Gerard Brennan Chambers

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EDUCATION

2013	Masters of Laws (Hons 1), University of Cambridge.
	David M Livingstone (Australia) Scholarship (awarded by Jesus College). College Prize for the LLM (awarded by Jesus College). Jesus College Foundation Scholarship (awarded by Jesus College).
	Subjects: Commercial Equity, Restitution, Corporate Finance, International Commercial Litigation.
2010	Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Laws (Hons 1), University of Queensland.
	 1st place in graduating class (LLB). John Hughes Wilkinson Memorial Prize and Minter Ellison Prize in Law for highest overall marks in the LLB program. Virgil Power Prize for highest overall marks in 3rd and 4th year LLB courses. TC Beirne School of Law Valedictorian. Sir Samuel Griffith Memorial Prize in Law for Civil Procedure. Walter Harrison Prize for Law of Property A. Ross Anderson Prize for Constitutional Law B.
Admissions	
2017	Call to the Bar of England and Wales (Lincoln's Inn).
2015	Call to the NSW Bar – Ludlows Award for 1 st place in February 2015 Bar Exams.
2011	Lawyer, Supreme Court of Queensland.
CAREER	
2015-present	Barrister in private practice at:

- Queensland Bar (2019-present);

- One Essex Court Chambers, London (2017-2019);

- Banco Chambers, Sydney (2015-2019).

- 2013-2015 Associate in the International Arbitration and Litigation group of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP, London.
- **2011-2012** Associate at the High Court of Australia to the Hon. Justice (now Chief Justice) SM Kiefel AC.

SELECTED MATTERS

General commercial

Acting (led by T Howard SC) for a recycling and waste management company in Supreme Court of Queensland proceedings involving claims for negligence and breach of contract (ongoing).

Acting (led by G Gibson KC) in Supreme Court of Queensland proceedings involving claims for breach of fiduciary duty, accessory liability and misleading or deceptive conduct in excess of \$3.5 million, including in interlocutory applications for variation of freezing orders and removal of caveats (see [2022] QSC 194; (2022) 12 QR 67).

Acting (led by P McQuade QC) in Supreme Court of Queensland proceedings involving fraudrelated claims in excess of \$16 million.

Advising (led by BW Walker SC and TL Wong) a major energy company with respect to a proposed ASX listing.

Energy and resources

Acting (led by D Butler KC) in Federal Court proceedings concerning the acquisition of a mining lease (ongoing).

Acting (led by D Piggott KC) in Supreme Court of Queensland proceedings concerning interests in a gold mining project (see [2022] QSC 295, [2023] QSC 018 and [2023] QSC 054).

Acting (led by D Clothier QC) in Supreme Court of Queensland proceedings concerning the enforcement of a mining services agreement (settled).

Advising (led by S Doyle QC) a resources company with respect to issues of construction of resources joint venture agreements.

Acting (led by K Stern SC and RCA Higgins) for BlueScope Steel in an approx. USD 260 million claim in the Supreme Court of NSW against South32 group companies concerning the pricing mechanism under a long-term coal supply contract (settled).

Acting (led by AJ Myers QC, RCA Higgins and others) for BlueScope Steel in the Supreme Court of NSW against South32 group companies concerning a long-term coal supply contract (settled).

Acting (as solicitor and advocate) for a private company in an UNCITRAL arbitration seated in Stockholm against an international oil major, involving claims in excess of US\$5 billion.

Corporations and insolvency

Acting (led by P McQuade QC, with J Marr) for a liquidator in Federal Court proceedings commenced by ASIC involving alleged breaches of liquidators' duties (see [2023] FCA 975).

Acting (led by P McQuade KC) for the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (incorporated by letters patent) in Supreme Court of Queensland proceedings concerning its receivership (ongoing).

Advising (led) ASIC with respect to an investigation.

Acting (led by P McQuade QC) for a defendant in Supreme Court of Queensland proceedings for breaches of directors' duties (see [2019] QSC 281).

Acting (led by RCA Higgins) for Legal Practice Management Group Pty Ltd in connection with an application to the Supreme Court of NSW for leave to commence derivative proceedings (see [2017] NSWSC 1500 and [2018] NSWSC 527; (2018) 125 ACSR 513).

Judicial review and administrative

Acting for the Australian Financial Complaints Authority in appeals under s 1057 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).

Advising (led by M Hodge QC) a university in connection with a decision by a regulator.

Acting (led by S McLeod QC) for a developer in Federal Court proceedings for judicial review of a decision under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999 (Cth) (see [2021] FCA 254).

Acting (led) for the Australian College of Theology in AAT proceedings for merits review of decisions by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency concerning its higher education provider category (ongoing).

Acting (led by A Crowe QC) for a private VET provider in Federal Court proceedings for judicial review of regulatory decisions by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (settled).

Acting (led at different times by A Crowe QC, M Hindman QC and S McLeod QC) for private VET providers in two sets of AAT proceedings seeking merits review of regulatory decisions by the Australian Skills Quality Authority and on appeal to the Federal Court (see [2021] AATA 36, [2020] FCA 617, [2020] AATA 737 and [2019] AATA 3645).

Acting (led by RCA Higgins) for the Australian Information Commissioner in AAT proceedings seeking merits review of a decision under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (see [2017] AATA 2426).

Competition

Advising (unled) various companies or professional associations with respect to competition law matters.

Acting (led) for a company in connection with an ACCC investigation.

Acting (led) for the ACCC in connection with a proposed merger.

Banking and finance

Advising (led by S Finch SC and TL Wong) a bank in relation to its trading activities.

Advising (led by RA Dick SC and PW Flynn) a bank concerning potential liabilities arising from the constitutional invalidity of Commonwealth legislation.

Insurance

Acting (led by S McLeod QC) for NIB Health Funds Ltd in Federal Court proceedings against a private hospital (see [2020] FCA 932 and [2020] FCA 1761).

Acting (led by RA Dick SC and PW Flynn) for Weir Services Australia Pty Ltd at trial (see [2017] NSWSC 259) and on appeal ([2018] NSWCA 100; (2018) 359 ALR 314) in Supreme Court of NSW proceedings against its liability insurer.

Building and construction

Acting (led by M Hindman QC) in Supreme Court of Queensland proceedings concerning a major infrastructure project.

Advising (led by S Doyle QC) a company with respect to review of adjudications under building security of payment legislation.

Conflicts of laws

Acting (led by A Layton QC, RA Dick SC and PW Flynn) for Weir Services Australia Pty Ltd in jurisdictional disputes in the Commercial Court in London (see [2016] EWHC 904 (Comm)) and the Supreme Court of NSW (adjourned part-heard) raising issues of service out of the jurisdiction, anti-suit injunctions and *forum non conveniens*.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

2023 Doyle's Guide - Leading Administrative & Public Law Barristers - Queensland (Junior Counsel).

PUBLICATIONS

"Impact of COVID-19 on Commercial and Construction Contracts: A Consideration of Force Majeure and Frustration", LexisNexis Info Hub, 23 April 2020.

"Backwards Tracing", [2015] (Summer) Bar News 10.

"Company and Insolvency Law" in Daniel Clarry (ed), *The UK Supreme Court Yearbook, Vol 4: 2012-13 Legal Year* (Appellate Press 2018), pp 249-52.

"The Relationship between Contract and Unjust Enrichment: Unpacking Lumbers v Cook", (2011) 32 Adelaide Law Review 83.

"Ahmadou Sadio Diallo (Republic of Guinea v Democratic Republic of the Congo): Clarifying the Scope of Diplomatic Protection of Corporate and Shareholder Rights", (2008) 9 *Melbourne Journal of International Law* 151 (with Stephen Knight).

Current to September 2023