

Media release for immediate release

Central Coast solicitor Don Henderson marks 50 years in local law

Conditis Lawyers is proud to celebrate a remarkable milestone in the career of solicitor Don Henderson, who marks 50 years of service in the local legal profession this July.

Admitted as a solicitor in July 1976, Don has practised law on the Central Coast for five decades, advising and assisting generations of local individuals, families, businesses, developers, retirement village operators and residents.

Don began his legal career on the Central Coast with respected local solicitor Ron Tesoriero, before becoming a partner in that firm. It was a time when legal practices operated very differently from today. Letters were dictated to secretaries using shorthand, documents were typed on typewriters, and the first office computers were still years away.

Don and Ron later worked alongside other local lawyers, including Mark Cotter and Peter Hudson. In 1989, Don, Ron, Mark and Peter Welsh merged their practices to form Tesoriero Henderson Cotter and Welsh. After Peter Welsh left the firm to work in Sydney, Don, Ron and Mark continued practising together as Tesoriero Henderson Cotter until the end of 2008, when their professional paths began to diverge.

Don joined Conditis Lawyers in 2009 following a conversation with Managing Director Manny Conditis about the next chapter of his career. Since joining the firm, he has continued to bring a depth of experience and professional wisdom that few practitioners can match.

“Don’s contribution to the profession and the Central Coast community has been significant,” Mr Conditis said. “The profession is well served by practitioners who put their clients’ interests first, continue to develop their legal knowledge and work hard to achieve the best possible outcomes. Don has done that throughout his career. He is a principled lawyer with strong ethics, integrity and a deep commitment to his clients.”

Over the course of his career, Don has worked across a broad range of practice areas, including local government, planning and environmental law, retirement village law, commercial documentation and disputes, real estate transactions, wills and deceased estates, administrative law, criminal law, personal injury law, family law and intellectual property law. He was among the first group of solicitors to become accredited specialists in local government, planning and environmental law, a distinction held by a relatively small cohort of solicitors in New South Wales.

Some of Don’s most professionally rewarding work has been in the Land and Environment Court, particularly in cases involving complex developments where planning, commercial and environmental considerations needed to be carefully balanced. He has also valued the opportunity to work closely with a number of exceptional barristers, several of whom later became judges.

Today, Don’s work is focused largely on retirement village law, where he acts for several large operators and residents across New South Wales. Many of his client relationships span decades, with some extending back more than 40 years.

Reflecting on his career, Don says he feels fortunate to have worked with a core group of loyal, skilful, sensitive, patient and exceptionally capable staff. Their support for Don and his colleagues has extended beyond their professional work to enduring personal relationships.

While the legal profession has changed dramatically since 1976, Don believes some fundamentals remain the same. These include maintaining respectful professional relationships and seeking guidance from others when needed, particularly as the pace and complexity of legal practice continue to increase.

Don's advice to younger lawyers is simple:

"Don't be afraid to seek out and absorb the wisdom of people you respect. Develop your ability to empathise with your clients so you can give them the benefit of objective advice within the context of both the law and their lives. And keep learning and exploring, because there is always something new to discover."

Although Don is gradually reducing his workload, he continues to practise and remains committed to ensuring his clients are properly supported into the future.

The Conditis Lawyers team looks forward to celebrating this remarkable milestone with Don and recognising the lasting contribution he has made to the firm, the profession and the Central Coast community.

About Conditis Lawyers

Conditis Lawyers is one of New South Wales' leading regional law firms, with offices in Gosford and Newcastle and satellite offices in Sydney and Wollongong. The firm provides expert legal services across Criminal Law, Family Law, Civil Litigation, Wills and Estates, Conveyancing, Business and Property Law and Compensation Law.

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