

## **Fees & costs** (as at September 2012)

### **Retaining me**

If you wish to retain me, I recommend that you contact my clerk (in Melbourne, Michael Green; in Sydney, Janice Robson) or me prior to sending me a brief to discuss my availability, fees and any terms and conditions for the brief.

### **My rates**

My rates are \$825 per hour to a maximum of \$6,600 per calendar day plus any out of pocket expenses.

My rates change from time to time but will not be increased during the course of a brief.

### **Estimates and fixed fees**

In all cases, I endeavour to provide as much certainty as to my costs at the earliest possible time in a matter.

When briefed, I will provide an estimate of my fees for approval before incurring any costs.

I am generally able to agree to a fixed fee, or range of fees for a matter, or particular steps in a matter. And in some cases, I am able to agree to flat fees for the whole of a matter.

Please note that in all such cases, (a) I will **only** negotiate an arrangements **before** any work is required in the matter, (b) I will generally not negotiate any reduction to my rates and (c) my ability so to agree will depend upon the circumstances, including the stage of the matter at the time I am retained, the size of the matter and the whether I am briefed with a leader

Other expenses when travelling such as meals will be charged at cost.

### **Pro bono and success fees**

I am available to undertake pro bono cases. Whether I take any particular case will depend upon the circumstances of the case, including whether I personally consider the client to be deserving of my pro bono assistance, and how the case is referred to me (e.g. directly, or through the Victorian Bar Duty Barrister Scheme, or PILCH).

I generally do not accept success fee briefs except in circumstances in which I would otherwise have been prepared to act pro bono.

### **Responsibility for fees and billing**

I generally require instructing solicitors to take personal responsibility for my fees. In some cases, including when that cannot occur, I will require sufficient funds to be held in trust for me in advance of the work I am to undertake.

My clerk, Michael Green Pty Ltd, will bill my fees either at the end of a matter, or particular stages of a matter, as I determine, subject to any special arrangements made as part of my brief.

Where a matter is ongoing, I reserve the right to return the brief if any bill is unpaid

**Michael Bearman**

Barrister

### **Melbourne**

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PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS  
LEGISLATION*

Subject to special arrangements, my fees are payable within 30 days of billing. I reserve the right to return an ongoing brief if fees are outstanding and I may charge interest thereafter.

**Disclaimer**

This document provides general information about how I approach the calculation of my fees and costs and the terms and conditions upon which I accept briefs. It is not an estimate or quote for any particular brief and should not be relied upon to determine whether I will accept any particular brief, which is governed by the Bar Rules, or what I will charge for any particular brief without prior agreement from my clerk or me.

M Y Bearman  
27 September 2011