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ARTICLES

The rise and fall of purchase money security interests at general law and under Article 9 regimes – Aidan Drinkwater

The enactment of the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* (Cth) (PPS Act) has signalled the official arrival of Art 9 of the *Uniform Commercial Code* (US) in Australia. The legislation will effect a dramatic change to Australia's law of security interests which is in need of reform. At the heart of the new regime is the reorganisation of priority rules around the fundamental principle that priority be afforded to parties that perfect, mostly through registration, their security interest first. This is subject to an exception for purchase money security interests (PMSIs). PMSIs have received limited recognition at general law, however, the PPS Act sets out extensive provisions which incorporate vendor credit arrangements previously considered to be outside the scope of the law of security interests. Accordingly, the existing body of general law relating to retention of title and similar devices will be supplanted by the statutory PMSI regime. The purpose of this article is to consider the effect of this by comparing the establishment and extinguishment of the PMSI and the rights of vendor creditors under the general law with the position under the PPS Act's embodiment of Art 9.

Has the Financial Services Reform Act fixed the problems with the regulation of securities and derivatives? – Benjamin B Saunders

The *Financial Services Reform Act 2001* (Cth) introduced new definitions of "derivative" and "financial product" into the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), and replaced the separate regulatory regimes governing futures contracts and securities with a single financial markets authorisation regime and a single intermediary licensing regime. This article examines the reforms to evaluate whether they have been successful. It is argued that there are definite improvements resulting from the reforms, and the scope for regulatory arbitrage has been greatly reduced. However, numerous problems remain. There are significant differences in the regulation of securities and derivatives. The distinction between securities and derivatives is still based on legal characteristics, not economic function. There is uncertainty as to the exact scope and interaction of the definitions, particularly with respect to equity derivatives, warrants and options. The current law has thus not fully addressed many of the problems that existed prior to the reforms.

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