



THE YOUNG GUN

RICHARD BURGESS

Solicitor,

Herbert Smith Freehills – Lawyers Weekly Australian Law Awards
2015: Law Firm of the Year

Having recently completed his degree, Richard cut his teeth in the graduate program at the Sydney office of Herbert Smith Freehills. Starting as a paralegal, then moving through other parts of the firm, research has been a major part of his role from the start. Fortunately, with his digital smarts and inquiring mind, he usually manages to find the answers he's looking for.

HOW RICHARD USES WESTLAW AU

As a solicitor at a large law firm, Richard encounters all kinds of research tasks on a daily basis and there isn't always someone on hand who'll know the answer – even in a firm with hundreds of lawyers. "Recently we needed to research the ins and outs of Aviation Law – with Westlaw I could feel confident knowing I'd be able to find the relevant legislation and it would be up-to-date (even with small amendments)," says Richard. "As long as I start with a point in mind, I can always bring together some results based around the criteria."

Richard also likes the 'My Alerts' function – a handy feature that allows users to receive email updates that match their personal criteria. "At the moment I'm working in litigation, so I have about five alerts set up related to that. I get regular email hits daily or weekly, which keep me up-to-date with new developments and how cases are flowing."

HOW WESTLAW AU HELPS RICHARD

As the market leading online legal research platform, Westlaw has always been a resource Richard can count on. "Of course we have a variety of resources to cover all bases and I use a range of them – but I particularly like Westlaw because it's quick and accurate. And if I can sift through results and turn around a research problem quickly, that means a lot."

Westlaw's advanced and intuitive search filters ensure Richard always finds the information he's looking for. "With Westlaw you can easily search on a case basis, otherwise just use keywords. When you do search, keywords pop up under each result, so you can see what the content is about (and if it's relevant) without having to click through. It's a small thing, but it all saves time – and anything a database can do to save me time and narrow down results is good."

"Obviously, the more accurate, targeted and relevant our research is, the better the outcome for our clients."

COMPANY PROFILE

Name: Herbert Smith Freehills

Location: 23 offices across Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East and the US

Practice size: 2,100+ practitioners

Specialties: Real Estate, Infrastructure, Resources, Energy, Construction, Competition and Corporations Law

Website: www.herbertsmithfreehills.com



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