

**PRESS RELEASE: 28 July 2009**

## **STEP LAUNCHED IN WA**

**The Western Australian branch of the international Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners was launched at the Supreme Court on July 22 2009.**

The Supreme Court of Western Australia was an inspiring backdrop for the launch of the Perth branch of STEP, hosted in the Court's foyer on 22 July 2009. The evening cocktail function was a gathering almost 100 professionals with an interest in trust and estate practice. The launch brought together judges and registrars, barristers, lawyers, accountants, bankers and professional trustees amongst others.

The launch was an excellent forum in which to introduce STEP to the professions in Perth. Honoured guests and speakers at the launch included the Hon Chief Justice Robert French, the Hon Chief Justice Wayne Martin and the Hon Justice Ian Gzell.

His Hon Chief Justice Martin welcomed STEP to the Supreme Court of Western Australia and noted the absence to date of a long-needed specialist professional body of this nature, particularly considering the inevitable affiliation of trust and estate practitioners with both certainties in life, death and taxes.

His Hon Chief Justice French highlighted the growing complexity of trust law and welcomed the opportunity for practitioners in this area to develop their skills and expertise.

Finally, His Hon Justice Gzell provided a background on STEP International and reflected on the experiences of the Sydney branch. He also officially launched the Society in Western Australia by presenting a Certificate of Branch Membership to the Inaugural Chair of STEP WA, Adam Levin, (Partner, Jackson McDonald Lawyers).

A notable theme of the evening was the breadth of law that touches upon the areas of trusts and estates including equity, common law, probate, taxation and the impact this has on practitioners. However, the significance of STEP's purpose and function was still conveyed in a light-hearted manner, including a few somewhat expected puns ("*one small STEP for man, one giant leap for mankind*" in light of a certain 40 year anniversary that took place the preceding day).

STEP Perth welcomes new members. Please contact Julia Fanali ([jfanali@jacmac.com.au](mailto:jfanali@jacmac.com.au)) if you are interested in obtaining a membership information pack or visit [www.step.org](http://www.step.org) for more information.

### **Forthcoming events:**

- Roundtable workshop on **16 September 2009** on the topic of - *Is there a Future for Discretionary Beneficiaries? Are Trustees in the firing line?*
- International speaker event in **January 2009** featuring Ian Marsh, a STEP London member and internationally acclaimed conflict resolution specialist who will speak on the drafting of conflict management procedures into key family arrangements like family charters, constitutions, shareholder agreements and wills and trusts.

### **About STEP**

STEP is an international organisation with over 14,000 members around the world. It is a professional body offering a local, national and international learning and business network. In Australia there are existing branches in Sydney, Melbourne and Queensland. Membership of STEP provides opportunities for education, training, representation and networking.

STEP Perth is sponsored by **NAB**, **Perpetual Trustees** and **Jackson McDonald**.

**Legalwise** has also shown support for STEP Perth by offering STEP members one past paper free of charge and a 20% discount on attendance at Legalwise seminars.

The inaugural STEP Perth committee comprises:

Chairman:	Adam Levin, Jackson McDonald
Secretary:	Craig McKie, Norton Smailes
Treasurer:	Angela Gaffney, OPEZ
Committee	Registrar Sandra Boyle of the Supreme Court of WA Jocelyne Boujos, Sceales & Co and Maree van der Kwast, Dwyer Durack.

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