

## Building our services with our first FAMILY LAWYER

**F**or literally decades we've been fielding regular client enquiries for family law services, particularly in relation to property settlements. But these services were neither seen as a natural progression nor the perfect 'culture' fit for a boutique commercial law firm.

But persistent clients are a strong incentive for change; and opportunities to keep our clients even happier must not be ignored.

So we're pleased to announce the appointment of highly experienced and capable family lawyer, Helen Campbell as a specialist partner.

Managing Partner, Mark Hamilton, is both excited and somewhat apprehensive.

"It's going to be something of a cultural shock to offer family law services in what is a specialist commercial firm, but we're pleased to be responding to an established demand from our clientele," says Mark.

"Unfortunately, it's a fact of life that clients of commercial firms do find themselves in marital difficulties that need legal assistance.

"Our family law clients will enjoy convenient and easy access to a highly experienced family lawyer well versed in the financial aspects of marital breakdown."

Mark describes Helen as a capable practitioner who knows her own mind and is ideally suited to dealing with clients living through trying circumstances. She offers the strong empathy that women bring to the challenge.

Helen Campbell



### Theo Kadis is new cornerstone commercial partner

Grope Hamilton Lawyers continues to add depth, breadth and strength to the firm with the key appointment of highly regarded commercial lawyer Theo Kadis.

**W**e warmly welcome Theo Kadis whose expertise in property, commercial, business and succession law, in particular involving advisory work, documentation and dispute resolution, will see him as one of the firm's cornerstone commercial lawyers.



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### Helen Campbell's *expertise at a glance:*

#### Family law practice:

- Property settlements
- Binding Financial Agreements ("pre-nuptials")
- Disputes about children's care arrangements • Child support
- Divorce • De facto matters

#### Wills and Estate matters:

- Administration of estates
- Estate planning particularly for second relationships
- Inheritance disputes
- Drawing Wills
- Drawing Powers of Attorney and Powers of Guardianship

**GROPE HAMILTON LAWYERS**

Ethical Service Innovative Solutions Astute Advice Strategic Focus  
Specialist Excellence Tailored Approach Personalised Service Ethical  
Strategic Focus Ethical Service Innovative Solutions Astute Advice

## New ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR

Grope Hamilton Lawyers is pleased to also welcome Anne Najjar, an associate solicitor who works closely with Theo Kadis.

Anne assists Theo with his matters, both litigious and non-litigious. She also acts for her own clients specifically in the areas of commercial transactions, contract documentation, commercial disputes and litigation, property transactions, business and residential conveyancing, and also in wills and estates.



Anne Najjar

### Continued from front cover

Managing Partner, Mark Hamilton, describes Theo and his clientele as a sound fit, perfectly complementing the boutique culture of the firm.

"Theo's clientele consists largely of private clients and small to medium business enterprises, fitting in perfectly with Grope Hamilton Lawyers' client base," explains Mark.

"It is a great pleasure to welcome Theo to the firm; with over thirty years in practice, he is a consummate, highly experienced and skilled commercial lawyer who undertakes a variety of commercial advisory, transactional and litigation work."

Mark says the firm is very fortunate to get someone of Theo's calibre who will be a natural fit with the firm, its partners and its innovative, boutique market positioning.

Theo is a member of the Property Law Committee of the Law Society of South Australia.



Theo Kadis

### EXTENDING our family

We also extend a warm welcome to Bree Baker who has assisted our new family law partner, Helen Campbell, for the last eight years. Bree, along with Helen, provides responsive and friendly client service.



Bree Baker

## YOUNG LAWYER *in a hurry*

"Daniella Di Girolamo is a young lawyer in a hurry, typical of generation Y," says managing partner, Mark Hamilton.

Graduating from law at just 20, and working as an entry level lawyer at Grope Hamilton Lawyers since 2007, interspersed with a "junket" overseas, the firm is pleased to announce that Daniella has been appointed as an associate to the firm practising predominantly in commercial disputes and litigation.

Daniella recently purchased her first home, which Mark Hamilton thinks may tie her down a tad (hopefully, from Mark's perspective) - putting further overseas travel off the immediate agenda.



Daniella Di Girolamo

## Greg Finlayson

Greg Finlayson is a somewhat unusual "first year" lawyer, being admitted in July 2010, having completed a Diploma of Law at Australian National University and the Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice with merit status.

Greg worked for Orchard Funds Management in Melbourne, Victoria for a number of years as an investment funds manager in the property sector at a high level.

Mark Hamilton says that the firm jumped at the opportunity to employ someone with Greg's obvious intellectual capacity; as well as his excellent financial and business skills and commercial experience.

"Greg's problem solving abilities and ability to empathise and relate to clients are not half bad either," Mark says.



Greg Finlayson

CELEBRATING  
OUR CLIENTS' SUCCESS



### First of its kind AGREEMENT

Lorenzo Mazzocchetti advised a large interstate property fund management group on, and drafted, a complex Community Water Scheme Agreement which involved the construction and maintenance of a water irrigation system and water supply to a number of Victorian farms. This type of Agreement was the first of its kind under the Water Act 1989 (Vic) and was finalised under demanding conditions.



### Welcome to BABY SOKS

Congratulations to Kelly and Lay Sok on the arrival of baby Ali on 30th September. Both baby Ali and Mum (one of Grope Hamilton Lawyer's Legal Assistants since 2005) are doing well. We look forward to welcoming Kelly back following her maternity leave.



*"You have a pretty good case, Mr. Pitkin.  
How much justice can you afford"*

From The New Yorker Book of Lawyer Cartoons

## DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

OUR LITTLE SPOT WHERE WE LET OUR CLIENTS SPEAK FOR US!

"I engaged Lorenzo to assist in the preparation of a complex commercial lease negotiation and it was evident that his thorough approach, incredible knowledge and understanding of the Retail & Commercial Leases Act was paramount in ensuring the transaction was completed, which both myself and the Landlord are grateful for."

Mark Evans, Managing Director, Blackmore Property

"We are extremely pleased with the outcome of the claim and feel this has only been possible by the professionalism and dedication shown by you. We also thank you for your kindness and consideration throughout our family issues." *Our client*

Tonia Karagiannis, a partner in the commercial and civil litigation section of the firm, recently negotiated a very favourable settlement for her clients' complicated medical negligence claim. Due to the confidential nature of the settlement, names are unable to be disclosed.

## The changing of the ADMINISTRATION GUARD

June 14th this year became the day the administration guard of Grope Hamilton Lawyers well and truly changed as Therese DeGennaro, Sandy Weir and Teri Sorrenson, all left us on one day after a combined 42 years of dedication to the firm.

Our stalwart of office administration, Therese, met Peter Grope, Mark Hamilton and Jim Bidstrup when she started working for Jim in 1987 just prior to the merger between the original Grope Hamilton Lawyers and Johnsons Lawyers.

Her amazing 23 year long journey and her consummate administration skills have seen us all through Grope Hamilton Lawyers "No. 1," Johnsons Lawyers, Finlaysons and back to Grope Hamilton Lawyers when re-formed in 1991.

Following the firm's strong recent growth, and with new legal partners joining us, 2010 emerged as the year we needed full time administration staff - especially an office manager. Unfortunately, this time commitment didn't fit with Therese.

Our Credit Controller, Sandy Weir, also left after nine years part time. With the growth of the firm, we desperately needed a full time "debt collector," and offered her the job full time. Sandy declined for personal reasons also.

Teri Sorrenson, our receptionist/data processor of ten years, left for a similar role in another law firm as her administration role changed with the advent of a full time office manager.

Life-long friendships have been formed. Office functions will not be the same without the two major "party animals" in Therese and Sandy. Bring on alumni drinks girls!



### Contact us

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Lyndee Lamshed

Ashley Appleton



Mim Pargeter

Zoe Potts

Morgan Crossley

## Introducing the NEW GUARD

Mark Hamilton's most capable PA, Lyndee Lamshed, has now assumed the challenging role of full time office manager, and we welcome Mim Pargeter who has stepped into the position of Mark Hamilton's PA.

Ashley Appleton has been doing a great job as our full time client services leader (incorporating the credit control function) since January.

Legal Assistant Kelly Sok has gone on maternity leave and newcomer Zoe Potts is now assisting Nick Baldock, Tonia Karagiannis and Peter Grope.

Finally we welcome our new receptionist, Morgan Crossley.

## For the love of Latin

Mark Hamilton's love and use of latin in law has bamboozled team members and clients alike for years. Here Mark reflects on the firm's unfailing commitment to clients to avoid this experience when being represented by Grope Hamilton Lawyers.

### *incidis in Scyllam cupiens vitare Charybdim*

(Pronounced: IHN-kih-dihs ihn AKIH-lahm KUU-pee-ens wee-TAH-reh kah-RIH-bdim)

**Translation:** Out of the frying pan into the fire.