BOWDEN McCORMACK
Lawyers + Advisers

Dominic McCormack, LLB (UQLD – NTU)

Legal Practice Director & Practice Manager

- Commercial and Corporate law
- Aboriginal land rights and Native Title
- Human rights and discrimination
- Structuring of business and investment vehicles
- Administrative law and government relations
- Cross-cultural awareness and Interpreting

Background

Since being admitted in 1994, Dominic McCormack has practiced as a lawyer for over ten years. He now specializes as a commercial lawyer with a focus on corporate structuring, business development and the provision of commercial advice. He is also involved at ground level in the development of remote Aboriginal communities, with a particular emphasis on economic development. This is combined where appropriate with his bi-lingual capacity in the language of Murrinhpatha.

Dominic has a quiet, understated approach, and combines this with an eye for detail, patience and determination. He has an excellent rapport with clients from diverse backgrounds who seek him out for his commercial and business development experience, and his unique language and cross-cultural skills.

Primary Practice Areas

Dominic's practice focuses upon assisting clients in the following areas:-

- commercial and corporate law, including advice upon constitutions, share transfers, sale and purchase of businesses, leasing and governance issues;
- structuring of business and investment vehicles, with advice upon incorporation of appropriate entities, including trusts;
- Aboriginal land rights and Native Title, in particular concerning land access, securing of appropriate tenure and leasing;
- administrative law and government relations
- human rights and discrimination
- cross-cultural awareness courses and training in use of interpreters, and the service of interpreting where appropriate.

Practice Experience

Dominic McCormack has had a wide variety of experience in the Northern Territory and Queensland. This experience has included Aboriginal land claims and Native Title work, property, commercial, intellectual property and technology law advice, and corporate structuring. Dominic has also been engaged over that time as a para-professional interpreter in the Aboriginal language of *Murrinhpatha* (Wadeye, Thamarrurr Region) and is sought-after for his cross-cultural knowledge.

Over this time he has advised a range of interest groups and stakeholders, including the Northern Territory and Queensland governments, regional Aboriginal councils, various corporations and associations and their representatives, building and construction firms, and developers. In these roles Dominic has earned a high level of trust with clients and associated personnel, and displayed constant integrity and transparency in all dealings.

By way of example, matters that Dominic has been involved in include:-

- providing advice upon and incorporating corporate entities for a range of clientele;
- sale and purchase of small, medium and large businesses;
- securing tenure for clients pursuant to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*;
- securing Deductible Gift Recipient, Tax Concession Charity and Public Benevolent Institution status through the Australian Taxation Office;
- providing advice with respect to Sacred Sites matters;
- acting as the instructing solicitor in various land claims and providing advice with respect to Native Title matters;
- advising and assisting in the development of model lease agreements for Aboriginal land;
- advising and assisting corporate clients in the transition process resulting from Local Government reform to wider Shire Councils, particular with respect to asset transfers;
- advised upon and completed the first Home Ownership on Indigenous Land applications; and
- acting as an interpreter in the Thamarrurr Region generally.

This experience demonstrates that Dominic has the capacity to deal with a variety of matters and enjoys the confidence of a wide range of clientele, including high net-worth individuals, Indigenous people at community level, and senior government officials.

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