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**MEDIA STATEMENT**

## **ICWA Appoints International Law Firms**

The Insurance Commission of Western Australia (Insurance Commission) has appointed two international law firms, Quinn Emanuel and Jones Day, to assist it to pursue the Insurance Commission's rights and interests in the Bell Group liquidations.

The Chief Executive of the Insurance Commission, Rod Whithear, said 'These two international law firms will act for the Insurance Commission in new and emerging litigation underway in various Australian courts and in related litigation it may pursue or have to defend in other countries'.

Quinn Emanuel is reported to be the largest law firm in the world devoted solely to business litigation and arbitration, operating from 19 offices on four continents.

Jones Day is one of the world's largest law firms, with deep experience protecting corporate clients in jurisdictions around the world. The firm has 44 offices on five continents.

'Numerous mediation attempts between Liquidators and major Bell Group creditors have been unsuccessful. As we predicted, further litigation has begun and more is threatened. So we have resourced up to tackle the issues in multiple courts for as long as is necessary', said Mr Whithear.

'The Insurance Commission remains keen for a settlement that delivers a fair return to creditors and finality to the long running Bell saga. However, we have observed the recent efforts made by others to broaden and increase litigation, and will protect longstanding agreements and rights through the courts to the extent necessary.'

'We look forward to working with Quinn Emanuel, Jones Day and the State Solicitor's Office to assist the Insurance Commission pursue its interests in the Bell Group liquidations,' said Mr Whithear.

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