

MEDIA RELEASE

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Lavan Legal appoints Derek La Ferla as a partner and Advisory Board member

The partners of Lavan Legal are pleased to announce the appointment of Derek La Ferla as a partner in Corporate Services, effective from 2 February 2015.

Derek has 30 years' experience working in corporate and commercial law. He joins Lavan Legal from Norton Rose Fulbright, where he was national leader of the Corporate Advisory Team and the Infrastructure, Mining and Commodities Industry Group.

Derek is also an experienced company director and is currently chairman of Sandfire Resources NL, OTOC Limited and Cashmere Iron Limited.

In addition to joining Lavan Legal's Corporate Services Group, Derek will take up a position on Lavan Legal's Advisory Board. He will work with other board members including managing partner Dean Hely, chairman Greg Gaunt and independent director, former Federal Minister, the Honourable Stephen Smith to bring a formidable combination of knowledge and relationships across business and government to Lavan Legal's clients.

Lavan Legal managing partner Dean Hely said, "Derek has an exceptional reputation as a legal practitioner, as an adviser on a wide range of corporate and commercial transactions and as a company director. Derek will be an invaluable source of advice for our clients, bringing a strong corporate perspective to balancing their commercial and legal risk management needs. Derek also has significant connections in the Western Australian and Australian business communities and will play an important role in developing new business contacts for our clients and our firm."

This appointment marks Derek's return to Lavan Legal. Derek first joined Lavan Legal in 1999 when Lavan Legal's predecessor firms, Phillips Fox Perth and Majteles Salmon, merged. He became the deputy managing partner of Phillips Fox Perth and worked for the firm for five years. Chairman Greg Gaunt said, "We are very pleased to welcome Derek back to Lavan Legal and to be working with him again to service our diverse client base."

With 24 partners, Lavan Legal is one of Western Australia's largest independent legal firms and a market leader in the Western Australian legal sector. "Derek's combination of legal and corporate experience will be invaluable in servicing our clients and assisting the Advisory Board to develop our firm's strategy for the future", said Dean Hely.

Derek La Ferla said, "I look forward to joining Lavan Legal. I like the firm's modern and commercial approach to providing value based legal services to a variety of businesses with interests in our State. I believe that the firm has a fantastic team that will continue to deliver real value to our clients in Western Australia and Australia and to our growing client base in Asia."

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 24 partners.

Lavan Legal is a full service firm with extensive experience in providing legal advice in the areas of banking and finance, corporate and commercial law and tax, construction and infrastructure, employment and workplace relations, environment, insolvency and reconstruction, liquor and hospitality, litigation, media and defamation, mining and resources, property and planning and tourism and sport.

Lavan Legal's Corporate Services Group specialises in *Corporations Act* matters and has a wealth of experience in providing general commercial and business advice and in drafting commercial documents. The team is experienced in all aspects of managed investment schemes and financial services law. In addition, the team provides comprehensive tax and stamp duty advice in relation to corporate and business transactions.

The team has acted on many of the State's largest corporate and business transactions and represents significant government and private enterprise clients in these areas.

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.