

Sir Laurence Street

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

KAREN STOTT

I have known Karen Stott since 1995 when she commenced employment with Charlton Sharman – a Sydney law firm specialising in Plaintiff's Medical Negligence work. I practise as a Commercial Mediator and am regularly involved in medical negligence mediations – they would number some hundreds. By way of background I annex a brief personal resume.

Altogether I have conducted about 20 mediations in which Karen Stott has been the Plaintiff's solicitor either when she was with Charlton Sherman or, in more recent years, since she joined McLaughlin & Riordan. I have thus come to know her well on a personal as well as a professional basis and I write this reference to attest both her fine professional qualities and her excellent personal character.

Karen joined her present firm, McLaughlin & Riordan, in order to take on the challenge of building a Medical Negligence practice on to that firm's existing personal injury practice. She has been remarkably successful in that regard.

An outstanding characteristic of Karen's professional work is her total and intense focus on the interests of her client. She is both renowned and respected for this by other practitioners in the medical negligence field.

Although I practice as a Mediator, I am aware that she has an enviable record of successes in matters that are ultimately taken to Court. I do not have a precise recollection of the matters I have mediated in which she has been involved over the last 9 years, but the overwhelming majority settled either at or shortly after the formal mediation.

As well as her pursuit of the best interests of her client, Karen brings to bear mature and practically oriented judgment in pressing those interests in the course of mediations – a process in the psychology of which she is well versed. Her preparation is meticulous, thorough and well directed. It is always a professional delight for me to work my way through her collations of material.

I believe that Karen is a most valuable and valued member of the team at McLaughlin & Riordan. This belief derives from my contacts with the senior partner of the firm who I have known for many decades.

Karen's character is impeccable and her reliability in meeting deadlines and attending to tedious loose ends is of the first order of quality.

I can unreservedly and enthusiastically commend Karen as a woman of total integrity, high professional competence and ethical standards and dedication to the protection and promotion of her client's best interests. In addition to these qualities she has a personality that has earned her the warm goodwill and friendship with those with whom she works.

If I can speak further on her qualities I shall be glad to do so.

6 August 2004

Lawrence Street

Sir Laurence Street **AC KCMG QC**

Sir Laurence Street had a substantial practice as a commercial QC at the NSW Bar. He subsequently became an Equity Judge of the Supreme Court and was later for 14 years Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor of New South Wales.

Since leaving those public offices he has carried on a solo practice as a professional mediator and disputes consultant. He

- has conducted over 1,500 successful mediations principally in major commercial disputes;
- is the author of "Mediation – A Practical Outline" (5th Ed 2003), of numerous articles and is a frequent speaker on mediation;
- is associated with a number of leading Australian and international mediation organisations; and
- was the Convenor and Chairman of the inaugural planning committee of the Australian Commercial Disputes Centre

Amongst other current appointments he is

- Chairman of the Australian Government's International Legal Services Advisory Council;
- ADR Consultant to the Defence Legal Office, Australian Department of Defence;
- President of the Asia-Pacific Council of the London Court of International Arbitration;
- an Australian Government Designated Conciliator to ICSID, Washington; and
- a Mediator of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne.

He has held office as Australian and World President of the International Law Association, London, and is currently a life Vice President.

In recent years he was a Director, and later Chairman, of the major Australian newspaper group John Fairfax Holdings Limited and a Director of the Australian subsidiary of the Italian Bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena.

Sir Laurence is a Companion of the Order of Australia, a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George, a Knight of St John and a Grand Officer of Merit of the Order of Malta. He is an Honours Graduate in Law from Sydney University and has three Honorary Doctorates in Law and an Honorary Doctorate in Economics from Australian Universities. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), an Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Institute of Building.

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