



**Tribute to the work of Associate Professor John Lessing – passed away suddenly  
20.11.2010**

**John Lessing – professional qualifications**

BCom (Pretoria)

LLB (Unisa)

Higher Dip Company Law (Witwatersrand)

LLM (London)



**John Lessing – career highlights - from the Bond University website**

John Lessing, former Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of South Africa, has interests and expertise in corporate law and securities regulation.

He has co-authored Volume 4 (Companies) of the encyclopaedic *The Law of South Africa* (1982, Butterworths) and co-edited three editions of the *Company Legislation Handbook* and the *Handboek vir Maatskappywetgewing* (1988-1990, Digma).

Professor Lessing has published a number of articles in the corporate law area and co-edited a book *Corporate Insolvency Law* (1995, Tax and Corp Res Centre) with fellow Bond University colleague Professor Jim Corkery.

He has presented academic papers on many occasions, including at conferences organised by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission, the Corporate Law Teachers' Conference and the Australasian Law Teachers Association. Currently John is Law Faculty representative on the Academic Senate and a member of the university's risk management committee.

**John Lessing – select publications**

The Checks and Balances of Good Corporate Governance, *Corporate Governance eJournal* (2009)

Resisting a hostile takeover: the Lion Nathan bid for Coopers Brewery (with Renae Johns), *Law papers* (2006)

Law in society: The corporate governance debate, *The National Legal Eagle* (2003)

Overview of the CLERP Reforms Regarding Fundraising and Takeovers, *Bond Law Review* (1999)

Institutional Investors: Will We See Greater Cooperation Between Them Regarding Corporate Governance? *Bond Law Review* (1998)

**Tribute written by Professor Paul Redmond ...**

This is such sad news. John came to the first CLTA conference and was so positive, enthusiastic and supportive. He had not been long in Australia, I think, and he seemed to find a home quickly among Australian academic colleagues in the discipline. He was such a great, engaged colleague and a warm friend. He was a real stalwart of the idea of a mutually supportive community of corporate law scholars especially in the early wobbly period when the initial enthusiasm might well have ebbed away. As you say, he was active in organising the 1996 conference at Bond, a most successful conference. John's work was really quite foundational for CLTA. He was one of the very small group that saw the original idea survive and prosper.

John had a special passion for teaching corporate law and for students. It is significant that he was a panellist at the first CLTA conference in 1991 on the topic "Corporate law teaching: Common problems and some uncommon solutions" when we turned to shared problems facing us as teachers. It is significant that John was a leader in this, our first conversation as a group on how we might be better educators. We had the feeling even then that teaching was going to be under pressure from the claims, pressures and delights of research. We wanted to keep teaching on the agenda and did not see it as competing with and inferior to research. John was a leading advocate in this enterprise and one of its driving forces. Australian legal education is better for his timely, enduring contribution.

Thank you for communicating to John's family our appreciation of his life and influence, and deep sympathy in their loss.