

LEADERS IN LAW COMBINE

Lavan Legal's Managing Partner, Greg Gaunt, and Deputy Managing Partner, Dean Hely, joined with Kevin Stewart, Managing Principal of Maxim Litigation Consultants, today in announcing the continuing expansion of Lavan Legal through the integration of Maxim Litigation Consultants with Lavan Legal. The principals and staff of Maxim will join Lavan Legal from 2 April 2012.

"We believe that the integration of the Maxim team with Lavan Legal will create a formidable legal force in the Western Australian corporate, commercial, mining, energy and resources sectors. This represents the combination of two leaders in their field; Lavan Legal as leaders in law and Maxim as leaders in litigation.

Maxim was a logical choice for us. The Maxim team share common values and a common commitment to WA. They have an outstanding reputation in all aspects of litigation, particularly in the corporate, commercial, mining, resources and energy sectors. In speaking with Kevin Stewart, it was clear that he also shares our view that there is a continuing need and opportunity for an independent, WA-based, full-service legal firm in this market" said Gaunt.

Kevin Stewart believes that there was a certain logical inevitability to the integration, with Maxim being an entirely litigation-centric practice and Lavan Legal offering best-practice litigation as a principal component of its professional service.

"Lavan Legal stood out as the only large firm with an ethos and ambition similar to our own. We were the first WA practice to make commercial litigation our sole focus and this decision ensures the ongoing growth of the combined practice as one of the largest independent practices in WA", he added.

In addition, the Maxim team will further strengthen Lavan Legal's fast growing corporate, commercial, mining, resources and energy practices.

"The Lavan Legal team has experienced remarkable growth since the arrival of partner Leigh Warnick in May 2011. Leigh is one of Australia's most respected and experienced corporate, mining and resources lawyers. The addition of the Maxim team will bring invaluable litigation capacity to this area, building on the team's exceptional work in the corporate, mining, resources and energy space", said Dean Hely.

Greg Gaunt said: "With the Maxim team joining us, the firm looks forward to exceptional growth in 2012 and beyond."

Lavan Legal client Fugro-TSM Managing Director John Edwards added, "It's exciting to see the further expansion of this fantastic Western Australian firm. With the addition of Maxim, they will offer an unsurpassed breadth of resources and knowledge of the Western Australian corporate, commercial, mining and energy market".

Maxim client Jon Stewart, Chairman of Aurora Oil & Gas, agreed, saying: "The combined resources and expertise of the Maxim and Lavan teams is certain to create a dynamic legal force in Western Australia."

ENDS

ABOUT LAVAN LEGAL

Lavan Legal is a proudly 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, Lavan Solomon and Lavan & Walsh.

Lavan Legal is a full service firm. The firm provides legal advice to the banking, construction, corporate, energy, electricity, employment, environment, finance, gas, government, hospitality, liquor, media, oil, property, planning, resources, sports and tourism sectors.

Lavan Legal's pre-eminent litigation team is one of the largest in private practice in Western Australia.

Lavan Legal has a staunch commitment to social responsibility including community partnerships and strong relationships with Surf Lifesaving WA, The Fogarty Foundation, the Rottneet Channel Swim, The Centre for Cerebral Palsy, The WA Ballet, The Salvation Army, Yirra Yaakin Aboriginal Corporation, Channel 7 Telethon, Reconciliation Australia, the St. George Foundation, Autism West, Starlight Children's Foundation and Fremantle Press, amongst others.

Lavan Legal is also a proud sponsor of RugbyWA and the Emirates Western Force, the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the WA Industry & Export Awards, the Insolvency Practitioners Association, the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the Property Institute of Australia and the Property Council of Australia, amongst others.

ABOUT MAXIM LITIGATION CONSULTANTS

Maxim Litigation Consultants is a dedicated Western Australian litigation practice.

Since commencing business in July 2004, Maxim has gained a reputation for delivering highly responsive and professional litigation services with a strategic commercial focus. Maxim takes a commercial approach to dispute resolution recognising the broader commercial context in which disputes arise and should be resolved. Knowing their clients' objectives and the environment in which they operate is key to Maxim's solution-oriented approach.

Maxim primarily conducts commercial litigation in superior courts in Western Australia and the Commonwealth. The practice also has significant capabilities in litigation and alternative dispute resolution in other Australian and overseas jurisdictions, and in regulatory and compliance work.