



KordaMentha

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KordaMentha said the firm led by Mr Stiassny, Brendon Gibson and Grant Graham, a member of the Ferrier Hodgson group for 17 years, had joined them. The move was noted in the public notices section of newspapers today.

The New Zealand group has 23 staff and increases the total number of staff at KordaMentha to 200.

KordaMentha's principals Mark Korda and Mark Mentha gained a high profile in Australia when they were handling the receivership of Ansett Airlines. In 2002 they set up their own firm.

Mr Graham said the Ferrier Hodgson business was a partnership affiliated to Ferrier Hodgson. ``Ferrier's has been good for us but the mix and the fit with KordaMentha, who are a progressive firm in Australia really represents some good opportunities for us and our staff and undoubtedly our clients. ``We think it is quite exciting for us," he said.

Ferrier Hodgson was known mostly for writing independent reports for mergers and acquisitions as well as handling receiverships but does a range of financial advice work.

Mr Graham said KordaMentha was a creative firm which had demonstrated an ability to think outside the square. ``We've been aware of these guys for a long time and we've watched them. We've been impressed with them."

Mr Stiassny is a well known Auckland businessman who is chairman of Vector and chairman of the New Zealand Racing Board.

High profile receiverships handled by Ferrier Hodgson included the Central North Island Forest Partnership. The firm also worked for the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union when it was fighting to save engineering jobs at Air New Zealand.

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