

Media Release

Issue: 1 August, 2011

LEADING SA LAW FIRM ATTRACTS RENOWNED

INSURANCE EXPERT & LEGAL COMMENTATOR

Highly awarded South Australian law firm, Finlaysons, has attracted one of the State's most prominent legal commentators and insurance law experts.

Finlaysons today announced the appointment as a full-time Special Counsel within the firm, of Law Society of South Australia President and Law Council of Australia Director, Mr Ralph Bönig.

The appointment is effective immediately. Finlaysons was voted by its peers as the "2010 Adelaide Law Firm of the Year" and honored again with the same award this year.

Mr Bönig has extensive experience in professional indemnity insurance, public liability, medical malpractice and industrial relations litigation both as a solicitor and as counsel.

A much sought after media commentator, Mr Bönig has represented parties in complex litigation such as the protracted Adelaide Oval lights dispute, the Patawalonga floods, catastrophic personal injury claims, government departments, and has appeared in some of the State's most high profile but sensitive inquests.

Finlayson's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gerry Mak, said the appointment was an extremely strategic one.

"It brings into the practice additional but complementary legal expertise from a highly skilled professional with a well respected client base – backed by peer and media group support for his fostering in the public domain of commonsense discussion and understanding of sometimes complex legal issues," Mr Mak said.

"Mr Bönig also provides experience as counsel in practical hands-on court work

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as both trial counsel and at the appellate level,” Mr Mak said.

“These skill sets will add particularly to the relevancy of our high level mentoring programs within Finlaysons.

“These are designed to assist our younger lawyers enjoy and grow with their profession, as the life-work balance challenges in the early years in law can be exceptionally demanding on graduates,” Mr Mak said.

A 30 year veteran in law, Mr Bönig is a Bachelor of Laws graduate from the University of Adelaide and since 1993 has entrenched his reputation as an insurance legal specialist through the boutique Adelaide law firm, fountain + bönig.

Joining Mr Bönig at Finlaysons will be fellow fountain + bönig Senior Associate, Mr David Rostron, also an University of Adelaide Bachelor of Law graduate. He has worked almost exclusively in his career in the specialist areas of workers’ compensation and complex insurance litigation.

These have included leading the conduct of complex claims involving professional malpractice, public and product liability and property damage.

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