How do I find an Accredited Specialist?

Choosing the right lawyer is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. You can use the LIV Accredited Specialist directory at **www.liv.asn.au/Specialists** to find an Accredited Specialist who is a leader in their field.

You can also use the LIV Legal Referral Service which provides free referrals to solicitors all over Victoria.
The Legal Referral Service can provide you with a list of Accredited Specialists and all lawyers included in the service agree to see clients for up to the first 30 minutes free of charge.

Contact the Legal Referral Service on 03 9607 9550 or visit www.liv.asn.au/referral.

For further information about LIV Accredited Specialists contact:
P: 03 9607 9461/ 03 9607 9460
E: special@liv.asn.au
www.liv.asn.au
470 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000

This brochure gives a broad outline of the law as at August 2011. It is not intended to and does not encompass all aspects of the law on the subject matter. Further professional advice should be sought before action is taken based on the matters described in this brochure.

Law Institute Victoria

What is an Accredited Specialist?

What is an Accredited Specialist?

An Accredited Specialist is a lawyer recognised as having expertise in a particular area of law. Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) Accredited Specialists:

- must have at least five years full-time practice experience at least three years experience in their area of specialisation;
- must maintain a high degree of professional development in their area of specialisation, which involves the continual development of their skills;
- must pass a comprehensive assessment process testing technical knowledge, writing and practical advocacy skills. This assessment process is developed and assessed by other senior Accredited Specialists, academics and members of the Victorian Bar; and
- need to apply for re-accreditation every three years, ensuring the highest standards are maintained.

Why use an Accredited Specialist?

This specialisation scheme aims to benefit the public and other lawyers by:

- offering clients and other professions a reliable and easier way of finding a lawyer with special competence in particular areas of law;
- providing an incentive and an opportunity for lawyers to reach and maintain higher levels of expertise in their chosen area of specialist practice;
- encouraging improvement in the quality, speed and cost efficiency of legal service; and
- protecting consumer rights by helping consumers to easily recognise lawyers who are trained and competent in he work they have entrusted them to do.

How can I tell if my lawyer is an Accredited Specialist?

Only practitioners who successfully complete an LIV Accredited Specialist course of assessment can call themselves an Accredited Specialist. You will be able to recognise any lawyer who displays the Accredited Specialist logo and certificate of accreditation as an Accredited Specialist. You can also use the LIV Accredited Specialist directory at **www.liv.asn.au/Specialists** to search for an Accredited Specialist in a particular area of law.

Accredited Specialists raising the standard

Accredited Specialists are required to maintain a high level of education involvement in their areas of speciality by:

- ensuring that the speciality remains a substantial part of their practice;
- maintaining a higher level of continuing professional development that other lawyers, including participation in and presentation of seminars, conferences, workshops and law reform; and
- continually striving to improve the standing of their firm.

The Specialisation Board of the LIV currently accredits lawyers in the following areas of law:

- Business
- Commercial Litigation
- Commercial Tenancies
- Costs
- Criminal
- Environment & Planning
- Family
- Immigration
- Tax
- Mediation
- Personal Injury
- Property
- Wills and Estates
- Workplace Relations