

# Christchurch firm admitted to international legal network

One of the world's leading legal networks, ALFA International, is looking for new members and has admitted Christchurch legal firm Anthony Harper to the fold.

Anthony Harper, specialists in commercial law, has completed a rigorous application process taking several months to join the nearly 30-year-old legal network.

ALFA International is expanding its network of firms and, in addition to Anthony Harper, has welcomed new members from China, Vietnam, Russia, Slovenia, Hungary, Cyprus, Turkey and Greece in the last year.

ALFA is comprised of 132 member firms with 85 in the United States and 47 in Canada, Latin America, Europe, and the Pacific Rim. The benefits for members are referral work from other members and the ability to refer the law firm's multinational clients to quality firms overseas. Members will also have links with accountancy and tax specialists in their own jurisdictions.

Anthony Harper managing partner David Gould said it was happy to be a member.

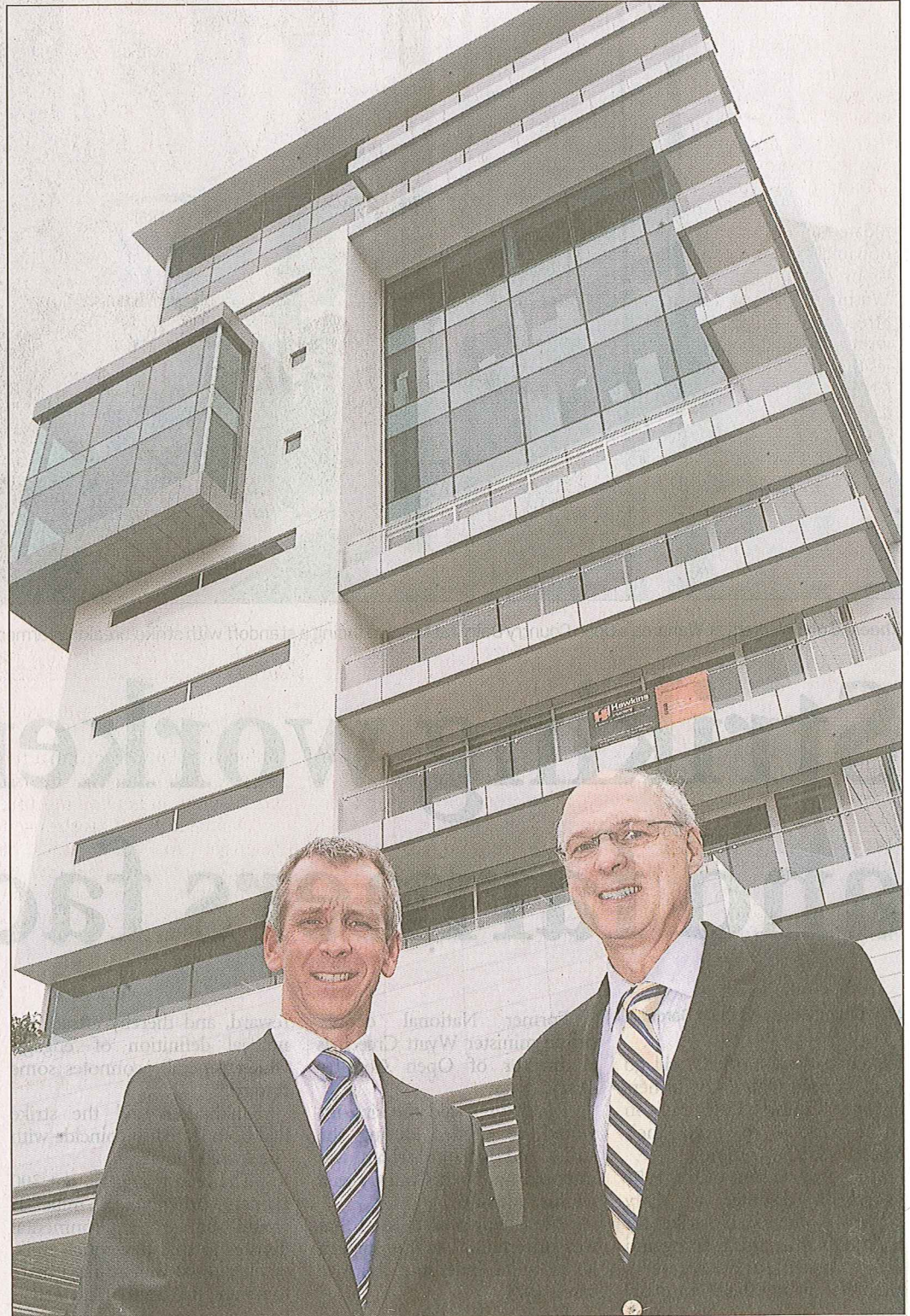
"Our clients are increasingly focusing on international opportunities and projects and our membership allows us to provide seamless access to quality offshore legal advice," Gould said.

ALFA International Board chairman Michael Hawkins said it had been looking for a firm in New Zealand for some time. It had an international committee that reviewed potential new members.

They asked other firms in the network for candidate firms that the network could have confidence in.

"The Anthony Harper firm came up high on the radar screen," Hawkins said. It was recommended by other law firm members in the group, particularly in Australia.

Hawkins said that in the last three years or so the network had taken a more aggressive expansion effort. "Certainly this is initially an American-based network but as more and more



**Legal eagles:** Anthony Harper managing partner David Gould and ALFA chairman Michael Hawkins promise top results for New Zealand businesses seeking legal help. Photo: DEAN KOZANIC

of our client base have expanded around the globe we have found the need to interact and be able to instruct law firms around the

world for our clients."

Gould said it was important for Anthony Harper to have confidence in the quality and

cost-effectiveness of the referrals it was making for corporate clients wanting to do business in other legal jurisdictions.