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#### From the chair



There is no doubt that 2008 is shaping up to be a difficult year for New Zealand businesses. Each day we are being met with news about another business failure. Many finance companies have collapsed and the word "insolvency" is on the lips of lawyers and accountants. The current commercial environment is reminiscent of the late eighties and early nineties.

Having said that, difficult economic times create opportunities for shrewd, cashed up investors on the acquisition trail. For this reason, it is important for

practitioners who deal with business acquisitions to sharpen their existing knowledge base to ensure that they are up to date with the law surrounding business acquisitions in the current economic environment.

The NZLS Business Acquisitions Intensive is targeted to experienced lawyers who need a refresher of the skills they acquired during the last decade and less experienced practitioners who would benefit from learning more about acquisitions. The topics cover a wide range of issues including due diligence, structuring of transactions, employment issues, intellectual property and funding. Attendees can be assured of a practical approach with plenty of opportunity for interaction. This intensive is worth attending.

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Niamh McMahon McMahon Butterworth Thompson