

ABL partners honoured with pro bono awards

Senior partner at Arnold Bloch Leibler, Mark Leibler AC, and public interest law partner, Peter Seidel, have been honoured with two of 11 awards presented by the Victoria Law Foundation at the Distinguished Pro Bono Service Awards.

The awards, presented by Hon. Rob Hulls, Attorney General of Victoria on 12 June, recognise dedicated and long-standing contributions by volunteers in the community.

This year, to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1967 constitutional referendum relating to Indigenous Australians, and the Foundation's 40th anniversary, the awards acknowledged members of the legal profession who have made a significant contribution to Indigenous rights over an extended period of time.

Mark Leibler AC, who is also Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia, was recognised for his tireless commitment to advancing Indigenous rights, both in the local and national settings, while Peter Seidel's native title work was particularly acknowledged.

Both have long-standing commitments to Indigenous causes through various organisations and the firm's public interest law practice.

Peter Seidel has a 13-year continuing relationship with the Yorta Yorta native title warriors of the mid-Murray region, and this work has been complimented more recently by advisory work with peak bodies such as Reconciliation Australia.

Arnold Bloch Leibler's strong commitment to Indigenous causes is also highlighted by the firm's seminal work with the artists of Jirrawun Arts, by its partnership with the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, and by its representation of the Thamarrurr Regional Council, the local Indigenous Council for the maligned peoples of Wadeye.

The Victoria Law Foundation is an independent community benefit organisation dedicated to making law accessible. It was this year partnered by Tarwirri (Aboriginal Barristers and Lawyers Fund), the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and The Department of Justice Indigenous Issues Unit in hosting the awards.

For more information, or to arrange an interview, contact **Clare Kennedy**, Marketing Communications Executive, (03) 9229 9715 or 0405 941 658 or at ckennedy@abl.com.au.

About Arnold Bloch Leibler

Arnold Bloch Leibler is a leading commercial law firm with offices in Melbourne and Sydney. The firm represents a wide range of individuals and corporate clients, including high-net-worth individuals and entrepreneurs, large family businesses and blue-chip corporations. Arnold Bloch Leibler also has a dedicated pro bono practice providing advice on social, environmental and cultural issues to more than 100 charitable and not-for-profit organisations.

Arnold Bloch Leibler is particularly known for its expertise in commercial law, litigation and dispute resolution, taxation and property. The firm also has an expanding presence in trade practices law. In these areas, the firm has been involved in many landmark matters and transactions.