



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **KordaMentha starts new Forensic Practice**

Leading independent corporate advisers, KordaMentha, today launched a new Forensic Practice.

KordaMentha Forensic will provide services including:

- Investigation
- Fraud Risk Management
- Anti-Money Laundering
- Computer Forensic

The new practice also aims to specialise in Data Analytics.

KordaMentha Forensic will work closely with KordaMentha's international partner, AlixPartners, which has an extensive global forensic practice.

Mr Mark Korda said the Forensic practice would provide a broader range of services, building on KordaMentha's strong relationship with legal firms and using skills gained from recent investigations such as the collapse of the Westpoint Group of companies. "KordaMentha Forensic is well placed to take advantage of opportunities where the Big 4 Auditing firms have conflicts which have been a growing issue in recent times," Mr Korda said.

The new KordaMentha Forensic practice will be led by Richard Bennison, formerly with Deloitte Forensic. Richard, an accountant and former New South Wales Police Fraud Squad member, specialises in investigations and fraud risk management. He has been involved in an extensive range of global assignments, most recently in India, Indonesia, China and Singapore.

Mr Bennison said the demand for forensic specialists had increased substantially in recent years because of the spread of sophisticated computer technology, the increasing complexity of commerce and the law and the heavier emphasis on governance and risk management.

Other members of the team include:

- Brett Bassett, formerly with Deloitte Forensic, a former Queensland police officer, who has worked on large investigations with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. Brett also specialises in fraud risk management including whistleblower consultancy services
- Calvin Wills, has over 12 years experience in the IT industry providing specialist services across the areas of data security, transactional services, business process automation and computer forensics
- Anthony Davies, a former police officer from the United Kingdom, who has a Masters degree in Computer Science and spent the past four years with ASIC investigating serious corporate crime
- Zoë Lester, formerly with Deloitte Forensic, a solicitor, who specialises in providing anti-money laundering consulting services. Zoë is currently undertaking a PhD in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing.

Mr Korda said the Forensic team would begin immediately and it was planned to recruit further staff to the practice from around Australia.

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