

# Arnold Bloch Leibler

Lawyers and Advisers

## Leonie Thompson Room Dedication

Thursday 23 August 2018

### Speech by Caroline Goulden

Before she died, Leonie expressed her wish that her former office, in our litigation department on level 22, should always be occupied by a female litigation partner. Leonie championed the development of all of ABL's female lawyers, identifying the need for us to promote and recognise them, and to challenge the conscious and unconscious bias that undermines the merit based success of women in our profession.

As Leon has said, this particular wish is Leonie's uniquely perceptive way of extending her formidable influence over ABL, to ensure that her considerable efforts to support ABL's female lawyers, are carried on by women, for women, working in Leonie's space.

I am extremely honoured to now be using Leonie's office, as my office.

For those of you who have not been into the office, please drop by. It is a beautiful space, especially on a sunny day - it is spacious, light and sun-filled, it is tranquil and is, rather importantly, located at one end of what Leonie dubbed the "corridor of power". I can't now remember how that corridor received its name, but it was no accident that it came to be known as such having at one end of it Leonie's office.

As many of you know, in addition to the dedication of this board room tonight, we are also honouring Leonie's memory in the same tradition as is seen in chambers at the bar and at the Courts in New South Wales. That is, we have placed Leonie's name on a plaque on the rear of the door of my new office in the same style in which it used to be displayed outside the door when she used it.

It's a simple gesture, but one we hope captures the respect we all have for Leonie and her legacy.

As a result, I see Leonie's name every day, and whenever I see it, it stirs memories that are comforting and encouraging. I am reminded that it was in this space, that Leonie exercised her considerable talents and took full advantage of the opportunities given to her by ABL and by her chosen profession. I am reminded that it was in this space that Leonie overcame the professional challenges thrown in her way, where she learned from her experiences and shared her wisdom with others.

As I said before, I am extremely honoured to now be using Leonie's office, as my office.