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media release

**Arnold Bloch Leibler partner, Peter Seidel,
wins the Law Institute of Victoria's first
Pro Bono Award**
19 January 2005

Arnold Bloch Leibler partner, Peter Seidel, has been awarded the Pro Bono Award at the Law Institute of Victoria's inaugural President's Awards.

The Awards recognise outstanding contributions made to the community, professional excellence in legal practice and the promotion and advancement of the legal profession.

As head of the firm's public interest law practice, Peter coordinates Arnold Bloch Leibler's pro bono efforts, channeling our knowledge and resources to defend or assert rights, develop the law or improve the administration of justice in the public interest.

In the 2003/2004 financial year Peter and the public interest law practice worked on approximately 100 public interest matters of varying sizes, the equivalent of \$1.6 million or in excess of 3,500 hours of work. On average, 48 hours (more than one working week) were spent by each legal professional over the year on public interest law matters.

Peter's efforts have achieved significant outcomes for a wide variety of people. On behalf of specific clients, such as the Yorta Yorta Aboriginal Nation Corporation, the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, to name a few, the public interest law practice has contributed to legislative reform, developed new vehicles through which community groups can better conduct their work and contributed to a better understanding of social issues. The results trickle down to benefit all groups and individuals with a stake in those issues.

About Arnold Bloch Leibler

Arnold Bloch Leibler is a leading commercial law firm with offices in Melbourne and Sydney. A multiple winner at the Australian Law Awards, including winner of the 2004 Law Firm of the Year (for practices with 25 to 100 solicitors), 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 and environmental issues.

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.

For further information, please telephone David Pleydell, Director of Marketing & Business Development, on 03 9229 9620 or Stephanie Green, Communications Coordinator, on 03 9229 9715. Visit: www.abl.com.au.