



## NICK STYANT-BROWNE | Of Counsel

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Mr. Styant-Browne is of counsel at Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro where he has practiced class-action and multi-plaintiff litigation since 2001. Recent projects include Rio Tinto Litigation for human rights and environmental abuses in respect of the Panguna mine on the Pacific island of Bougainville.

Before joining the firm, Mr. Styant-Browne was one of five senior partners at Australia's largest plaintiff law firm working on class actions, environmental litigation and antitrust litigation. He served as co-counsel on Australia's largest class action against a wholly owned subsidiary of Exxon, arising out of a gas plant explosion which shut down the gas supply to Melbourne and most of the State of Victoria for 10 days.

As lead counsel in a landmark case against BHP (now BHP Billiton), Mr. Styant-Browne's meticulous outlining of the environmental devastation caused by the Ok Tedi mine in Papua New Guinea helped force mining companies adopt stricter environmental standards in developing countries. He also served as lead counsel at the trial against Australia's major newspaper publishers, including News, which resulted in the deregulation of the system of distribution of newspapers and magazines throughout Australia.

Mr. Styant-Browne's practice has involved several projects in the Pacific Rim, acting principally on behalf of the indigenous peoples of poor developing Pacific nations claiming environmental and human rights abuses. His successes and passion for the causes of indigenous peoples have led to him being retained by the national governments of Pacific States including Tuvalu and the Kingdom of Tonga. More recently, the Republic of Hungary retained him to claim compensation against an Australian mining company, which leaked huge amounts of cyanide from its tailings dam devastating the river systems of Western Europe.