

# Engaging the Asian Economies – Law & Practice

Wednesday, 13th October 2010

Banco Court, Supreme Court of Victoria 210 William Street, Melbourne

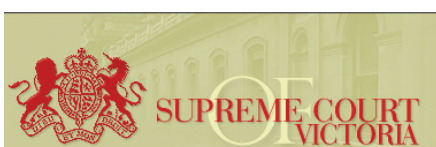


Asia is a significant trading partner for Victoria. Yet, when it comes to the provision of legal services to corporations, governments and businesses from regional Asian economies there is a lack of understanding of how to engage with people from diverse cultures and different personality traits.

This inaugural conference brings together distinguished thought leaders, lawyers from the different branches of the legal profession, Judges of the Commercial Court of the Supreme Court of Victoria, to address the importance of Asia to the Victorian economy and how we could engage with Asia more effectively. It will also enable participants to understand the increased need for cross border legal representations as the liberalisation of legal practices has opened up the market for competition.



Supported by:



# Speaker profiles:

## **The Honourable Marilyn Warren A.C.** – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia

Chief Justice Warren was appointed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria in November 2003. She was admitted to practice in 1975. She was later appointed an assistant chief parliamentary counsel. Her Honour signed the Roll of the Victorian Bar in 1985 and practised predominantly in the areas of administrative law, commercial law and town planning. In 1997 she was appointed Queen's Counsel. In 1998 she was appointed to the Supreme Court of Victoria where she was the judge in charge of the Commercial List.

In June 2005, the Chief Justice was made a Companion in the Order of Australia. Her Honour assumed the role of Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria on 7 April 2006.

## **Dato' Dr Michael Yeoh – CEO Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute**

Michael Yeoh is co-founder and CEO of The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute, Malaysia's leading private independent Think Tank. He is also Founder and Co-Chairman of the Asean Leadership Forum and the Asia Economic Summit. Michael had served on many corporate boards in investment consulting, asset management, venture capital, education and healthcare. He graduated in Economics from Monash University and attended the Aresty Institute in the Wharton School, USA. He has written several books on Leadership and Management and is a frequent speaker at several international conferences organised by the World Economic Forum and the Asia Society and at many Universities in Australia, UK, USA and Malaysia. Recently he was appointed by the Government of Malaysia to the High Level Task Force on Asean Connectivity charged with developing a new Master Plan for Asean for the Asean Heads of Governments. He was also appointed by the Prime Minister of Malaysia to be a Commissioner in Malaysia's Human Rights Commission and the National Economic Consultative Council.

## **John Digby QC**

John Digby is the President of the Commercial Bar Association of Victoria. He is also the immediate Past President of the Victorian Bar. John is one of the leading Queens Counsel in major engineering and infrastructure project litigation. He has also conducted arbitration proceedings in the Asia Pacific region.

## **Felix Wong GAICD – Managing Director, SG Pacific Holding Pty Ltd (a member of the Salim Group)**

Felix has over two decades of experience working with US and Asian multinational conglomerates. With a background in strategic planning, business development & marketing, he has lived and worked in four continents: Asia, North America, Europe and Australasia. His unique experiences across 16 countries and their business cultures has given him a healthy appreciation for the similarities and differences between Western and Asian ways of forming relationships and doing business. Previously a CEO of an ASX-listed food distribution company, he is currently the Managing Director of SG Pacific Holdings where he is involved in joint ventures and acquisitions for the Salim Group, a well-respected Asian conglomerate with global operations. He is also a Non-Executive Director of Albright & Wilson Ltd (an Australian chemical manufacturing company), and the current President of the Chinese Professional and Business Association here in Victoria. Felix has an MBA from Duke University in the US, and is a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## **Andrew Godwin – Associate Director, Asian Law Centre, Director, Graduate Program in Banking and Financial Law, Melbourne Law School**

Andrew Godwin is the Associate Director (Asian Commercial Law) of the Asian Law Centre, The University of Melbourne. He is also Director of the Graduate Program in Banking and Finance Law. His research interests include Chinese law, property law, financial and insolvency law and professional training. Andrew spent over 15 years in private practice, 10 of which were spent in Shanghai where he was a partner and chief representative of the international law firm, Linklaters. During his time in practice, Andrew acted for commercial and investment banks in a wide range of finance transactions and was also actively involved with financial institutions and multinational companies in the area of cross-border merger and acquisition projects. His research interests include securities regulation, Chinese law, property law, financial and insolvency law and professional regulation and training. Andrew also consults in the area of contract drafting and the use of plain language techniques. A fluent Mandarin speaker, Andrew has published extensively in professional and academic journals and contributes a regular column called 'Lexicon' to the China Business Law Journal.

## **Mei Ramsay – General Counsel & Company Secretary Asia Pacific for the Cummins group Asia Pacific; Committee Member of Australian Corporate Lawyers Association, Victorian Chapter**

Mei Ramsay is the General Counsel & Company Secretary Asia Pacific for the Cummins Asia Pacific ("Cummins") group. Mei joined Cummins in 2007 as the first legal counsel in Asia Pacific for Cummins. Prior to taking up her current role, Mei had worked for over four years in various roles at Coles Myer Limited, the last being the Senior Lawyer for the Liquor Group, and prior to that for over three years at Southcorp Limited. Before moving in-house, Mei worked as a senior associate at Minter Ellison in the Corporate and M&A Group for three years, and commenced her legal career at Arnold Bloch Leibler in the Banking & Finance Group, where she worked for three years. At Cummins, Mei is responsible for legal, company secretarial and corporate governance for the Asia Pacific Region, covering Australia, New Zealand, PNG, North East Asia, South East Asia, China and India. Mei's work primarily focuses on the distribution part of the business. Mei reports directly to the Executive Managing Director Asia Pacific Distribution and sits on both the South Pacific and Asia Pacific Management Boards. In addition to her legal and company secretarial responsibilities, she has general management responsibilities as a member of the Management Boards. Mei graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor in Laws in 1992 and from the University of Melbourne with a Masters in Law in 2001.

## **Mini vandePol – Partner and Regional Chair, Asia Pacific Dispute Resolution**

Mini has more than 18 years of legal experience. She is the Regional Chair of Baker & McKenzie's Asia Pacific Dispute Resolution Group and Australian head of its Global Compliance Group. Mini was previously the Senior Corporate Solicitor of the legal section of the ANZ Bank's Asset Management Group and is an accredited insolvency specialist.

Mini's practice is predominantly multi-jurisdictional. On a daily basis she is able to utilise Baker & McKenzie's international network of offices to access the collective knowledge and resources of a truly global firm. Her understanding of sensitive client issues from the "inside" is of particular benefit when acting for clients from culturally and geographically diverse backgrounds.

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## Who should attend?

Corporate and Government Lawyers, Barristers, Solicitors, Company Directors and Corporate Managers, Entrepreneurs and Investors, Bankers and Financiers, Business leaders, Academic Scholars and Researchers.

## Program

2:00 pm – 2:10 pm	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <i>The Honourable Marilyn Warren A.C.</i> – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria
2:10 pm – 2:35 pm	<b>The importance of Asia to the Victorian economy</b> <i>Speaker: Dato' Dr Michael Yeoh</i> – CEO Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute Chair: The Hon Justice Michael Sifris
2:35 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Engaging with Asia – bridging the East-West divide</b> <i>Speaker: Felix Wong</i> – Managing Director, SG Pacific Holding Pty Ltd (a member of the Salim Group) Chair: The Hon Justice Jennifer Davies
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>Panel Discussion</b> Chair: Mei Ramsay, General Counsel and Company Secretary Asia Pacific for the Cummins Asia Pacific group; Committee Member of Australian Corporate Lawyers Association, Victorian Chapter
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
4:30 pm – 5:10 pm	<b>Cross Border legal representation</b> <i>Speaker: Mini vandePol, Partner, Baker &amp; McKenzie and Head of the Asia Pacific Regional Dispute Resolution Group</i> Chair: The Hon Justice Tony Pagone
5:10 pm – 5.45 pm	<b>The liberalisation of the Legal Services Market in Asia – trends and opportunities</b> <i>Speaker: Andrew Godwin, Associate Director (Asian Commercial Law), Asian Law Centre, Melbourne Law School</i> Chair: The Hon Justice Anne Ferguson
5:45 pm – 5:55 pm	<b>Closing remarks</b> <i>John Digby, QC President of the Commercial Bar Association of Victoria</i>
6:00 pm – 7.00 pm	<b>Drinks/Cocktails at the Supreme Court Library</b>

