

# SIXTH FLOOR SELBORNE WENTWORTH CHAMBERS

Level 6 / 174-180 Phillip Street SYDNEY 2000

## **THE SIXTH FLOOR ANNEX**

### ***READER & LICENSEE POLICY***

The Sixth Floor has, for many years, leased rooms from Counsels Chambers Limited in Lockhart Chambers at 233 Macquarie Street, for use by readers and licensees of the Floor.

In 2006, the Floor consolidated its rooms on three consecutive floors of that building, with a reception, kitchen and conference rooms on the middle (10<sup>th</sup>) floor.

The Floor's objective in leasing these floors is to provide short to medium term accommodation, subject to availability, for readers and licensees, who are mostly former readers of the Sixth Floor. For a number of years vacancies on the main floor have been filled by members of this annex.

The Floor has an active program of professional development for readers and licensees, which has several components.

Readers on the Sixth Floor are required to have a member of the Floor as one of their tutors. At the conclusion of the reading year, licensees are invited to approach a member of the Floor's board to act as their mentor, to provide a point of contact between the board and licensees and to provide longer-term professional guidance.

In addition, early each year the Floor conducts a series of CPD seminars at which readers are required, and licensees who have recently finished their reading year are invited, to present short papers on current topics. The CPD program provides another avenue for contact with Floor members and an opportunity, for example, to highlight a particular area of expertise.

The Floor also operates a rotation system in which Floor members occupy rooms in the annex for a period of around a year, while two licensees, being the most senior members of the annex who have yet to do a rotation, occupy their rooms on the main floor. The system further promotes contact between the annex and the main floor.

From July 2014, the Floor has extended the professional development involved in its reading program by establishing a readers' panel, which comprises four Floor members. During their reading year, each reader will be asked to undertake some work for each member of the panel: generally research, basic drafting or some other kind of assistance with a case or advice. The purpose of this program is to give readers the opportunity to work with a wider group of Floor members than might otherwise be the case and to provide an opportunity for feedback from more diverse sources than the tutor.

The Floor's board undertakes a rigorous vetting process before offering reader positions, in order to ensure that all who read on the Sixth Floor have reasonable potential to become members of the Floor; indeed, the board does not offer a reader position to a person unless it considers the person to have such potential. The board then endeavours to manage subsequent licence offers to ensure that those who have confirmed that potential in their reading year have every opportunity to develop their practices before making an application for a room on the Floor.

In the past, it has generally proved possible to offer a licensee room to readers upon completion of their reading year. However, the Floor does not undertake to offer a licensee room to all former readers, and renewal of licences and the term is thereafter in the board's discretion.

Occasionally issues may arise in the course of a readership year about the longer-term compatibility of the direction of the reader's practice with the practice areas of members of the Floor, resulting in no licence being offered. Such occasions have in the past been rare.

The Floor's board will seek the input of members of the readers' panel, as well as the tutor on the Floor, in determining whether to offer a licence and, if so, the term of the licence. The term of any licence is a matter between the licensee and the board and will not be publicly disclosed.