

Tasks in two cities can work

DEBBIE GUEST
JOBWATCH



WORKING out of Melbourne when your firm and the bulk of your clients are based in Sydney may sound difficult and costly but Truman Hoyle partner Alex Ninis is making it work without costing the firm a cent.

Ninis wanted to move from the firm's Sydney base about a year ago to help support his mother in Melbourne after the death of his father.

Initially his idea was met with trepidation. Truman Hoyle managing partner Shane Barber was concerned about how Ninis's Sydney clients would be serviced and whether he would continue to feel part of the firm's culture.

"We did ask the question how it would work in terms of clients having access to Alex and for Alex to have access to the collegiate nature of the firm, the daily banter with partners and the sharing of ideas," Barber said.

But by using the latest technology and fortnightly flights to Sydney, Ninis has made the change work with the added

advantage that the firm's Melbourne clients can be serviced more personally.

"It's been a win for me, for my family and for the firm because it has given the firm a chance to be close to clients in Melbourne," Ninis said.

He said the move was cost neutral, with the outlay for him to work from either Sydney or Melbourne about the same, around \$15,000.

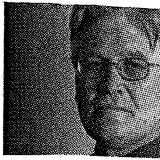
His old office in Sydney was being used by another lawyer, his pricey Sydney parking bay had been replaced by cheaper Melbourne parking and there were other resources in Sydney he no longer needed.

There were added costs, including flights back to Sydney, but Ninis said he had taken advantage of good deals including \$59 flights.

Barber said Ninis's move was the ideal way to have a presence in Melbourne.

"It's showed us that you don't need to open offices to service clients, but maybe sometimes fly-in, fly-out isn't the best solution. This has worked out very well for us as a middle solution."

The boutique firm has grown rapidly, going from just two partners in 2003 to 13 today. Barber said the firm's speciality areas of telecommunications, technology and media had helped it thrive during last year's financial crisis.



THE "hang 'em up" emergency is being welcomed in Australia's election where Opposition leader Gillard's rapid rise has Premier Brumby's reign in flames. The state's prison

killers, rapists and molesters will be on the streets of Adelaide. The state's election is expected to be a close one, and Labor's attack

This kind of federalism is of course, entirely new. Laura Norder has been a handmaiden of the state's persuasion.

But Rann did not surprise when he changes the state to give juries greater prior convictions and to so-called defence showing that an accused person is a crime before the court.

Because such evidence is highly rarely admissible, the judge believes it is significantly out of prejudice to the jury get to hear it.

Rann wants to lower and codify compulsory for police and similar fact ev

Charter lobby turns desperate with attack on bill's critics

Continued from Page 33

down laws they happen to think are not rights-respecting and their rewriting those laws by ignoring parliament's clear intentions and reading words in and out?

It's not just me that says statutory bills of rights are able to transfer huge powers to the judges. The Oxford legal academic Aileen Kavanagh says that too, "that the judges exercise strong form constitutional review when interpreting the UK's statutory bill of rights".

Of course, Kavanagh is a strong supporter of bills of rights.

She very much likes the fact that Britain's statutory bill of rights has transmogrified into a powerful, judicial-power-enhancing vehicle. That makes it a tad difficult for McBeth to call her a fire and brimstone spouting sensationalist, of course. You can't

before the bill of rights came four or five years after it came into force. We are not there yet in Victoria.

Having said that, take a look at a decision by the Victorian Chief Justice late last year. It was about how to interpret a criminal law provision that said "a person is not excused from answering a question... on the ground that the answer to the question... might tend to incriminate the person".

That is part of section 39 of the Major Crime (Investigative Powers) Act 2004. Here's what the Victorian Chief Justice had to say: "It is apparent that under the ordinary meaning of the Act, the common law privilege is removed entirely, and is replaced only by a limited immunity (given by the Act)". In other words, the Act's ordinary meaning is clear and does not protect against indirect or derivative use of compelled testi-

Justice says that "the state's obligation in section 39 creates a new duty of interpretation of legislation".

Now you can like the idea of giving judges this power in parliament and in favour of statutes. I can't do it claim it is in keeping with orthodox orthodoxy. Opponents are deranged fearmongers.

Maybe as deputy chief of the Castan Centre for Constitutional Rights Law, McBeth has got into people who disagree about where the line is between a vague moral abstract "right to free speech" demand, but in a rarefied environment simply disagree about things and more — when some practice