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Personal & Professional Legal Service – delivered expeditiously

**Compliments of the season to you!
Many thanks for your support during 2011...
Here's to a safe and relaxing festive season for you and your
family, and a rewarding year in 2012!**

Blackman Legal operates on values of personal service and reliable and cost effective representation. We are proud to offer sound legal expertise and a dedication to the long-term legal, financial and personal satisfaction of our clients. We aim to deliver value to our clients and to meet their needs with common-sense advice and friendly service. Our relaxed office and handy location in Lindfield makes a visit to us a pleasant experience.

At Blackman Legal we will work with you to obtain optimum results, taking the time to explain legal procedures clearly and frankly. We realise the importance of keeping you well-informed at all stages of the process and understand your need for sensitivity and discretion.

The year is almost over and we have just celebrated our first anniversary. We bring you our final Newsletter for 2011!

It has been a challenging year for many of our clients but we have been able to resolve difficult legal problems to provide them with relief.

We have guided some of our clients through marriage and business breakdowns and helped others buy and sell their new homes. We have provided sound advice to families when a loved one has started to lose capacity and put in place protective measures for other clients in anticipation of that situation occurring.

We have helped to protect clients acquiring new businesses and helped others to sell businesses and capitalise on their years of hard work and investment.

We have advised many on how to ensure that their estate is distributed according to their wishes via a properly constructed will.

But our greatest personal achievement has been to achieve successful outcomes for many clients who have been unhappy with the services provided by previous lawyers!

Blackman Legal will be open throughout the Christmas/New Year holiday season apart from the public holidays so if you need any legal assistance or advice, please do not hesitate to give us a call or send us an email AND WE WILL BE HERE TO HELP YOU!

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Amanda Blackman is the principal of Blackman Legal and was admitted to practice law in 1987. Amanda has extensive experience in property and commercial law and possesses a common-sense, efficient yet personal approach to the resolution of client's problems. She is skilled at demystifying the legal process with advice that is easy to understand. She is a fierce protector of her client's interests and anticipates in advance issues of concern that may arise. Amanda is also a Notary Public which is an international legal recognition which enables her to assist clients in overseas jurisdictions.

SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE LAW brought to you by Amanda

Amanda is currently working on a very complex property matter with which her client has been battling for over 4 years. Two previous law firms were unaware of important change in the law which Amanda identified as being strongly supportive of her client's case. Her client was ready to walk away from a large sum of money which Amanda advised her she is entitled to receive. Hopefully a satisfactory outcome will be achieved soon so our client can move forward with her life, stress free.

First Home - New Home Scheme

From 1 January 2012, First Home Plus exemptions and concessions offered by the NSW Government will be replaced by the First Home – New Home Scheme. An agreement or transfer will only be eligible for the concession or exemption if the acquisition of the first home is a new home or vacant land is intended to be used as the site for a new home.

New Requirements for Office of State Revenue

It is now a requirement that all clients provide evidence of their identity when paying stamp duty on legal documents such as contracts for sale of land. A certified copy of a drivers licence is sufficient and Blackman Legal will be identifying all clients in this manner in order to comply with this requirement.

Amendments to the Dividing Fences Act

Retaining walls are now included in the definition of 'fences' in the Dividing Fences Act if they are required for the support of a dividing fence. The local court now has power to make orders in regard to the contribution of adjoining owners to the maintenance and upkeep of a retaining wall if it falls within this definition. Previously, only relief could be sought in regard to a dispute with a neighbour via an action in the Supreme Court which is a much more expensive Court to deal with.



Alan Blumberg assists clients going through the breakdown of a personal relationship with discretion, understanding and empathy. He has an interest in estate planning and the creation of strategies to ensure client's assets are protected into the future. He brings his extensive real-world experience in business to the resolution of commercial disputes. Alan understands that a trip to a lawyer can be a daunting experience for many people but his calm and confident manner reassures clients in distress. Alan works hard to resolve disputes and achieves outstanding results for clients by providing advice that is practical and by only recommending solutions that are achievable.

Alan now focusses on family law matters and is successfully helping many of our clients through their marriage breakdown and its consequences when caring, experienced legal help is vitally important.

Alan offers **FREE** Family Law Seminars...call us for details on 94156344

Getting started on separation

The prospect of separation is a scary mix of questions for anyone unfamiliar with the process. Where do you start, what about the children, what's fair, will I need to go to court? We have developed a **Starter Package** to help - a simple process that gets you started for a fixed price. An initial appointment with no time limit, guidance, written advice and more to help get you started – all for \$385 plus GST.

Our Family Law team has the experience, expertise and temperament to get you through this most difficult time.

Debunking Two Family Law Myths

Myth: The system favours the wife

Busted!! - This is not true - The system is highly discretionary and seeks an outcome which is just and equitable in the circumstances. There are many factors which affect the outcome including:

- the size of the asset pool
- the relative contributions of each party
- the future needs of each party
- how well each party's case is presented
- the views and mood of the judge

Myth: It is not the quantity of time that counts, it is the quality

The cliché of "quality" time is sometimes used by many to console fathers (and mothers) who spend limited time with their children. How parents and children spend their time together does matter. Effective parenting creates an emotional bond between parent and child, which normally contributes significantly to children's wellbeing. Children who feel close to both their parents normally feel better about themselves, do better at school and have fewer behavioural problems.

However, it is clear that a close parenting relationship demands lots of time. It cannot be achieved in a few hours a week.

Quality time is vital but is required in significant quantity too.

Our Services

We offer a broad range of services across a range of legal disciplines:

- Property Law, Conveyancing and Leasing
- Wills and Administration of Estates
- Powers of Attorney and Appointments of Enduring Guardian
- Family Law
- Commercial Law
- Notary Public Services
- Intellectual Property
- Local Government and Planning

A title or caption about the photograph.



