

Media Release  
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## **Meritas, a global alliance of business law firms, approves MacDonnells Law as newest member**

*MacDonnells Law. A full-service law firm in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville, is welcomed to Meritas due to its quality reputation and client satisfaction levels.*

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (20 November 2008) – Meritas, a global alliance of business law firms, today is pleased to announce the addition of the Queensland law firm MacDonnells Law into its selective membership. An international alliance of more than 170 business law firms located in over 60 countries encompassing no fewer than 5,700 lawyers, Meritas firms deliver localised legal service of the highest quality on a fully coordinated basis.

MacDonnells Law was founded in 1884 in Cairns and now operates with over 170 staff, including 27 partners statewide. MacDonnells Law has been providing the businesses of Queensland with the highest standard in legal services. In fact, the firm has distinguished itself among the very best within the fields of corporate and commercial law, dispute resolution and litigation. Aside from the extensive experience that MacDonnells Law brings to Meritas, the firm also brings a strong knowledge and understanding of the Queensland business environment.

“We are delighted to accept a law firm to Meritas that has consistently demonstrated a standard of legal excellence to its clients for over 124 years,” said Ken Kallish, Chairman of Meritas. “MacDonnells Law has illustrated its commitment to client success, highest ethical standards and industry expertise, which made certain its partnership with Meritas.”

Meritas is the only law firm alliance with an established means of monitoring and enhancing the quality of its member firms. Meritas membership sets an elevated benchmark for client satisfaction and case expectations for clients including in-house counsel.

According to MacDonnells Law partner Terry Karydas, “In addition to providing us with immediate access to experienced lawyers worldwide, we are excited about the opportunities that are created in such an alliance for sharing information and expertise with other lawyers within the group,” he said. “We’re pleased to join Meritas to better serve our clients, to better serve our region.”

“In the short time since our appointment was announced to the Meritas membership we have received welcome messages from law firms in many regions of the world and this is a very encouraging start to our involvement with the group,” he said.

“Some of the member firms who have contacted us have told us they have Australian clients who do business in their regions, which proves to us the benefits which this alliance can deliver to our firm,” he said.

Meritas membership is extended by invitation only. As part of its criteria to ensure high calibre legal services among its member firms worldwide, Meritas also stipulates a regular recertification process as a requirement for membership.

### **About MacDonnells Law**

MacDonnells Law has offices in Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville and is one of Queensland’s largest independent law firms. It has a long history as a respected institution and celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009. For more information, please visit [www.macdonnells.com.au](http://www.macdonnells.com.au)

## **About Meritas**

Founded in 1990, Meritas is an international alliance of commercial law firms in more than 60 countries working across jurisdictions to provide clients the best of both worlds: a local legal partner with full service capabilities and the cost efficiency and personal attention unmatched by mega law firms. Each member law firm is required to adhere to rigorous and specific service standards. Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, Meritas has more than 170 member firms worldwide. To find a Meritas law firm or for more information, visit [www.meritas.org](http://www.meritas.org) or call 612-339-8680.

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