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Equity Trustees corporate business boosts compliance capability

Equity Trustees' Corporate Trustees Services (CTS) business has boosted its compliance and regulatory capability by dedicating expert professionals to support the business, ensuring it can meet the increasing demands placed on clients by an ever changing and increasingly stringent regulatory environment.

CTS has grown into Australia's largest independent responsible entity (RE) service provider since it was established 17 years ago with just three clients, seven funds and \$700m in funds under supervision. It now services more than 100 clients, 240 funds and over \$50bn funds under supervision.

The business has maintained steady year on year growth, with FY16 results showing an 18.7% increase in funds under supervision over the previous year.

"We assist clients in meeting the demands of increasing regulatory requirements through comprehensive and meticulous attention to detail, while also tailoring practical solutions to meet specific individual client needs," said Harvey Kalman, Executive General Manager, CTS.

The CTS team has set its sights on the expanding fund manager market in Asia, which requires Australian RE, trustee and corporate trustee services, as part of its continued evolution and development.

"Our clients recognise that appointing an independent responsible entity such as ourselves reflects frameworks used in overseas jurisdictions. The additional selling point for our clients is that funds that adopt a model which outsources the responsible entity to an independent fiduciary bypass the possibility that there is a conflict between the rights of unitholders and the investment manager of a fund, with the additional benefit of not having the associated regulatory and compliance costs that come with the RE function," Mr Kalman explained.

Matt Kilbride (Senior Legal Counsel and Compliance, CTS) will lead the legal and compliance requirements for CTS, supported by legal counsel, Justin Evans, and a new appointment Luyen Tan (Senior Business Partner, Regulatory Affairs and Compliance), who was previously in the legal and compliance unit at Vanguard Investments Australia. Joanne Gander moves into the role of Senior Risk Manager, Operations and Oversight, and Alex Phiong has been promoted to Manager, Relationships & Oversight.

"Our clients can be assured that they are being looked after by one of the most credentialed and experienced specialist corporate trustee regulatory and compliance team in the business," he concluded.

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Equity Trustees was established in 1888 to provide independent and impartial trustee and executor services to help families throughout Australia protect their wealth. As one of Australia's largest listed independent trustees, we offer a diverse range of services to individuals, families and corporate clients including aged care advice, asset management, estate planning, philanthropic services and responsible entity services for external fund managers. Equity Trustees Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of EQT Holdings Limited, a public company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: EQT).

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*Photo's available on request.

Matt Kilbride - Senior Legal Counsel and Compliance, CTS

Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Laws, Graduate Diploma of Applied Corporate Governance
Matt has over 25 years' experience in the legal and financial services industries having held senior positions in legal, compliance, company secretarial and governance roles within the investment management sector. Prior to joining Equity Trustees in 2010, Matt held senior roles such as general counsel, company secretary and head of compliance at a range of entities including Orchard Funds Management, Invesco, County Investment Management, AMP and Perpetual following practicing law at Blake Dawson Waldron. During this period, Matt spent 10 years sitting on and then chairing a Compliance Committee both as external and internal representative.

Justin Evans – Legal Counsel

Bachelor Commerce, Bachelor of Laws, CPA

Justin has more than 15 years in the financial services and legal industries, with expertise in a wide range of banking and finance, compliance, restructuring, asset management and various commercial matters under the Corporations Act. Prior to joining Equity Trustees in 2016 he held roles as an accountant at Ferrier Hodgson and as a lawyer at Cornwall Stodart and Piper Alderman, bringing both a legal and commercial perspective to all matters in which he is involved. Justin is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia and a member of CPA Australia.

Luyen Tan – Senior Business Partner, Regulatory Affairs and Compliance

Bachelor of Business

Luyen majored in financial risk management & international trade, and her most recent experience, prior to joining Equity Trustees was in the legal and compliance business unit at Vanguard Investments Australia. She had previously spent six years at the Australian Securities and Investments Commission in various roles.

Joanne Gander – Senior Risk Manager, Operations and Oversight

Bachelor of Commerce, Graduate Diploma of Applied Finance & Investment

Joanne has more than 20 years' experience in the financial services industry in a variety of operational and middle office roles including Relationship Management, Performance Analytics, Compliance and back office. Prior to joining Equity Trustees in July 2004, Joanne was employed by Intech Financial Services, Suncorp Metway and Tower Asset Management.

Alex Phiong - Manager, Relationships & Oversights

Bachelor of Business

Alex joined Equity Trustees in 2010 in our Custody Operations area before moving to CTS in 2011. Alex worked in the Operations team for 4 years before transitioning to relationship management. Alex has leveraged his operations experience to provide clients with greater insight into the operational framework of our service partners. Alex is responsible for managing RE clients (domestic and international) across all asset types.