

# TOGETHER WE WILL THRIVE

After 30 years of legal practice and 25 years running his own business in the Northern Territory, David De Silva says these are the toughest times he's ever seen, but there is hope.



Some of David's 'work family' improving their game, from left to right: Graduate Clerk Eesha Raut – Litigation, Receptionist Tiana Hill, Associate Leanne Kerr – Commercial Litigation, Legal Secretary Brooke Davies, Special Counsel Peter Orr – Personal Injury and Workers Compensation, Principal David De Silva AM, Solicitor Kelly Stephenson – Civil Litigation, Solicitor Tom Richardson – Commercial.

'Working in a firm that caters predominantly to businesses, it's apparent many are struggling,' David says. He is Principal of De Silva Hebron Lawyers. 'But while we are seeing an increase in debt collection, we are also providing more advice about diversification, consolidation, even mergers and acquisitions. We walk them through the various deals or possibilities, working closely with their accountants. Thankfully the local businesses that are doing well are spending money, creating cash flow within the local economy. But we need to get more imaginative in how we can all work together to make things happen for the Territory. Our Territory community supports each other, unlike anywhere else, and the support for local business has never been stronger than it is now. It's what I love most about the Territory.' That, and his family. 'Without my family, I would not have achieved what I have over the years. My wife, children and grandson are my world, and I'm lucky they are all still living here. It makes the hard work worthwhile,' he says. David admits his family's support, in turn, helps him support his clients and their families, plus his staff and their families. 'We spend a lot of time together, so the people who work at De Silva Hebron are like an extended

family. Many have been with us for years. The same goes for my clients; some have been with me since the beginning in 1989,' David says. Born in Bahrain, David moved to Australia with his family when he was 12. In 1978 he ventured to Darwin and came back in 1982 for the Lindy Chamberlain case. 'It's what made me return to Adelaide and complete my law degree. Seven years later, I was admitted to the bar in the same court. That was an overwhelming feeling,' he says. David is extraordinarily community-minded and has been a vital part of many non-government organisations and sporting bodies. He has also facilitated many development and business opportunities in the Northern Territory. In June 2018 he was named a Member of the Order of Australia. 'The Territory is a wonderful place to live. The people are so friendly and accepting. It's absolutely the best place to raise families,' he says. De Silva Hebron can help with all areas of law whether you are a business, individual or group. **Contact De Silva Hebron, Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm, 47 Knuckey Street, Darwin. Ph: 8924 4944 [www.desilva-hebron.com](http://www.desilva-hebron.com) [ntsolicitors@desilvahebron.com.au](mailto:ntsolicitors@desilvahebron.com.au)**