

MEDIA RELEASE

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Lavan Legal appoints employee relations and native title specialist

Lavan Legal is pleased to announce the appointment of Franklin Gaffney as a special counsel in Employee Relations and Native Title.

Franklin has over 15 years' experience in contentious and non-contentious employment matters including developing and implementing workforce planning strategies, industrial disputes, M&As and outsourcing. He has negotiated and drafted senior executive contracts of employment and enterprise agreements and conducted internal reviews and occupational health and safety investigations. Franklin has represented clients before courts and tribunals in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Franklin is also a native title specialist having negotiated and drafted native title and heritage agreements in relation to significant resource and development projects in Western Australia. He represented the National Native Title Tribunal (**NNTT**) in the review of the native title system which culminated in legislative amendments and significant institutional changes. Franklin has also been CEO of two Aboriginal corporations in Western Australia, including MG Corporation during the Ord East Kimberley Expansion Project. His experience includes overseeing the registration of ILUAs and native title determination applications and overseeing the provision of legal advice to the President and Members of the NNTT.

Franklin has a Master of Laws (Labour Law) from the London School of Economics and Political Science and is currently completing a PhD on the implementation of native title agreements at the University of Western Australia.

Lavan Legal's managing partner Dean Hely said "Franklin is a highly skilled employment lawyer whose legal knowledge has been honed by his early work as an industrial advocate and his 15 years of experience working in employment law in private practice in Australia and in the United Kingdom."

In relation to Franklin's native title experience, Dean said "Franklin's experience in and understanding of native title goes beyond the practice of law. It is significantly enhanced by his work as CEO of two Aboriginal corporations and by his extensive academic pursuits in this area. We believe Franklin will bring an unmatched level of knowledge, service and representation to our clients in relation to native title matters."

Franklin Gaffney said, "Lavan Legal offers the opportunity to be part of a progressive and dedicated team committed to working in our clients' and the wider community's best interests and I am looking forward to making a positive contribution."

About Lavan Legal

Lavan Legal is an independent Western Australian law firm. Since its launch on 3 April 2006, Lavan Legal has built a reputation as one of the most innovative legal services firms in Australia. Prior to 2006, the firm had a 120-year history under the names Phillips Fox Perth, Lavan Solomon and Lavan & Walsh. Lavan Legal has 25 partners.

Lavan Legal is a full service firm. We provide legal advice in employment and safety, banking and finance, construction and infrastructure, corporate and commercial law, family law, oil and gas, liquor and hospitality, insolvency and reconstruction, media and defamation, mining and resources, native title, planning and environment, property and leasing, tax and tourism and sport. Our litigation team is one of the largest in Western Australia.

If you would like more information about this appointment please call business development manager Michelle Natta on 08 9288 6774 or email michelle.natta@lavanlegal.com.au.