



## Mills Oakley makes double partner hire from PwC

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Leading national law firm Mills Oakley is continuing to grow its corporate capability with the hire **Danny Simmons** and **Lynda Reid** from PwC Legal.

Mills Oakley has now recruited four corporate partners from international firms in the past two months. The previous hires were Daniel Kirk from Dentons in Perth and Chris Taylor from Baker McKenzie in Melbourne.

Commenting on the firm's latest hires, Mills Oakley CEO John Nerurker said that the moves demonstrated the heightened fluidity in the lateral market, with top tier and international talent increasingly engaging with rising independent firms such as Mills Oakley:

"In Danny and Lynda, we have acquired an A-grade team with deep connections into corporate Australia," he said. "This is another example of quality talent voting with their feet and moving to firms such as Mills Oakley which have a collegiate, meritocratic culture which rewards high performance."

Mr Simmons was previously a partner at PwC Legal and prior to that one of the foundation Australian partners at Clifford Chance. He has over 25 years' experience advising on M&A transactions, particularly takeovers, schemes of arrangement and other control transactions and his broader corporate expertise includes reorganisations & demergers and boardroom advisory. His clients range from ultra-high net worth families through to hedge funds, ASX listed entities and global corporations. Danny has been ranked as a leading individual in Corporate/M&A by Chambers Global, Chambers Asia, IFLR, Asia Pacific Legal 500, Best Lawyers and Doyles.

In addition to being a pre-eminent corporate lawyer, Danny is well known as a founding partner of high profile Sydney boutique Chang, Pistilli & Simmons which later merged with Clifford Chance as part of their Australian launch.

Ms Reid was previously a director at PwC Legal. She has been practising for approximately 15 years and specialises in financial services, securities law and transactions including public and private M&A. Prior to PwC Lynda worked at boutique corporate advisory practice, Watson Mangioni. She also practised for a number of years at the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, and has a keen understanding of Commission policy and practice. Her recent work leading large scale high profile regulatory projects demonstrated her well-honed skills in managing large multi-disciplinary teams for clients.

Commenting on the move, Danny said that the team was looking forward to settling into their new home:

"We were impressed by the clarity of the Mills Oakley value proposition and particularly the firm's commitment to cross-practice collaboration. The firm has embraced a Board mandate to grow its corporate practice and we look forward to actively participating in that journey," he said.

Danny and Lynda will be joining Mills Oakley on October 1. They will be joined by senior associate Jana Kiriazidis and associate Shannon Sau, who are also making the move from PwC Legal.

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