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### Business Insight Series – Chapter 4 Stop Wasting your Profits on Legal Disputes

### Main types of commercial disputes

- Your customers owe you money
- You owe money to bank/supplier
- Work incomplete/incorrect/substandard/late
- Goods not delivered/incorrect/substandard
- Ownership of property/business
- Contractual rights/obligations

### Major Concerns

- Uncertainty as to outcome
- Cost
- Time away from business
- Effect on customer relationships
- Stress on personal relationships
- Effect on creditworthiness
- Effect on reputation generally

### Six techniques to limit disputes

- 1. Get advice first
- 2. Focus on the big picture
- 3. Be realistic
- 4. Pick up the phone
- 5. Be willing to compromise
- 6. Mediate or negotiate



### 1. Get advice first

- Avoid undesirable outcomes
- Negate potential cost and stress



### 2. Focus on the big picture

"Will engaging in a dispute about this issue result in my business being better off as compared with not doing so?"

### 3. Be realistic



#### Plan for the possibility of conflict

### 4. Pick up the phone

- Understand the real issues
- Avoid a confrontational environment
- Promote an amicable resolution
- Increase the chances of repeat business
- Save the cost of retaining a lawyer



### 5. Be willing to compromise

- Ensure the outcome is commercially viable
- Preserve relationships
- Avoid unwelcome and unhelpful publicity
- Negate possibility of a damaging loss in court



### 6. Mediate or Negotiate

- Economical
- Focussed on outcomes



#### Outcomes

- Save your business thousands of dollars in legal costs
- Preserve valuable relationships
- Avoid conflict, stress, and potential damage to your business
- Concentrate your energy and resources on running a successful enterprise

#### Questions & Discussion

### Stop Wasting your Profits on Legal Disputes



## **COMMERCIAL PRACTICE**

- Commercial contracts
- Dispute resolution and litigation
- Insurance and risk management
- Commercial property
- Insolvency and debt collection
- Employment
- Guarantees and securities



# THANK YOU

Business Insight Series – Chapter 5 Important Information for Landlords and Tenants On Tuesday 22 September 2015

admin@lynnandbrown.com.au

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