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media release

Mark Leibler awarded highest honour in 2005 Australia Day Honours List

27 January 2005

Senior Partner, Mark Leibler, was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the 2005 Australia Day Honours list. The appointment was made in recognition of his “service to business, to the law, particularly in the areas of taxation and commercial law, to the Jewish community internationally and in Australia, and to reconciliation and the promotion of understanding between indigenous and non-indigenous Australia”.

A Companion in the Order of Australia is the highest honour within the Order of Australia and is awarded for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Australia or to humanity at large.

Mark is at the cutting edge of taxation law and his input into government policy on tax has been sought under successive governments. He has been Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Law Council of Australia's Taxation Committee and at various times was a member of the Commissioner of Taxation's Advisory Panel and the National Tax Liaison Group.

A highly sought after keynote speaker, Mark is regularly asked to address industry groups on issues of taxation and revenue law reform. He has published many articles on taxation and related subjects in major Australian professional and taxation publications. He is also a frequent media commentator on taxation issues.

Mark is deeply involved in Jewish affairs and occupies senior leadership roles in several Australian and international Jewish bodies. In Australia, he currently holds the positions of National Chairman of the Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council, Life Chairman of the United Israel Appeal of Australia and Governor of the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce. He served for 10 years as President of the Zionist Federation of Australia and for six years as the President of the United Israel Appeal of Australia. Internationally, Mark currently serves on the world executives of both the Jewish Agency for Israel and the World Keren Hayesod - United Israel Appeal as well as holding office as a Governor of the University of Haifa in Israel.

Mark is also a tireless supporter of Indigenous rights. Since 1993, Arnold Bloch Leibler has acted on behalf of the Yorta Yorta in their native title claim and provides ongoing pro bono services to other Indigenous and charitable organisations. Mark is Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia Limited, a non-profit entity established to continue the leadership role of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation after the Council's statutory term ended on 31 December 2000. He is also Deputy Chairman of the National Australia Bank Yachad Scholarship Fund, which enables Australian scholars of diverse backgrounds, including Indigenous scholars, to study in Israel and to return with ideas and experiences of advantage to Australia.

In 1987, Mark was appointed as an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to the community, particularly the Jewish community.

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.