

## Mills Oakley to launch Adelaide office

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Leading independent law firm Mills Oakley will expand its national footprint with the launch of an Adelaide office in January.

The office will be led by real estate partner **Stephen Hill**, formerly of MinterEllison in Adelaide. Stephen's established credentials in the property space will be the first piece of a full service offering in Adelaide.

Mills Oakley currently has several lawyers based in Adelaide. The addition of Stephen to the Adelaide offering has provided the impetus for a permanent office which is expected to have 15 lawyers and staff at launch. Initial capabilities will be in property, insurance and litigation & insolvency but the firm is actively recruiting talent across all practice areas.

Commenting on the Adelaide launch, Mills Oakley CEO John Nerurker said:

"Our feedback from local clients was that other national firms were taking the Adelaide market for granted. In Stephen, we have a respected practitioner with deep roots in the business community who understands what is needed to maintain trust and deliver value."

Mr Nerurker added that Adelaide had been on the firm's radar for many years:

"Our view was that we had to find the right talent and the right moment. When Stephen was first introduced to us, we realised that the planets had finally aligned. There is no exact science to expansion, only the art of securing people who share the firm's vision and values."

Stephen is a preeminent property expert advising on the full range of commercial property transactions with significant experience in major project work, property development, acquisitions and disposals, and commercial leasing.

Commenting on his decision to join Mills Oakley, Stephen said:

"Doing business in Adelaide requires an appreciation of the commercial drivers and the values of the local market. From the outset, it was clear that Mills Oakley offered the culture and synergies which would best allow my clients to achieve their objectives. I am honoured to be the foundation partner for the Adelaide office and to play my part in delivering the firm's vision for a formidable full-service presence and a new value proposition for Adelaide."

Mills Oakley is currently exploring tenancies and will announce further details on its Adelaide office in the new year.

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