



Geoff Rees

Director

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Service Lines

Business Advisory
Corporate/Commercial

Professional Qualifications & Memberships

Bachelor of Laws
Bachelor of Commerce
Accredited Business Law Specialist (LIV 1991)
Australian Legal Practitioner

Key Industry Experience

- Technology & Communications
- Manufacturing & Distribution
- Sport & Entertainment
- Higher Education
- Medical Institutes
- Commercialisation of Research Outcomes & Intellectual Property
- Employment
- Government & Public Sector

Geoff Rees is one of the founding Partners of Brian Ward & Partners.

In recent times Geoff has been the key commercial advisor on various important transactions in the higher education and medical institute sectors. He also advises many listed and privately owned mid sized corporations.

His recent commercial experience includes:

- representing the corporation owned by the 38 Australian Universities, in the transfer of international student recruitment and English language testing services to a for-profit entity and equity raising by that entity;
- procuring State Government approval of the key rail infrastructure lease over the Victorian freight network;
- acting for commercialisers of intellectual property, involved with drying brown coal;
- settling the submissions by the Major Professional Sports to the Senate Enquiry on the challenges posed by New Digital Media;
- providing advice, and submissions to the ACCC in relation to a regulated takeover in the manufacturing sector; and
- advising on the merger of two Medical Institutes, including the repeal of the relevant state legislation.

His hands on work in various sectors in which he has experience have led to a number of senior appointments. He was Chairman of the company that formed and then listed Melbourne IT Limited. In the course of that process he dealt with the Auditor General, many public compliance issues, the media, the NTEU and the Minister for Education. He was also Deputy Chairman of Melbourne University Private when it successfully obtained reaccreditation as an Australian University.

His current positions include:

- Chairman of the Advisory Board of Melbourne University Sport;
- a Committee Member of the Legal Practitioners Liability Committee, which provides professional indemnity insurance and associated risk management services to all Victorian and many national law firms.
- the Representative Director of the University of Melbourne on Uniseed, an AUD 60 million preseed technology commercialisation fund of three of leading Australian Universities;
- Director of UMEE Limited, the commercial corporation of the University of Melbourne;

His breadth of commercial experiences over 30 years has lead to demanding roles in regulated industries. In 1989 he was asked to join the Board of one of the two major publicly listed radio networks at that

time. His appointment was part of the implementation of a major restructuring and change in strategic direction. The restructuring was completed and the new direction was successfully implemented prior to takeover by one of the large national radio groups.

He has also maintained his interest in amateur and professional sport, and continues to be the principal legal advisor to one of Australia's leading Olympic Sports, which includes convening appeals and disciplinary tribunals. During his time at the University, he regularly rowed for Australia and was a member of the first Australian crew to win a gold medal at a world rowing championship. During the course of the 70s, he won Gold, Silver and Bronze medals at world rowing championships held throughout Europe. Brian Ward & Partners continues to be one of the premier practices in the field of Sports Law.

He has broad experience in finance, manufacturing, biotechnology, ICT and related service industries. He is regularly called on to assist, advise and resolve disputes in the area of protection, development and commercialisation of intellectual property. His Telecommunications work was recognised in the last publication of Butterworth's Australian Legal Profile.