

John Bottoms

John graduated in Arts and Law from the Australian National University in 1974 and commenced work in the Commonwealth Attorney Generals Department, Canberra before entering private practice as a Solicitor in 1976. He subsequently joined the Northern Territory Crown Solicitors Office as a Crown Prosecutor. He also participated in the Northern Territory Land Claims in the 1970's. He managed the Aboriginal Legal Aid Office in Townsville specialising in criminal defence work in the Supreme Court and District Court, before moving to Cairns 29 years ago.

John was a Committee member for 23 years and Secretary for 20 years of the Yorkeys Knob Boating Club and was actively involved in the Club's \$12 million marina development at Half Moon Bay.

He assisted with negotiations with Cairns Port Authority to obtain the lease for the marina, organising the approvals with some 18 government and semi-government departments, and arranging constructions contracts, the dismissal of the initial developer, the defence and settlement of five District and Supreme Court actions arising out of the project, the original finance and subsequent re-finance of the project.

He is also on the Board of the Cape York Community Financial Project Ltd which entity is a facilitator for indigenous financial services in Cape York.

He is the honorary solicitor for the Cape York Peninsular Development Association (CYPDA).

As Senior Partner of the firm, he concentrates on the areas of commercial litigation, trust and company law, business and succession and estate planning.

He is also a registered Migration Agent, No. 0533886

His other experience includes:

- Junior Counsel in the Ayers Rock land claim on behalf of the Northern Territory Government in 1978;
- author of a report on Aboriginal crime to the Crown solicitor of the Northern Territory in 1979;
- principal solicitor in the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Service in Townsville in 1980;
- Instructing Solicitor in *Rosendale & ors v the State of Queensland* being action No. 1 taken under the then new Judicial Review Act injuncting the Minister for Family Services from issuing title under the Queensland Aboriginal Land Act to certain historical people and failing to include dispossessed traditional owners in the grant (The Quinkan reserves at Laura);
- advisor to Mr Noel Pearson of the Cape York Land Council in the Cape Melville National Park Land, being Claim No 1 under the Aboriginal Land Act, and generally;



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- instructing Solicitor in the Wik case, for the Thayorre speaking people of Pormpuraaw, Cape York, in relation to pastoral lease extinguishment of Native Title in the High Court of Australia where Sir Maurice Byers QC (former Solicitor General of the Commonwealth of Australia), the Honourable John Greenwood QC, Mr Graham Hiley QC, Mr Peter McDermott (UQ Law Lecturer) were the trial team (Thayorre Peoples v the State of Queensland & ors)
- successfully conducting the Alice/Mitchell Rivers National Park Aboriginal Land claim (Queensland), Malanbadda Native Title Claim (Commonwealth), Kowanyama Native Title Claim (Commonwealth) and the Wik Native Title Claim (Commonwealth);
- contributor to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Native Title Research Unit "Working with Native Title: An Overview" (published June 1998) on intra-indigenous disputes;
- instructing solicitor with Mr A J Glynn SC for the successful defence in **R –v- Nairn** manslaughter trial arising out of the disappearance of Thomas and Eileen Lonergan on the Great Barrier Reef off Cairns in 1998;
- instructing solicitor for the successful defence in **R –v- Gater** murder trial in October 2005 arising out of the disappearance of Brad and Bevan Simmonds off the Western Cape.
- instructing solicitor with Mr Richard Lily SC for the people of Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal in the successful application in the Under Award Wages case in the full Federal Court.
- instructing solicitor with Mr Richard Lily SC in the successful application by the Badu Island Foundation and Others against the Minister for Natural Resources and Water for the transfer of the Badu Island Deed of Grant in Trust to the Foundation.