## An Outline of the Law of Partnership



## **Professor Stephen Graw**

August 2011 Thomson Reuters Australia RRP \$69

Presently in its fourth edition, *An Outline of the Law of Partnership* "explains and illustrates the major legal principles governing the formulation, operation and terminations of partnerships and the way they apply in practice". This book is highly recommended for all practitioners who are in the field of corporate law or who have intentions of becoming a partner of a law firm in the near future.

Divided into 11 manageable chapters, the book provides an excellent overview into the law of partnership in each Australian State. Proceeding on the assumption that the reader has no background in this area of the law, the book helpfully introduces the concept of a partnership and its formation process. Thereafter, the book deals with pertinent topics in the field of partnership law, including but not limited to the regulation of partnership property and the rights and obligations of partners towards each other. Three chapters are then dedicated to addressing topics concerning the cessation of a partnership.

On the overall, the content coverage in the book is solid yet easy to read. The inclusion by the author of summaries of facts and holdings of important cases within the book must also be commended as it provides readers with access to the latest cases without the hassle of reviewing the entire judgment.

I would highly recommend this book to legal practitioners who have an interest in the area of "partnerships". This book may also be helpful to New Zealand practitioners as New Zealand legislations are also covered. In essence, the content coverage in this book is sufficient to provide readers with a strong foundation of the law of partnership, an area of law which is often not covered in the curriculum of Australian law schools.

Dr Gregory Xu, Ince & Co

## Investigative Interviewing Explained



Brian Ord, Gary Shaw, Tracey Green

July 2011 LexisNexis RRP \$62

This practical book about interviews lawyers may expect will be included in the book lists for the academic training of police officers. In cross examination for the defence it could be useful in framing questions to know what should have happened when your client attended for a police interview.

We all learn on the job in legal employment about interviews. Hopefully when we start there we have the core skills of interviewing (including listening) that may have been enhanced by our mandatory Practical Legal Training (PLT) before admission as a legal practitioner. This is a good book to use for practitioners, teachers and students.

The blurb on the back cover says "this book explains the skills required to conduct a range of interviews in a practical and professional manner". I agree. I liked the clear writing about suspect, witness and victim. One size does not fit all. Why is the book so good? May I suggest reference to the practical experience of the authors.

Brian Ord is a career detective of 30 years experience who rose to the rank of Detective Superintendent. He investigated every category of crime, including homicide, and was involved in the investigation of terrorist activity in Northern Ireland. Gary Shaw was a Detective Chief Inspector and has been a police officer for 30 years. Associate Professor Tracey Green is currently the Associate Dean (Policing) at Charles Sturt University and is working for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Indonesia.

The four parts of the book are about core skills, structuring interviews, legal considerations and continuous improvement. Starting with preparation and planning then moving to rapport, questioning and listening there is plenty of very readable content.

Michael Flynn, Solicitor

## Case Management and Complex Civil Litigation



Michael Legg September 2011 Federation Press RRP \$145

The Hon Ronald Sackville AO QC notes in his forward to this text the High Court's comments about case management in Aon Risk Services Australia Limited v Australian National University: "Speed and efficiency, in the sense of minimum delay and expense, are seen as essential to a just resolution of proceedings". The book is then described as an examination of the procedural, managerial and policy questions raised by complex civil litigation and case management which is "thorough, penetrating and insightful".

Although the book is practically focused, it is largely a commentary rather than a user guide. It contains chapters on topics including: Issue Identification -Pleadings and Alternatives; Discovery in the Information Age; Expert Evidence including joint conferences prior to trial and concurrent expert evidence; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Class Actions and the issue of obtaining Summary Judgment. There is also an interesting chapter providing a comparative analysis of the NSW Commercial List, the Victorian Commercial Court and the Federal Court's Fast Track system.

The author acknowledges that the book was written with the benefit of US study, work experience and research regarding complex litigation. This assisted with the comparative aspects of the work.

I found this accessible and well worded volume to be an interesting, useful and thought provoking read. I would not hesitate to recommend it to litigation practitioners and "rule makers".

Emma Reilly, Partner, Moray & Agnew