*Curriculum vitae* of Mikelis Strikis

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| 1949  | Born at North Sydney |
| 1955 to 1961 | Primary schooling at The Meadows, Seven Hills |
| **1962 to 1967** | **Secondary schooling at Blacktown Boys’ High School, Blacktown** |
| 1965 | Prefect |
| 1966 & 1967 | School Captain (1967 = first Year 12 under Wyndham Scheme) |
| 1963 | Entered the BBHS Army Cadet Unit |
| 1964 | Corporal |
| 1965 | Cadet Under Officer |
| 1966 & 1967 | Senior CUO |
| Each year | Represented BBHS in one or more of debating, soccer, basketball, athletics, cross country, etc. (often as team captain) |
| 1967 | Lions’ International "Youth of the year" (won trip to New Zealand) |
| **1968 to 1973** | **Undertook arts/law studies at Sydney University** |
| 1968 | Member of SU team at Inter-Varsity Fencing Competition, Adelaide |
| 1971 | Awarded Bachelor of Arts degree |
| February 1972 | Began 2 years of undergraduate Articles of Clerkship |
| 1974 | Awarded Bachelor of Laws degree |
| **17 May 1974** | **Admitted as a solicitor, attorney and proctor of Supreme Court of New South Wales on that court’s 150th anniversary** |
| 1974 and 1975 | Employed solicitor with J. W. Lind & Associates (60 Martin Place, Sydney) where I had undertaken my articles of clerkship |
| 1976 | Employed solicitor with I A Birzulis & Co. (Pitt Street, Sydney) |
| **1976/77 to 30 June 1986** | **50% equity partner in I A Birzulis & Co. (Sydney CBD)** |
| 1977 | Married; acquired 2 step-children (aged 6 and 4). |
| 1980 | Son born |
| 1983 | Daughter born |
| **1 July 1986 to October 1992** | **Sole practitioner in Sydney CBD** |
| April 1992 | Admitted as a Public Notary for New South Wales |
| **October 1992 to June 1995** | **50% equity partner in Strikis and Trayer (Market Street, Sydney)** |
| 1994-1996 | Separated, divorced, property divided |
| **June 1995 – November 2002** | **Sole practitioner in Sydney CBD** |
| **1996 - 2005** | **Costs Assessor** |
| 2000 | Began living in a de facto relationship with Jane Mersing |
| **Nov. 2002 – Feb. 2007** | **Sole practitioner at Castle Hill NSW 2154** |
| March 2007 to Dec. 2007 | Sole practitioner at Round Corner NSW 2158 |
| Dec. 2007 to Oct. 2008 | Sole practitioner at Glanmire NSW 2795 |
| Oct. 2008 to Feb. 2012 | Sole practitioner near Lue NSW 2850 |
| 3 May 2011 | Jane Mersing dies |
| Feb. 2012 – Feb. 2013 | Sole practitioner at Bylong NSW 2849 |
| Aug. 2012 – Nov. 2012 | Employed on short-term contract by Peacockes, solicitors, Dubbo while continuing own sole practice |
| Nov. 2012 – Feb. 2013 | Sole practitioner also at Dubbo NSW 2830 |
| March 2013 – August 2014 | Sole practitioner at Narromine NSW 2821 |
| August 2014 - current | Sole practitioner on Far South Coast of NSW |
| Citizenship: | Dual – Australian and Latvian |
| Languages: | English and Latvian, fluent in both. |
| Relaxation: | Horse riding. Visiting Latvia (11 times since 1990/1991). |
| Religion: | Lutheran |

**Community involvement:**

1958-1983 A uniformed member of the **Scouting Movement**, beginning as a Cub and ending as the Commissioner responsible for all Latvian scouts in Australia. Awarded the “Baltā Lilija” medal, for services rendered, in 1982. Also awarded the Latvian Guides’ “Saulīte” for ongoing support and co-operation. For some years, honorary legal adviser to Hume Area of Scouts Australia, NSW.

1983-1986 I continued to remain active in the Scouting Movement on its lay side as a parent and as the Treasurer of **1st Denistone Scout Group**.

1960’s,

‘70’s & ‘80’s Member of the **Sydney Latvian Theatre** (18 roles). Member of **Latvian folk dancing group “Rota”**.

1976 to date Member of **Latvian student fraternity “Selonija”** (founded in 1880), a world-wide organization. Held numerous terms of office (in various capacities) not only in its Sydney branch, but also on its Global Executive.

1982-2002 **The Latvian Federation of Australia & New Zealand, Inc.** is a “roof organization” for all Latvian organizations and individuals throughout Australia and New Zealand. Its Executive rotates from Sydney to Adelaide to Melbourne and back to Sydney, remaining for a term of 3 years in each of those capital cities. I was a **member of its Executive for three terms** in Sydney (1982-1984, 1991-1993 and 2000-2002).

1983 Stood for pre-selection by the Liberal Party as a **NSW candidate for the Australian Senate**.

1986-1991 Member and Treasurer of **West Ryde Primary School’s Parents’ & Citizens’ Association**.

1988 I assisted both the Latvian Federation of Australia & New Zealand and also the **Baltic Council of Australia** with the preparation of their submissions to, and appearances before, the **Australian Senate Standing Committee on Legal & Constitutional Affairs** in connection with proposed amendments to the **War Crimes Act**.

Since 1980’s **Life member of** The Latvian Federation of Australia & New Zealand, Inc. Life member of the Sydney Latvian Society Ltd. Life member of Latvian Relief Society “Daugavas Vanagi” Incorporated Sydney Branch Ltd.

1991 to date Honorary legal adviser for the **Association of Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Congregations in Australia**. Lay Vice-President of that Association from about 1998 to February 2010.

1999-2009 Chairman of the Board of Directors of **The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sydney** (ACN 001 210 144), a not-for-profit and income tax exempt charity with assets of about $4 million.

2004-2008 General Secretary of **The** **Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad**, a not for profit and income tax exempt charity incorporated in Canada, but with congregations in Canada, the USA, South America, Australia, Sweden, Germany and elsewhere.

2009-2010 President, **Mudgee Endurance Riders’ Association**. Member from 2008 to 2012.

2009-2011 Volunteer tutor with the Australian Government’s **Broadband For Seniors** project.

2011 Volunteer tutor with **U3A**, Mudgee.

2009-2012 Member of **Bingman LandCare**.

2009 to date Volunteer member of **Rural Fire Service, NSW** (Lue-Havilah brigade; Tathra brigade).

**Practice areas:**

Family Law (since 1972) – for example, see P & B [2003] FamCA 121

Equity litigation

Advocacy – for example, see Blundell v. Curvers [2002] NSWSC 436

Wills & estates – currently executor of several estates

Conveyancing

Commercial law

Corporations law – but not for the last decade or so.

Early-1990’s: wrote headnotes for Butterworths law reports

**Computer skills:**

My first computer, acquired in 1983, was a Sord M23 which used two 5.25” 750Kb floppy discs, one containing the relevant program, the other the relevant data.

I currently use Windows 8.1, Microsoft Office 2013 and Microsoft Office 360, etc.

In my offices at Castle Hill I ran a network of 3 peer to peer computers, all running Windows 2000 Pro. Although that network was initially set up by a third party, I was the sole administrator thereafter.

I have had no formal training in the use of computers, but am much more skilled in their use than the average person.

Programs which I use daily include Outlook, Word, Internet Explorer, Google Chrome & other browsers.

Programs which I use several times each week include Excel, Dragon Naturally Speaking and KG2000/LawWare (a specialised legal accounting system and management database).

Other programs with which I am familiar include Google Earth, Bing and Google maps, WordPerfect, etc., etc.

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