

Foreword

Peter Szabo's *Family Law Practice Manual* is now in its fifth edition, having first been published in 1985. I know – because Peter was previously a partner with me at Phillips Fox – that putting together a practical manual was always his objective. It is a credit to him, and obvious testament to its value, that it is now in its fifth edition. I'm afraid I cannot say that the practice of family law is any simpler now than it was when the first edition came out. There are now two Courts, with different forms and rules, and this latest edition takes account of the Family Law Rules 2004: a complete rewrite of the previous Rules, some of them significantly different. The Forms, too, have changed. For those who are struggling to come to grips with new Rules and Forms, Peter Szabo's *Family Law Practice Manual* could not come at a better time.

The authors' very practical experience over many years, their capacity to observe and understand the practical and methodical way of working through things and their attention to detail mean that the *Family Law Practice Manual* will continue to be an invaluable resource for all practitioners practising family law in the Federal Magistrates Court and the Family Court of Australia. There are many publications which contain information about the Rules and the Act and comment on the law, but none provide practical assistance in practising in the family law environment in the way the *Family Law Practice Manual* does.

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