



Mills Oakley partnership hits 100

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Top 10 Australian law firm Mills Oakley now has a partnership of 100, after the firm's biggest ever lateral hire recruiting drive in a single quarter.

CEO John Nerurker announced today that in the last 6 weeks alone, Mills Oakley has lured the following specialists to the firm:

Graham Maher – Competition & Dispute Resolution, Sydney (previously of Bird & Bird)

Juanita Rayson – Corporate Advisory, Brisbane (previously of Dibbs Barker)

Kathryn Edghill – Competition, Sydney (previously of Bird & Bird)

Matthew Kelly – Restructuring & Insolvency, Sydney (previously of Corrs Chambers Westgarth)

Virginia Waterhouse – Corporate Advisory, Brisbane (previously of Russells Lawyers)

Mr Nerurker said: “This latest group of appointments takes the size of our partnership to 100 – a milestone number and indicative of the legal talent we’re able to attract. The focus on Corporate Advisory and Competition skills in the new recruits is reflective of an increase in the volume of complex legal work Mills Oakley is undertaking for key national clients.”

He said the partnership would grow even larger after the next round of internal promotions is announced next month.

“Our growth strategy is propelled by a mix of promotions and external appointments. We are equally committed to both mechanisms for achieving growth,” he said.

“Nevertheless, Mills Oakley is not about growth for growth’s sake. We have a clear vision to become a top 5 Australian firm and to achieve that we know we must be responsive to client requirements for sufficient depth and breadth in our practice areas.”

Mr Nerurker added: “It is particularly pleasing that over half these appointments are women. Like many firms we recognise that we need to lift the number of women in our partnership and we are committed to being proactive on this front.”

All of these hires have commenced with Mills Oakley. Further information is provided on the following page.

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Further information on our new partners

Graham Maher is a respected litigator who most recently headed the dispute resolution team at Bird & Bird. He practises as a solicitor and advocate in most jurisdictions, with a focus on acting for defendants in competition and consumer protection matters. Originally admitted to practice in Western Australia, Graham has deep experience both in private practice and as a corporate counsel. He has spent a decade in-house, including two years in the Middle East, and understands the imperative for expeditious, commercial outcomes in the resolution of disputes.

Juanita Rayson is an experienced corporate advisory practitioner who has acted for numerous listed and unlisted clients on transactions including mergers & acquisitions, restructuring through demerger, capital raisings and associated corporate governance issues. Juanita was most recently a partner at DibbsBarker and her clients span a wide range of industry sectors including financial services, life sciences and retail.

Kathryn Edghill has over 28 years' experience acting for global and major Australian corporations. Previously head of the Asia Pacific Competition practice at Bird & Bird, Kathryn specialises in competition law, with particular emphasis on the anti-competitive conduct and consumer protection provisions of the Competition and Consumer Act. She also provides general commercial advice to clients and represents clients in litigious competition and consumer matters. She has for many years been recognised as a leading competition lawyer in directories such as *Chambers Asia Pacific* and *Asia Pacific Legal 500*.

Matthew Kelly specialises in insolvency matters and has more than 15 years' experience in restructuring, non-contentious insolvency and insolvency litigation. This includes advising directors on insolvency issues, advising lenders on enforcement options, advising insolvency practitioners on administrations and appointments, available actions, public examinations and matters relating to general liability. Prior to joining Mills Oakley, Matthew was a senior associate at Corrs Chambers Westgarth and was previously at Blake Dawson (now Ashurst).

Virginia Waterhouse has been a corporate partner at Brisbane firm Russells for two years, where she was most recently team leader of the Corporate / M&A Group. Prior to this Virginia was a partner and Corporate Group team leader with HWL Ebsworth. She specialises in mergers & acquisitions, corporate reconstructions and capital market transactions and her expertise in these areas has been recognised by *Best Lawyers*, *Doyle's* and *Chambers*. Virginia routinely advises clients on corporate governance issues, including ASX Listing Rules and Corporations Act requirements. She has extensive experience in the infrastructure, telecommunications and energy & resources sectors.