

Arnold Bloch Leibler acts as 'lawyers to the lawyers' as Slater & Gordon becomes the world's first publicly listed law firm

Arnold Bloch Leibler has acted for Slater & Gordon, the world's first publicly listed law firm, which floated on the ASX at 11.00am this morning.

Slater & Gordon listed at \$1.32 after an initial public offering of \$1 per share.

The IPO raised \$35 million for the firm, giving it a valuation of more than \$100 million.

Arnold Bloch Leibler partner Jonathan Wenig said: "This is not just another float. The process of implementing a public offer and giving practical effect to Slater & Gordon's business strategy was both challenging and rewarding. Our objective was to add real value as 'lawyers to the lawyers'.

"For a law firm, its real assets are its people. What we are really doing is saying to the public, 'listen, we've got these very smart people and they can do things that other people can't, and you should be investing in their capacity to keep making money by doing them."

As well as preparing the documentation for the float and liaising with the relevant regulators, Arnold Bloch Leibler played an integral role in framing and documenting the employee incentive and retention arrangements, which are of key importance to Slater & Gordon's transition to becoming a listed professional services organisation.

Another key issue for the company was overcoming issues of conflict between responsibilities to clients and the court, and responsibilities to shareholders.

"Essentially, the first step was to get the regulators comfortable that even though Slater & Gordon was becoming a public company, they still understand that the duty to the court and to the client come first.

"In addition to that clarity and transparency, we needed to develop detailed and sophisticated governance policies and processes to manage this conflict. In terms of the tension between market disclosure and confidentiality, Slater & Gordon have an advantage in that a lot of their work is very public - it happens either in regulated processes or in court."

The IPO was handled by Arnold Bloch Leibler partners, Ross Paterson and Jonathan Wenig, and lawyer Christine Williamson.

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.