Lovegrove goes on an African adventure

DEBBIE GUEST
JOBWATCH

MELBOURNE firm Lovegrove Solicitors has seized on the wealth of opportunities in Africa and formed an affiliation with an Ethiopian firm.

The boutique practice says it will collaborate with Ethiopian firm Teshome Gabre-Mariam Bokan to assist multinational companies operating in the Horn of Africa.

Partner Kim Lovegrove said he believed Lovegrove was the first Australian firm to establish a formal link with an Ethiopian practice. He said the opportunities for legal work were immense due to the resource wealth of Ethiopia and surrounding countries.

"It's not the last frontier, but it is mineral (rich) and agriculturally rich in terms of its potential, and you've got a huge population.

"Ethiopia has a population of 85 million. It's a poor country but every year there's a growing middle class."

He said the two firms were currently working for a multinational company on reviewing and overhauling contracts to ensure they were aligned with Western legal principles and Ethiopian laws.

"Multinationals will feel far more comfortable if there's harmonisation of key contractual conditions and terms of trade. Otherwise one's got an ad hoc disconnect," he said.

Lovegrove Solicitors also plans to act as a conduit for Australian companies, particularly in the resources sector, that want to do business in sub-Saharan Africa.

HENRY Davis York has a new chairman of partners, insolvency and commercial expert Philip Crawford. Crawford has worked at the Sydney firm for more than 30 years and the firm says he has been integral to its success.

Crawford advises banks on disputes, frauds and forgeries and has represented banks in ASIC inquiries. His appointment comes as the firm recently appointed new partners and expanded to cover funds management, litigation, property, environment, construction and workplace relations and safety.

LEADING construction and engineering partner Peter Borg has joined Norton Rose after leaving the Hong Kong office of international firm Pinsent Masons. Borg's clients include Acciona, Downer, Leighton Asia and Cathay Pacific, and Norton Rose says his appointment will strengthen the firm's expertise in construction and engineering. The qualified helicopter pilot will work in the firm's Brisbane office.

MILLS Oakley Lawyers has launched a not-for-profit practice and appointed two new partners to lead the team. Vera Visevic and John Baxter, both formerly from Makinson d'Apice, started at the firm's Sydney office this week.

Both have experience representing churches, charities and philanthropic foundations.