

Arnold Bloch Leibler partner appointed as an Adjunct Professor to La Trobe

Peter Seidel, head of Arnold Bloch Leibler's Public Interest Law practice, has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Law at La Trobe University.

Peter's role is to advise the law school in the development of its law courses and to strengthen the link between La Trobe and the legal profession in Victoria. He also supports La Trobe's public interest law programme by advising on its development and teaching.

Peter has a well established reputation for bringing his legal expertise to human rights, social justice and Indigenous advancement, which began in earnest in 1993 when he embarked on advising the Yorta Yorta peoples on their native title claim. The connection between the Yorta Yorta peoples and Arnold Bloch Leibler continues today.

Peter is delighted with the appointment: "If you ask a class of commencing law students 'why law?' many would explain their choice by reference to notions of justice and fairness.

"Arnold Bloch Leibler acknowledges the importance of honouring that spirit by demonstrating to law students that, in practice in a commercial law firm, such a commitment to justice and fairness can - indeed must - be fulfilled by the profession.

"At Arnold Bloch Leibler, we strive to hold in balance the fact that we are a successful commercial firm with our commitment to the public good. And we fully recognise this is good for business," he explained.

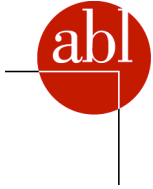
For La Trobe University, as for the firm, the appointment marks the strengthening of a five year association which aims to encourage law students' aspirations not just by developing their technical legal skills and knowledge, but also by encouraging and emphasising an awareness of how the law is used to contribute to the goals of fairness and justice in the public interest.

"Peter is clearly one of the most distinguished and eminent practitioners in the area of public interest law in Australia and we are pleased to formalise his role with our Law School," said Professor Jianfu Chen, Head of La Trobe University School of Law.

"This appointment will particularly support the development of our Public Interest Law Program, launched in 2006, which was developed in response to demand for an opportunity to study at an advanced academic level the intersection of law and the public interest.

"Peter's appointment demonstrates our Law School's ability to draw on current practice and thinking in the profession to ensure our law students have access to a well rounded legal education," he concluded.

The appointment is effective for three years (renewable) from 8 July, 2008.



Background - Peter Seidel
Partner, Arnold Bloch Leibler
Adjunct Professor, La Trobe University School of Law.

As an extension of the firm's and Peter's work over many years with Indigenous clients, environmental groups and cultural causes, Peter's role at Arnold Bloch Leibler, as co-ordinator of the firm's public interest law practice, was formalised in 2000.

In co-ordinating Arnold Bloch Leibler's public interest law programme, Peter also receives and acts on requests for pro-bono legal assistance through the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH). He previously served on the board of PILCH from 2002 to 2007.

Peter serves on the Board of the Victoria Law Foundation, which aims to raise community understanding of, and access to, a better, fairer and more responsive justice system.

Peter also serves on the boards of Wantok Musik Foundation and First Nations Foundation.

Peter was the inaugural recipient of the Pro Bono Award at the 2004 Law Institute of Victoria's President's Awards. In 2006, he received the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's (HREOC) Human Rights Award in the law category in recognition of his significant contribution to the promotion and advancement of human rights in Australia.

In 2007, Peter received the Victorian Law Foundation's Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award for his pro-bono service to Indigenous peoples.

For more information, contact Arnold Bloch Leibler's Marketing Communications Executive on (03) 9229 9715.

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.