

Domestic Building

Thinking about building a new home or renovating? Getting the building contract right is a good start, so contact us before signing. If the contract is already signed and there is disagreement, we can advise you on your options.

Family Law

Caring, sensitive and cost effective advice by specialist family lawyers is vital in dealing with complex family matters. We can help you with children's and parenting issues, divorce, de facto relationships, financial agreements, general advice, property settlement, and custody and access.

Property/Conveyancing

We act for builders and developers as well as residential clients. We take care of all conveyancing needs: buying and selling property, contracts of sale, section 32 vendor's statements, transfer of land between spouses and family members and superannuation fund investments.

Wills and Estates

Our experience and specialisation includes: appointments of medical treatment decision makers, enduring powers of attorney (financial matters and personal matters), wills, testamentary trusts, estate and retirement planning, superannuation and binding death benefit nominations, obtaining grants of representation (probate/letters of administration), challenges to wills and testator's family maintenance claims.

Elder Law

Changing demographics and increased life expectancies have increased the need for legal services for older people and their families. Our lawyers have skills and experience to cover the important issues of law relating to our older clients.

Notary Public

A full range of notarial services is available at our firm including certification of documents, notarial certificates and witnessing of documents.

Contact us

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HICKS
OAKLEY
CHESSELL
WILLIAMS

Lawyers & Notary



Our lawyers provide high quality legal services to corporate, small business and private clients.



Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



About us

Hicks Oakley Chessell Williams is a law firm formed by a merger between Hicks & Oakley (established 1983) and Chessell Williams. The current Directors & Principal Lawyers are Matthew Hicks, Lachlan Vallance and Vincent Caruso. Sarah Lindsey and Petra Thomson are Principal Lawyers. Tony Oakley, David Williams, John Sharkie, Simone Wunderlich, Brooke Boothby and Neville Sampson continue as Consultants.

Our law firm has continued to expand and has recently acquired or merged with the following practices: Boothby & Boothby, John Sharkie, Ray Kaynes and Weston Gambetta.

Our lawyers provide high quality legal services to clients including corporate, small business and private. We take pride in listening to our clients to ensure quick, favourable and cost-effective services and resolutions.

Please check our website www.hocw.com.au for our latest news including when we are holding seminars, the firm's newsletters, information sheets, checklists and details of all our lawyers and practice areas.

We offer a wide range of services to our clients and are proud to have lawyers with Specialist Accreditation from the Law Institute of Victoria in the following areas:

- commercial law
- commercial litigation
- commercial tenancy law
- family law
- wills and estates



Client Services

Commercial Law

We act for corporate clients as well as the self-employed and family businesses. We can assist with AGM and board meetings, business compliance and regulatory management including ASIC, ASX, ACCC, taxation, Corporations Act 2001, directors' duties, contracts, contracts of sale of business, credit applications, distribution arrangements, heads of agreement, letters of intent, licensing, terms of trade, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, and shareholders' agreements. We offer advice in establishing and managing superannuation and self-managed super funds (SMSF).

Business Succession Law

Every business owner who intends to retire needs to have plans for finance, business risk or business operations in place. We offer advice on agreements with co-directors and shareholders, business succession and exit strategies.

Employment and Workplace Relations

It is important that legal advice is obtained on specific employment contracts or workplace situations. We can assist employers in the drafting of letters of engagement, through to the preparation of more formal employment contracts for executives.

Intellectual Property Law

We have developed particular expertise in the area of intellectual property, including: patents, trademarks, copyright and designs and their protection, licensing and infringements whether local or international.

Leasing - Commercial and Retail

Whether you are a landlord or tenant we can help you with your leasing matters. We also act for major private investors, property consultants managing property portfolios and major commercial real estate agents.

Franchise Law

Franchises are one of the most common forms of business in Australia. The popularity of a franchise is in its established goodwill and possibly captive market. We can assist you to negotiate your way through franchise issues.

Superannuation

There are many legal issues arising from the growth of the superannuation industry. The regulations are complex. We can work with you and your accountant to ensure complete compliance.

Mortgage Law

Our firm can assist with guarantee advice, investment in private mortgages, loan agreements and the preparation of debenture and mortgage documents for lenders.

Litigation and Dispute Resolution

We offer attention to detail as well as knowledge of all the relevant rules and practices associated with litigation in all jurisdictions. We have the experience to conduct mediations in many types of disputes including commercial, contractual, debt recovery, employment, insurance, intellectual property, and wills, estates and probate.

Owners Corporation Law

Our team has a detailed understanding of the complex relationships that exist between the Owners Corporation, the manager, contractors, committee members and individual lot owners. We provide practical and interactive legal advice to Owners Corporation managers and committee members, allowing them to stay on top of legal changes and developments in the industry.

Building & Construction

Our services cover a range of building projects such as industrial, commercial, retail, residential and multi-unit developments. We specialise in contracts and agreements; dispute resolution, legislative and regulatory requirements for both domestic and commercial.