

# Steve Patrick

## Partner



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Port Moresby

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## Overview

Steve Patrick is a Partner in the Dentons Port Moresby office and the lead partner in the Commercial/Corporate and Energy and Resources divisions.

Steve has more than 25 years of experience practicing commercial, corporate and resources law in Australia, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (PNG). He has lived and worked in PNG for more than 10 years and has a close affinity and strong commitment to the country. He has been recognized in many editions of *Chambers Asia Pacific* as a leading lawyer in PNG. Steve has in the past also contributed his time pro bono as a lecturer to the PNG Legal Training Institute to assist in the development of law graduates in their transition to legal practitioners.

Steve has worked closely with all of the relevant PNG government departments on many varied transactions from both a corporate and SOE client perspective.

Clients value Steve's ability to advise on commercially viable outcomes relevant to the jurisdiction.

Steve is admitted as a solicitor in Queensland, the High Court of Australia, the National Court of Papua New Guinea and previously as a barrister and solicitor in the High Court of Solomon Islands.

## Experience

- **Asian Development Bank (ADB):** Counseling in relation to implementation of PPP policy and drafting of supporting legislation and development of stakeholder participation in process in PNG.
- **Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (PNG) Limited:** Advising on the refinancing and acquisition of operational equipment for Allied Gold, various matter including syndicated loans, aircraft financing, property, HR and contractual matters as well as reviewing and rewriting all security documentation used in PNG.
- **Bank of PNG (Central bank):** Reviewing and drafting of Foreign Exchange and Gold Regulation relaxations, enforcement of compliance to regulatory requirements by various entities, internal HR and contractual issues.
- **Bank South Pacific Limited:** Advising on various matters including acting for them in the acquisition of the privatized PNG government-owned commercial bank (PNGBC), various due diligence matters and general

corporate advice.

- **Bougainville Copper/ Rio Tinto:** Advising on ownership and recovery of stolen equipment including the arrest of vessels involved, as well as advising on various corporate issues and dealings with IRC.
- **Independent State of PNG:** Advising on the acquisition of BHP's interest in Ok Tedi Mine and creation of offshore trust company (PNGSDP).
- **Independent State of PNG:** Providing legal support to solicitor general's office in class action brought against the State, provided legal support to Department of Treasury and Finance in various matters.
- **InterOil Corporation:** Advising on the acquisition of retail operations in PNG.
- **Independent Public Business Corporation (now called Kumul Consolidated Holdings):** Acting as legal advisor on creation to implementation issues and compliance by SOEs to new legislation.
- **New Britain Palm Oil:** Acting in successful hostile takeover of Ramu Sugar.
- **PNG Ports:** Advising on corporatization process and initial due diligence process for proposed privatization and subsequently engaged as chief legal advisor to the board of directors.
- **PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd.:** Advising and negotiating with respect to IFC equity participation, intellectual support and funding of first Micro Finance bank in PNG.
- **PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd.:** Advising and negotiating with the Malaysian government sovereign fund subsidiary (UEM) participation in proposed Daru Port facility.
- **PNG Sustainable Development Program Ltd.:** Advising on joint venture with Origin Energy, acted in acquisition and financing of new Air Niugini aircraft.
- **Ross Mining:** Acting as part of the legal team in transitioning and developing the Special Prospecting lease in Solomon Islands to the first gold mining operation since Independence (Gold Ridge Mine).
- **Shell:** Advising on various matters including the exit of Shell from PNG and sale of its operational and retail assets.
- **Westpac:** Advising on tripartite agreement refinancing of a major mine, various corporate issues surrounding lending operations and reviewing suit of financing documents and advising on drafting changes required.
- **Woodlark Mining:** Acting on various corporate and regulatory issues and ultimately sale of asset (mine).

## Areas of focus

### Practices

- Corporate
- Employment and Labor
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Real Estate

### Industry sectors

- Forest Products and Agribusiness
- Construction
- Mining

- Energy
- Government
- Infrastructure and PPP

## Admissions and qualifications

- Admitted to practise, High Court of Australia, 1994
- Barrister and Solicitor, High Court of Solomon Islands, 1997
- Solicitor, National Court of Papua New Guinea, 2001
- Admitted to practise, Supreme Court of Queensland, 1991