

Briefcase: Anderson Lloyd visit The Factory (again) while Colin Craig haunts the High Court (again)

FRIDAY MAY 26, 2017



BRIEFCASE

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Alan Paterson

Anderson Lloyd's continued growth in Auckland – and elsewhere – is now cemented with the addition from July 1 of former Russell McVeagh senior partner Alan Paterson.

The addition of Mr Paterson, one of the country's most experienced property lawyers and a 22-year Russell McVeagh partner, is something of a coup for the South Island-based Anderson Lloyd, which also netted the trio of former Russell McVeagh partners who joined three years ago to the day

Mr Paterson will move into the Britomart suite to start work with his former and now future colleagues, Geoff Busch, Chris Bargery and David Holden.

The firm, with roots tracking back to 1862, has secured some solid work since establishing its Queen city foothold and further appointments lie ahead from what I am told. The Auckland office is bulging at the seams, with an Auckland complement of close to 20.

Mr Paterson's expansive personality will further fill the Anderson Lloyd quarters and one presumes his former colleagues on Shortland St will be trusting and hoping that 'Brand Paterson' will not magnetise major property clients like Progressive Enterprises, major subdivision developers, not to mention property work he undertook for Auckland Airport and Ports of Auckland.

A former Chapman Tripp partner before joining Russell McVeagh, he is a legal enthusiast and team-builder par excellence whose energy and experience in a rival firm may leave some at his old firm a tad concerned.

The earlier recruitment of the Russell McVeagh trio was accompanied by much talk of friendly collegiality between the two firms, with the trio crossing the road with their former firm's best wishes. I'm not sure whether that is necessarily the case with Alan Paterson's departure. Business is business after all and his reputation and client-pulling power must have Russell McVeagh wishing he would have just stayed in the garden at Remuera rather than cultivating new growth at Anderson Lloyd.

Anderson Lloyd chief executive, the Dunedin-based Richard Greenaway, told me the work and growth in Auckland was exceptional, while South Island work was also strong, particularly in Queenstown. Partner David Holden has handled almost all the PPP work that's come along while the other Auckland partners are very busy with corporate, banking, commercial and property work.



Gallaway Cooke's warehouse move

I also spoke this week to the chief executive of Dunedin's Gallaway Cook Allan, Matt Gorman, who told me about the firm's move to Dunedin's warehouse precinct, transforming a floor in a formerly empty building into something resembling more of a tech startup or ad business than a law firm. I mean that in a complimentary way, too.

As Mr Gorman said, having worked in offices around the world, including Europe and Australia, it is the best space he's ever worked in. With an atrium and "winter garden" for clients and lawyers to mix, together with its own on-tap beer, high-tech tools, cloud-based systems and, moving to a paperless existence, the Dunedin stalwart firm is pushing the boundaries in technology and its smart new digs. It's already the recipient of architectural awards, the staff love it, the clients love it and so, from all accounts, does the bottom line.

Colin Craig's hats

Colin Craig, lawyer, is perhaps a step too far for the poet-politician-come-property manager litigant. How many hats can one person wear, even someone as overtly peculiar as Colin Craig? However, his legal budget must be exhausted, drained into Chapman Tripp's coffers among others.

Justice Kit Toogood has been playing circus master with great aplomb tempered by some frustration. Overall, another reality court show that

befits *Boston Legal* rather more than real life. The Cam Slater vs Colin Craig trial fest is something to behold. Surreal legal, I suppose.

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