

RPA Alert

Regulation. Prosecution. Action.

Alert to all practitioners from the Legal Services Commissioner and the Legal Services Board

Dear practitioner,

Welcome to the first RPA Alert prepared by the Legal Services Board and Legal Services Commissioner.

RPA Alert is new. It's designed to inform lawyers about significant issues or noteworthy cases that are of general application. The alerts aim to highlight the lessons to be learnt from legal regulation. As legal regulators, the Board and the Commissioner are expected to oversee and enforce the Victorian profession's own very high standards of service, communication and conduct. We believe alerting you to the important issues in this way will be helpful. RPA Alert links you to RPA News, an accumulating blog on the LSC and LSB websites that summarises regulatory prosecutions and other actions, and publishes court judgements.

The alerts will be sent intermittently as important issues arise. I invite you to contact our office if you have any questions or would like further information about any of the cases featured in the alerts or on the website.

Yours sincerely

Michael McGarvie
Legal Services Commissioner
CEO Legal Services Board

*This email has been delivered to you because at the time of renewing your current practising certificate or submitting an application/variation form you consented to receiving intermittent email messages from the Board or the Commissioner about matters of importance to lawyers.

Integrity risks for lawyers employing staff without asking relevant background questions

The Magistrates' Court has confirmed employees are committing an offence by commencing employment in a law practice without first disclosing prior theft and dishonesty offences, or their status as a disqualified person. Failure by a law practice with this knowledge to seek approval from the Board may also amount to misconduct.

More information at [RPA News](#).

Providing itemised bills: a legal obligation

Following a Supreme Court ruling over itemised bills, the Legal Services Commissioner and Legal Services Board CEO, Michael McGarvie, said seeking to charge a higher itemised bill after the client disputes a lump sum bill may amount to misconduct in some circumstances. The Court found that requesting a client to provide written consent to pay the amount of an itemised bill over and above the lump sum bill as a condition to providing such a bill, was inappropriate. More information at [RPA News](#).

Contact Us

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