

## **INSOL INTERNATIONAL**

## News Update

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OCTOBER 2018 | ISSUE NO. 10

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#### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

This month, we are very excited to introduce the new look version of the INSOL News Update and, as usual, there are a number of intriguing articles which will be of interest to many of you.

Starting off in the Americas region, the highlight article deals with a recent decision of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands which confirms that, in certain circumstances, a director will be entitled to rely upon the indemnification and exculpation provisions contained in the company's articles of association (despite not being a party to that agreement). Also from the Cayman Islands is an article summarizing the most recent decision in the long-running Herald Fund v Primeo Fund proceedings in which it was determined that a 'redemption creditor' was entitled to statutory interest in the same manner as ordinary unsecured creditors (despite a statutory deferment behind ordinary creditors in terms of principal). There is also an informative article from Canada in which the British Columbia Supreme Court confirmed the court's broad power and discretion to stay the operation of an agreement to arbitrate if necessary to maximize recoveries for the benefit of all stakeholders in an insolvency proceeding.

Turning to the Asia Pacific region, we have an article dealing with the Supreme Court of Western Australia Court of Appeal's decision on insolvency set off. Also from Australia, we have an article considering whether a creditors' scheme of arrangement may potentially achieve a quicker and cheaper resolution of various underlying claims, rather than litigating protracted class action proceedings. In Singapore, we have articles dealing with (a) increasing liberalisation of third party ligation funding and (b) the recent passing of the brand-new Omnibus Insolvency Bill.

In terms of EMEA, in Jersey we have a decision in the <u>Z Trusts</u> case finding that the costs of proving a claim are not recoverable

#### MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

If you would like to send an article for inclusion in one of our forthcoming issues please contact our Technical Officer, Louise Jennings

If you would like to introduce a new member to INSOL International please contact our Database Manager, <u>Tony Ashton</u>

from the assets of an insolvent trust. From the UK, we have an article detailing the practical implications for the cross-border European restructuring and insolvency landscape of a possible "no-deal" or "hard" Brexit. From Italy we have an interesting summary of the recent restructuring efforts of <u>Astaldi</u>, a multi-national construction company.

As always, there are a variety of interesting articles from around our global network and I hope that, as I have done, you also find them engaging and thought-provoking.



Matthew Goucke Fellow, INSOL International Partner Walkers, Cayman Islands

#### **HIGHLIGHT ARTICLE**

#### **Directors' Indemnities Revisited**

A recent judgment of the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands in *Steven Goodman v Dawn Cummings* and *Ors*, unreported, (Mangatal J) has provided clarification of the circumstances in which a former director of a company may rely on indemnification provisions contained in a company's articles of association and, in particular, whether – in the absence of any separate director's service agreement – such provisions will be deemed to form part of the contract between the director and the company (notwithstanding that the articles of association are often described as a 'statutory contract' made between the company and its members – the director(s) is not a direct contractual counterparty).

Matthew Goucke, Fellow, INSOL International Partner Peter Kendall Senior Counsel WALKERS, Cayman Islands

<u>Highlight Article ></u>
<u>Case Decision ></u>

#### THE AMERICAS

#### **CASES**

#### **CANADA**

Receiver of Insolvent Power Generation Company in British Columbia Wins Battle with BC Hydro – Allowing Dispute to be Heard by the Court Instead of by Arbitration

#### **CAYMAN ISLANDS**

**Cayman Court Confirms Redemption Creditors' Entitlement to Statutory Interest** 

In this most recent decision in the long-running Herald Fund v Primeo Fund proceedings, the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands In a recent decision Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc. v Wedgemount Power Limited Partnership 2018 BCSC 970, the British Columbia Superior Court confirmed that under Canada's Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, courts have broad powers and discretion to protect the interests of creditors and other affected parties including by staying the operation of an agreement to arbitrate if it is necessary to maximise recoveries in an insolvency proceeding.

Baker McKenzie Case Note,

3 October 2018 >
Case Decision >

determined, for the first time, the question of whether a redeemed but unpaid investor is entitled to receive statutory interest on its debt for the period it remains unpaid. Ultimately, it was determined that a 'redemption creditor' was entitled to statutory interest in the same manner as ordinary unsecured creditors (despite a statutory deferment behind ordinary creditors in terms of principal).

Mourant Update, October 2018 > Case Decision >

#### **ASIA PACIFIC**

#### **CASES**

#### **AUSTRALIA**

#### Set-Off Under Section 553C - It Forges On

On 21 September 2018, the Supreme Court of Western Australia Court of Appeal delivered the eagerly anticipated decision in Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd v Forge Group Power Pty Ltd (In Liquidation) (Receivers and Managers Appointed). The appeal decision has come down on the side of what many considered to be the correct position for set-off compared to the findings in the first Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd v Forge Group Power Pty Ltd (In Liquidation) (Receivers and Managers Appointed) case which held that mutuality, and therefore the right of set-off, was effectively lost by reason of the grant of security.

<u>K&L Gates Case Note, October 2018 ></u> <u>Case Decision ></u>

#### **SINGAPORE**

#### Singapore High Court Opens the Door on Commercial Third-Party Funding for Insolvent Companies

On 11 September 2018, a Singapore court issued a declaration allowing a *commercial* third-party funding agreement to proceed and be enforceable under the common law. This is the latest development in the steady liberalisation of the litigation-funding market in Singapore. The ruling in this case was precipitated by the collapse and subsequent restructuring of *PT Trikomsel Oke Tbk* one of the largest telecommunications and mobile devices companies in Indonesia.

Case Note by Ashok Kumar, Gregory
Leong and Cephas Yee, BlackOak LLC,
2 October 2018 >

#### **LEGISLATION**

#### **SINGAPORE**

#### Singapore's Omnibus Insolvency Bill

Singapore's new Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Bill (IRDB) was passed on 1 October 2018 after its second reading in Parliament; its effective date has yet to be announced. The Bill proposes to consolidate Singapore's insolvency

#### **ARTICLE**

#### **AUSTRALIA**

# Creditors' Schemes of Arrangement – a Restructuring Tool to Pre-Empt Class Action Risks?

In recent years, Australian companies have been besieged by a proliferation of class actions, including shareholder class actions. Australia's

laws for both personal bankruptcy and corporate insolvency under a single piece of "omnibus" legislation and introduces some important new provisions including restrictions on the operation of contractual ipso facto clauses when judicial management or a scheme of arrangement is afoot; and a significant number of amendments and provisions updating and modernising insolvency practice.

Article by Patrick Ang and Chew Xiang, Rajah & Tann Singapore LLP, 3 October 2018 >

<u>Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution</u>
Bill >

active litigation funding market has contributed to this phenomenon. Class actions are inevitably costly, time-consuming and capable of posing significant disruption and irreversible damage to the defendant companies. For directors of a company threatened with class action litigation, one possible solution – which this article seeks to explore – is to propose a creditors' scheme of arrangement to compromise potential claims and forestall the commencement or continuation of court proceedings against the company.

Clayton Utz Article, 27 September 2018 >

#### **EUROPE, AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST**

#### **CASES**

#### **JERSEY**

# Z Trusts – Costs of Proving a Claim are not Recoverable from the Assets of the Insolvent Trust

On 10 September 2018, the Royal Court handed down its judgment on the final outstanding issue in the current round of the *Z Trusts* case on the question of entitlement, in the context of an insolvent trust, to recover from the insolvent estate the costs incurred in proving a claim. Following its determination in July that the claims of creditors of an insolvent trust should rank *pari passu* rather than on a first in time basis, the Court dealt separately with the question of whether a creditor (in this case also a former trustee) could claim from the insolvent trust its costs incurred in proving its claim.

Mourant Update, September 2018 > Case Decision >

#### **ARTICLES**

#### **ITALY**

#### Astaldi Files for Concordato In Bianco

Astaldi, the Italian multinational construction company, filed on Friday (28 September) for concordato in bianco. This is an in-court restructuring proceeding under the Italian Bankruptcy Law, which imposes a standstill period for up to six months. Astaldi's reference to certain provisions in the Bankruptcy Law indicates that it intends to use the standstill period to prepare for a concordato preventivo filing.

#### This report discusses:

- Key takeaways for bondholders;
- Concordato in bianco; and
- Concordato preventivo

#### UK

#### Hard choices: Restructuring and Insolvency Dealmakers Face Uncertainty Ahead of Possible "Hard Brexit"

The U.K. and the E.U. are stepping up preparations for a possible "no deal" Brexit (the U.K. is scheduled to leave the E.U. on 29 March 2019; it is yet to be determined what kind of deal or transition arrangements - if any - will be reached). The U.K. Government has issued guidance on the prospect of a "no deal" Brexit, including the possible future of the cross-border European restructuring and insolvency landscape. This alert considers the potential practical implications of this scenario and the key takeaways for a "no deal" Brexit.

Hogan Lovells Article, 4 October 2018 >

This article will appear in Volume 15 issue 6 of International Corporate Rescue

Kirkland & Ellis Client Alert, 24 September 2018 >

**UK Government's Announcement >** 

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

**INSOL International Book - Insolvency and Trusts** September 2018

This book discusses a range of issues that arise in insolvency situations, such as can a trust, settlor, a trustee, a beneficiary, or a protector become insolvent and what is the effect of bankruptcy on a trust and a settlor; can an insolvency procedure extend to trust assets located in local as well as foreign jurisdictions; and can trusts be challenged to obtain assets, to obtain information, and to examine witnesses. ... READ MORE

View Book

### INSOL International Special Report - Developments in Asian Restructuring and Insolvency Regimes

October 2018

In the recent past, we have seen significant changes in the legal and regulatory environments in many countries in the Asia Pacific region. In China, a number of legislative changes have been introduced to liberalise the NPL market and debt for equity swaps. In Singapore, the Companies Amendment Act 2017 came into force last year which made sweeping changes to the existing schemes of arrangement and judicial management procedures. In Australia the Companies Act 2001 was amended and new 'safe harbour' provisions were introduced to protect company directors against insolvent trading claims, and a stay on enforcing so-called ipso facto clauses was introduced. This report discusses these key developments and more ... READ MORE

View Report

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Registrations are now open!

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#### **Hong Kong One Day Seminar**



Friday 26 October 2018 Polana Serena Hotel, Maputo, Mozambique

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Wednesday 7 November 2018 Four Seasons Hotel, Hong Kong

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REFOR-CGE, Register of Insolvency Practitioners within "Consejo General de Economistas, CGE"

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Russian Union of Self-Regulated Organisations of Arbitration Managers

Society of Insolvency Practitioners of India

South African Restructuring and Insolvency Practitioners Association

Turnaround Management Association (INSOL Special Interest Group)

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