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Welcome to our alumni newsletter – *In Brief*.

This year has been a challenging and uncertain year. We have continued to support our clients with the complex and unprecedented issues confronting them. We have worked to respond to the new market conditions and have been involved in some of the most significant capital raisings in the Asia-Pacific during the first half of 2009.

This year has also seen some significant milestones for the firm. Ewen Crouch commenced in his role as Chairman and we were pleased to appoint new partners and senior associates. Our community involvement also continues to grow. In August we launched a Reconciliation Action Plan to publicly formalise our commitment to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

I would like to thank you all for staying in touch during the year. I hope that many of you have an opportunity to take a break over the holiday period and I look forward to being in touch again in the New Year.

With best wishes.

Michael Rose
Chief Executive Partner

Our Chairman Ewen Crouch

Ewen Crouch commenced in the role of Chairman on 1 January 2009.

Ewen is one of Australia's most prominent mergers and acquisitions lawyers and a key adviser to the boards and senior executives of many of the firm's most significant clients. His recent M&A activity includes acting for Wesfarmers on its acquisition of Coles, St.George Bank on its merger with Westpac and Rio Tinto on its response to BHP Billiton's pre-conditional offers.

'As Chairman, my focus is on assisting our Chief Executive Partner, Michael Rose, the firm's Leadership Team and its board, in continuing to build on our culture of

excellence, reinforcing our commitment to our clients and growing our firm.'

As Chairman, Ewen continues in his role as co-head of the Mergers & Acquisitions and Capital Markets practice group and he will retain a full and active practice.

Ewen became Chairman of Mission Australia in November. He has been a member of the Mission Australia Board since 1995.



Ewen Crouch

Closing the Gap

In August we launched our Reconciliation Action Plan. A RAP sets out the work organisations are doing to build positive relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

In January 2009, we publicly formalised our commitment to introducing a RAP in a Statement of Commitment reproduced below.

For many years now, our firm has built close relationships with many Indigenous groups with support through personal engagement, direct financial assistance and pro bono legal advice.

Developing our RAP took time, but the final product is a simple, easy-to-read, meaningful plan of our intentions across three key pillars: relationships, respect and opportunities. To develop a robust RAP, there are a number of key steps outlined by Reconciliation Australia that we need to undertake. As a first step, we set up a RAP Working Group that was responsible for guiding our work in this area and determining the actions to which we will commit, broadly categorised as follows:


- Pro bono work;
- Building cultural awareness;
- Creating employment opportunities;
- Developing leadership capacity; and
- Building commercial relationships.

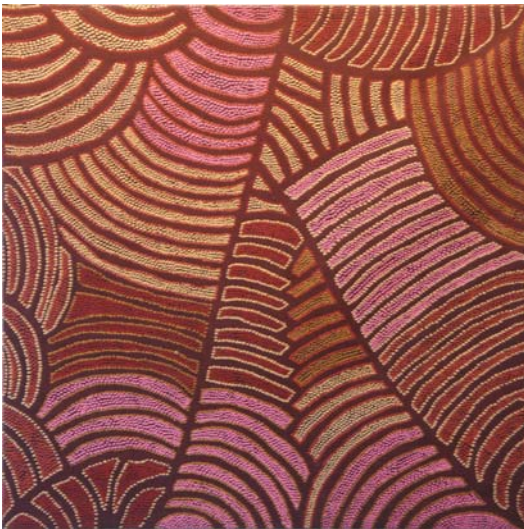
We have also published an intranet site, Closing the Gap, that helps communicate within the firm all of the work we are doing in this area and build awareness of Indigenous issues.

Click here for more information about our RAP please visit: <http://www.aar.com.au/comm/recon.htm>



Professor Michael McDaniel, Dean, Indigenous Education, University of Western Sydney, Rebecca McGrath, future Allens law graduate Michael Rose Chief Executive Partner Allens Arthur Robinson who spoke at the Allens RAP launch in Sydney.





GLORIA TAMERRE PETVARRE
 born c1945 Utopia, NT, 270km
 north east of Alice Springs
 language group: Anmatjere
 country: Anmatjere
 Acrylic on canvas
 132 x 152 cm
 Image reproduced courtesy of
 the artist and Utopia Art Sydney.
 © the artist collection, Allens
 Arthur Robinson

statement of commitment

Throughout its long history Allens Arthur Robinson has played a significant role in Australian legal and commercial life.

We are a firm that values relationships built on integrity, trust and respect.
 We value knowledge and understanding.
 We focus on excellence and the practical application of the things we do.
 We encourage our people to be leaders in the wider community.

Allens believes that closing the gap between Indigenous and Non Indigenous Australians is of vital importance to our firm, our society, our culture and the future of our nation.

Recognising the importance of reconciliation, and having regard to our firm's history and values, we commit ourselves as a firm and as a community of individuals to the development and active implementation of a Reconciliation Action Plan.

We will launch our Reconciliation Action Plan by June 2009.

www.aar.com.au

Alumni Profiles

Phil Lynch

Phil is the Director of the Human Rights Law Resource Centre in Melbourne. The Centre undertakes strategic litigation, policy work and advocacy and provides education and training to promote human rights. In 2007, in partnership with a team from Allens led by Partner Peter O'Donahoo, the Centre established a constitutional right to vote in the landmark High Court case of *Roach v Electoral Commissioner and Commonwealth of Australia*. Phil has recently returned from two weeks in New York, where he led a non-government delegation that briefed the UN Human Rights Committee about Australia. Phil was previously the founding Coordinator of the PILCH Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic which in 2005 was conferred with the Australian Human Rights Law Award. Phil left Allens in 2002 after working in commercial litigation in Melbourne with outstanding mentors in Tania Cini, the late Tom Yuncken, Simon McConnell and Nick Rudge. He said that the Human Rights Centre's reputation for high-level, high-impact work was due in no small part to the fact that it now employed three former Allens staff (the others being Ben Schokman and Emily Howie).



Sally McLean

Sally is currently living in London and working part-time as a projects lawyer for the Olympic Delivery Authority. The ODA is the public body responsible for building the venues and infrastructure for the London 2012 Olympics. Sally is excited to be part of such a large-scale, high-profile project and finds it particularly rewarding to see agreements she had negotiated turn into an Athletes' Village or another Olympic venue. And in case you were wondering, Sally does not get free tickets to the Olympics - you have to work for the IOC or a sponsor to get those!



Louise Walsh

Louise is the founding Director of Artsupport Australia, an initiative of the Australia Council for the Arts to grow cultural philanthropy in Australia. Under Louise's direction, Artsupport has facilitated more than \$20 million in philanthropic giving to the arts in Australia. Louise began her career at Allens in 1991 before taking a secondment to the Sydney Olympic Bid as Community Relations Manager. Louise went on to be the first member of SOCOG's successful marketing and sponsorship team before becoming Director of Development for the Sydney Symphony. Louise attributes her negotiating skills to her time with the firm and says that the networks she founded at Allens have helped her mould Artsupport into the success it is today.





Andrew Maher



Mun Yeow



Vijay Cugati

Appointments to Partner

We are delighted to announce that Andrew Maher and Mun Yeow were appointed partners of the firm from 1 July 2009.

Andrew is a member of the Litigation & Intellectual Property department, based in Melbourne. He specialises in insurance litigation and product liability.

Mun is a member of the Asia department, based in Hong Kong. She specialises in insurance, commercial litigation and regulatory investigation.

The partners are delighted to welcome Andrew and Mun into the partnership and congratulate them on their appointments.

Further to our update in our last In Brief, we are pleased to welcome Vijay Cugati back to our M&A practice in Sydney as a Partner. Vijay recommenced with us on 1 February 2009 having spent the last three and a half years at Slaughter and May in London.

Senior Associate appointments 1 January 2009

Asia

Donald Fung, Hong Kong*
Charlie Harrison, Hong Kong
Angela Hui, Hong Kong*
Xiangyu She, Beijing**

Corporate

Zoe Green, Sydney
Georgina Perry, Sydney

Financial Services and Projects

James Wilson, Sydney

Knowledge Services

Nicole Vine, Melbourne

Litigation and Intellectual Property

Usha Praser, Brisbane
Mark Farquhar, Melbourne
Martin James, Melbourne
Anna Brown, Sydney

1 July 2009

Asia

Linh Bui, HCMC
Hoai Tran, HCMC

Corporate

Lorna Creewel, Perth
Jayne Fullerton, Sydney***
Eileen Ormsby, Melbourne
Andrew Selim, Sydney

Financial Services and Projects

Nina Godoy, Sydney***
Nicholas Ng, Brisbane

Litigation

Banjo McLachlan, Melbourne
Justin Simpkins, Sydney / Singapore
Anna Burkhardt, Melbourne
Robyn Chatwood, Melbourne
Linda Govenlock, Sydney
Lester Miller, Sydney

* Admitted in Hong Kong only

** Admitted in PRC and USA only

*** Admitted in England & Wales only

Asia update

Allens' Asia practice has been busy in the last few years.

Since the beginning of 2007, the firm has acquired two offices in Vietnam, formed a joint law venture with Singapore law firm TSMP Law Corporation, and opened a trade marks and intellectual property office in Beijing.

We have also entered into a cooperation agreement with Widyawan & Partners in Jakarta and signed a strategic regional alliance with major Malaysian firm Raja Darryl & Loh.

In the past six months, Allens has moved into new offices in Beijing, Jakarta and Hong Kong.

This expansion has seen a rise in employee numbers in the firm's Asian offices.

In 2004, the firm had five offices in five countries and 49 staff. As at 1 April 2009, the firm has 10 offices in six countries (China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia) and 206 staff.



Jakarta

The Asia practice has worked on several significant matters over the past year or so. These include:

- acting for Chevron Corporation on the acquisition of a 49 per cent interest in Chuandongbei sour gas project from PetroChina;
- acting for State-owned insurer Vietnam Insurance Corporation (Bao Viet) on the equitisation and partial sale of a 10 per cent stake in Bao Viet to HSBC, valued at approximately US\$255 million; and
- advising BHP Billiton on the establishment of a joint alliance with PT Antam Tbk to explore the joint development of an extensive nickel laterite resource on the eastern Indonesian island of Halmahera and, potentially, ore bodies elsewhere.



Hong Kong



Beijing

Pro bono win for Egyptian refugees

A team of our Sydney litigators has had great success on behalf of Egyptian refugee Vuolit Girgis, a Coptic Christian who was subjected to grave discrimination in her homeland.



Michael Quinlan



Jenny Priestley



Caitlin Sinclair

Ms Girgis sought our assistance to apply for refugee status in Australia. We were successful in that application, and Ms Girgis and her newborn daughter were granted permanent residence in Australia.

Ms Girgis then sought assistance from the Refugee Advice & Casework Service to apply for a partner provisional visa for her husband and two sons. She also included her mother, brother and sister in this application on the basis that they were financially dependant on her husband, Rafaat Soliman. Ms Girgis' husband and two sons were granted visas but her mother, brother and sister were not. The Australia Embassy in Cairo said that the documents evidencing financial dependency had been fabricated. Because Ms Girgis' mother, brother and sister could not come to Australia, Mr Soliman had to remain in Egypt to care for them.

Appeal to Migration Review Tribunal

We next acted for Ms Girgis in her appeal from the Embassy decision to the Migration Review Tribunal. The appeal application stated that Ms Girgis' mother, brother and sister were financially dependent on Mr Soliman because of the death of Ms Girgis' father since the initial application. This was substantiated by evidence that Mr Soliman lived with his extended family and paid for their living and educational expenses. It took 11 months for the Tribunal to review the case. During this time, Mr Soliman remained in Egypt, separated from his wife and daughter.

At the hearing, the Tribunal rejected the conclusion that the documentation was fabricated, but was not satisfied that there was sufficient evidence of financial dependency. The matter was adjourned to allow Ms Girgis to collect further evidence and Mr Soliman to provide a statutory declaration setting out his income and expenditure. This additional material satisfied the Tribunal that the conditions necessary for the visa were satisfied and the application was remitted to the Embassy in Cairo for re-determination.

The Embassy agreed with the Tribunal's decision and granted for Ms Girgis' mother, brother and sister their visa. They were finally reunited with their daughter and granddaughter on their arrival in Sydney.

Significance of the decision

While in Egypt, the family lived in constant fear of persecution. Ms Girgis, being separated from her husband and family members for four years was a very distressing ordeal. She feared for her family's wellbeing and struggled with being a single parent in Australia with no emotional support. The reunion for this close knit family was an emotional and long overdue event.

The entire family recently attended our offices to thank those who acted on their behalf. Their heartfelt gratitude and joy was palpable. It was a very rewarding result for all those who have been involved in the matter, but none more so than Ms Girgis, who has dedicated the past seven years to ensuring a life of security in Australia for her family.

Bushfire Appeal

The disastrous bushfires in Victoria in February 2009 resulted in tragic loss of life and property, and trauma and hardship for survivors in rural communities around the state. The firm donated \$140,000 to the Victorian bushfire appeal, with partners and employees giving around \$70,000 to the Red Cross and Salvation Army bushfire appeals and the firm matching that amount dollar-for-dollar.

In addition to donating money, many partners and employees donated blood for burns victims, and clothes and other items for those affected by the fires.

Lawyers from the Melbourne office attended a relief centre set up by Bushfire Legal Help, to assist fire victims deal with various immediate and ongoing legal issues, such as re-establishing their identity, varying their home mortgages and dealing with the debts of deceased family members. The firm has also advised on bushfire related issues through PILCH (the Public Interest Law Clearing House), for example, advising on the consequences of the fires on a long-term pasture lease where the tenant could no longer run their business because of fire damage.

Alcohol and drug treatment project - Turning Point

This year the Firm is funding an important project for Melbourne-based drug and alcohol research organisation and clinical service provider Turning Point. Turning Point, which is affiliated with St. Vincent's Hospital and the University of Melbourne, aims to promote and maximise the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities living with and affected by alcohol and other drug-related harms.

Our funding has created a full-time research position aimed at generating new ideas and processes for supporting health professionals, social workers and counsellors working with people dealing with drug and alcohol dependence. Previous research has identified an urgent need for workers in the Alcohol and Other Drugs sector to develop file management practices to ensure strong continuity of care. Research Fellow Jacqui Cameron is developing a 'best practice' toolkit to help people working in the sector, particularly those working with chronic alcohol or drug conditions complicated by issues like homelessness, domestic violence and crime.

Members of the Melbourne Charity Committee visited Turning Point's headquarters in Fitzroy in late 2008 to present our cheque to the board, staff and management team and Ms Cameron will present to the Melbourne office in mid-2009 on her research project.



Partner Anne Ferguson and Turning Point board chairman Ray Judd

Carbon audit shows 'greening' of firm

An audit of the firm's carbon footprint by external organisation Carbon Planet has shown how the firm has dramatically improved its green credentials over the past three years.

The audit measured the firm's greenhouse gas emissions for 2006-07 and 2007-08 to see how the firm had fared and to provide ideas for further greenhouse gas reductions.

The audit found:

- a 21 per cent reduction in carbon emissions per Full Time Equivalents from 2006-07 to 2007-08;
- a 43 per cent reduction in paper use over the past four years; and
- 75 per cent of our energy now coming from renewable sources in our four largest offices.

Since the introduction of the firm's Footprint Committee in 2006, the Committee has expanded to have a presence in almost all of the firm's 15 offices across Australia and Asia and has established a firm-wide Footprint Secretariat chaired by Partner Jackie O'Brien.

Some of the current aims for the firm include:

- an 85 per cent reduction in power use in 2009 in our new Hong Kong computer room, which is now our blueprint for other offices;
- a 25 per cent reduction in IT energy use in Perth and Brisbane in 2009-10 by reducing server and rack numbers;
- a 10 per cent reduction in power use in Sydney by completing virtual server implementation and other IT efficiencies; and
- reducing our carbon dioxide equivalent per FTE across our four largest offices from 14.7 tonnes in 2006-07 to 10.3 tonnes in 2008-09.

Deals

Allens Arthur Robinson has been involved in a wide range of matters during the first quarter of 2009. Here is a snapshot of the work the we have been doing.

- Allens advised Tabcorp Holdings Limited on the first major retail offering of corporate bonds in almost 20 years. Partners Robert Simkiss, Robert Pick and Jason Morris headed up the team involved in this deal.
- Allens advised the Victorian Government on its worldwide tender for the operation of Melbourne's train and tram networks. The team on this matter was led by Partners Paul Kenny, David McLeish and Ted Hill.
- The firm advised the Thailand Government on its new Public Private Partnership framework aimed at providing funding for major infrastructure projects across the country. Partners Leighton O'Brien and Marcus Clark worked with Thai law firm Siam Premier on this matter.
- In a first for the Asia Pacific, the firm acted for Wesfarmers Limited in helping the company obtain a forward debt extension totalling \$4.1 billion in its syndicated facility and a large number of bilaterals. Partner Diccon Loxton led the Allens team.
- The firm also acted for Wesfarmers Limited on its \$4.6 billion equity capital raising. Partners Tom Story and Ewen Crouch and Senior Associates Julian Donnan and Bob Speed led the team on this matter.
- Allens acted for Hutchison in the merger of its Australian telecommunications business with Vodaphone to create a 50:50 joint venture, VHA Pty Limited. Partners Victoria Poole, Andrew Finch, Peter James and Fiona Crosbie worked on this deal.
- The firm is working with the United Nations Secretary-General on Business and Human Rights, Professor John Ruggie, on a world-wide project designed to better understand the link between corporate law practices and human rights. A team of lawyers from Allens' Corporate Responsibility team, led by partner Craig Phillips and Senior Associate Rachel Nicolson, are involved in the project.
- Allens advised Qantas on its \$500 million capital raising, which raised the money via an institutional placement to be followed by a share purchase plan for Qantas retail shareholders. Partner Tom Story led the team, with support from Partner and Chairman Ewen Crouch.
- Finally, the firm acted for AngloGold Ashanti Ltd on the sale of its interest in the Boddington Gold Mine Project. The deal, worth up to US\$1.1 billion, saw the sale of one third interest to joint venture partner Newmont Mining Corporation. Partners Igor Bogdanich, Gerard Woods and Scott Langford led the team on this matter.

For more information on matters in which Allens have been involved, go to <http://www.aar.com.au/med/index.htm>.

Contact us

Thinking of coming back or would like to refer someone?

As an alumnus, we believe you are well placed to understand the type of person who will excel at Allens – those similar to yourselves, with imagination, interests and intelligence. If this sounds like someone you know or if you yourself are thinking of taking your next step with us, please let us know.

imagination
interests
intelligence

Alumni Contact

Send all correspondence and any questions you have about our program to our alumni contact:

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Consultant
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If you are on leave of absence from Allens and need to speak to us about your absence and return, please contact one of the following:

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Brisbane
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