rothville’s team will include lawyers and new recruits to Arnold Bloch Leibler, Cathy Fitz Gibbon and Rachel Wilson. Other team members include Arnold Bloch Leibler tax specialist, Nicole Gordon and litigator, Kirsten Frew.

*For further information, or to organise an interview with Mr Gary Rothville, please telephone David Pleydell, Director of Marketing & Business Development, Arnold Bloch Leibler, on 03 9229 9839 or 0418 355 035. Visit: [www.abl.com.au](http://www.abl.com.au)*

## **Background – Arnold Bloch Leibler**

Established in 1953, Arnold Bloch Leibler advises and represents some of Australia’s largest private and corporate clients and high net worth individuals, including a high proportion of individuals and family groups identified in *BRW*’s annual review of Australia’s “Rich 200”.

Arnold Bloch Leibler was awarded the ‘*Best Boutique Law Firm*’ and ‘*Best Tax & Trusts Practice*’ in the 2002 Australian Law Awards, recognising the quality of its client service and the commerciality of its legal advice. Arnold Bloch Leibler has two offices in Melbourne and Sydney, with specialists in commercial and corporate law, property and development, litigation and dispute resolution, taxation, technology, reconstruction and insolvency, banking and finance, employment and industrial relations, native title and public interest law.

In addition to representing Australian individuals and firms, Arnold Bloch Leibler also advises international clients, including NASDAQ listed corporations and major Israeli companies. The firm’s clients span a range of industries from e-commerce, telecommunications, satellite technology, mining, infrastructure, property development, resources and manufacturing to retailing.

Some of Arnold Bloch Leibler’s most notable recent achievements include:

- assisting Mark Mentha and Mark Korda in the administration of Ansett, the largest corporate reconstruction in Australian insolvency law to date;
- acting in relation to financing, due diligence and construction arrangements for commercial and residential developments in Melbourne’s Docklands precinct;
- defending six former non-executive GIO directors in relation to a class action for damages brought by minority shareholders;
- achieving successful outcomes in tax audits for high net worth individuals, private company groups and many of the largest Australian public companies; and
- representing the Yorta Yorta Aboriginal community in their native title determination application.