



## + COVER STORY

# MEMBERS SHOULD VOTE FOR AN INCORPORATED LAW SOCIETY

All members should vote in the current postal ballot in favour of the society's incorporation, to ensure the future of Auckland District Law Society and the protection of members' assets, says ADLS President Keith Berman.

Members should have received their postal ballot papers which must be returned to ADLS offices at Chancery Chambers by 5.30 pm on Thursday, August 21.

The society's Council unanimously recommends that all members vote for ADLS to become an incorporated society.

"If we do not vote to incorporate, under the provisions of the *Lawyers & Conveyancers Act* all the society's assets and operations will pass to New Zealand Law Society and ADLS will be dissolved on February 1, 2009," says Mr Berman.

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## Members should cast votes for an incorporated law society



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The society's assets include the historic six-level Chancery Chambers building on the corner of Chancery and O'Connell Streets valued at \$12 million, intellectual property in numerous products and services like *Legal Forms*, *Electronic Forms*, the *Legal Practice Manual*, *LINX Database*, *Barristers & Solicitors Directory* and The Law Society Store.

"If a majority of our members vote for incorporation, we keep our separate Auckland identity, assets and services. A vote against incorporation will result in our merging with NZLS with the control of all our assets and services passing to Wellington."

Mr Berman said it was still possible in the future that ADLS and NZLS could agree to unite to form One Society - with Wellington responsible for Regulatory functions and Auckland responsible for Representative functions, as had been envisaged during the past year.

"However NZLS, despite repeated requests, has refused to meet with us at a mediated or facilitated meeting, to determine the role that Auckland's substantial assets and services might play in any merged organisation.

"If we incorporate, we can negotiate with NZLS to agree to a strong working relationship, and, who knows, we may merge in future when the time is right.

"But if we don't incorporate, we will have no bargaining power and all our assets will be taken over by NZLS with the prospect of all affairs and issues affecting Auckland lawyers being handled from NZLS offices in Wellington."

• Any member who has not yet received a postal ballot paper should urgently contact Janice O'Neill at ADLS: (09) 303 5283 or email [janice.o'neill@adls.org.nz](mailto:janice.o'neill@adls.org.nz)

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