

OVERVIEW

John has a diverse practice across commercial, public, and criminal law. He has appeared led and unled in New South Wales, Federal and Northern Territory courts, as well as tribunals and inquiries.

Before coming to the Bar, John was a Senior Associate at Arnold Bloch Leibler. He acted for companies and individuals on a wide range of commercial disputes, regulatory investigations and enforcement action, white collar criminal matters, and public inquiries.

ADMISSIONS

- 2023** Barrister, New South Wales
- 2013** Solicitor, Supreme Court of New South Wales and the High Court of Australia

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 –** **Barrister, Sixth Floor Selborne Wentworth Chambers**
- 2020 – 2023** **Arnold Bloch Leibler, Dispute Resolution & Litigation, Sydney NSW**
Senior Associate (2021 – 2023) and Solicitor (2020 – 2021)
- 2016 – 2020** **North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, Civil Law Section, Darwin NT**
Senior Solicitor (2017 – 2020) and Solicitor (2016 – 2017)
- 2015 – 2016** **Office of the Solicitor Assisting the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse, Sydney NSW**
Senior Solicitor (2016) and Solicitor (2015 – 2016)
- 2012 – 2014** **Solicitor, MinterEllison, Dispute Resolution & Litigation, Sydney NSW**

EDUCATION

- 2015** Master of Laws (Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar), Columbia Law School
- 2012** Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) and Bachelor of Economics, Australian National University

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – 2020** Sessional Academic, College of Business & Law, Charles Darwin University, Darwin NT
- Summer 2015** Summer Fellow, Judicial Branch of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Petoskey, Michigan USA
- 2014 – 2016** Legal Practice Mentor (Tutor), Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice, Australian National University, Canberra ACT
- 2012 – 2014** Volunteer Solicitor, Homeless Persons' Legal Service, Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Redfern NSW

SELECTED MATTERS**With****Instructors**

Commercial, class actions and regulatory

<i>R and N Hunter Pty Ltd v Count Financial Ltd</i> (2024, Federal Court): Appeared for the respondent in a class action involving allegations that financial advice was provided, and grandfathered commissions were received, contrary to fiduciary and statutory duties. Judgment reserved.	E Collins SC, P Meagher, M Sherman	Clayton Utz
<i>Aberdeen Bear Pty Ltd v MJJK Investments Pty Ltd</i> [2024] NSWCA 272 and [2024] NSWSC 722: Appeared for the cross-defendant solicitors in first instance and appeal proceedings involving the proper construction of a commercial agreement effecting a transfer of ownership of a family business. Successful at first instance and on appeal.	D Mitchell	Moray & Agnew
<i>As solicitor:</i>		
<i>ASIC v Bekier & Ors</i> (2022-23, Federal Court): Acted for six former non-executive directors of Star Entertainment Group Limited in relation to an ASIC investigation and civil penalty proceedings involving allegations of breach of directors' duties. Ongoing.	Michael Henry SC, Zoe Hillman, Leanne Rich	Arnold Bloch Leibler
<i>McAssey v Nemo (BC) HoldCo Pty Limited</i> (2021, NSW Supreme Court): Acted for the founder of a premium childcare provider seeking payment of debts of more than \$100 million involving allegations of breach of contract, directors' duties, and misleading and deceptive conduct. Settled after commencement of trial.	Robert Newlinds SC, Nicholas Bender, Eli Ball	Arnold Bloch Leibler
Administrative and public law		
<i>Seadragon Offshore Wind Pty Ltd v Minister for Climate Change and Energy</i> [2024] FCA 1290; (2024) 306 FCR 69: Appeared for the applicant seeking judicial review of a decision not to grant a licence under previously untested provisions of the <i>Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021</i> (Cth). Application granted.	S Lloyd SC, L Coleman	Herbert Smith Freehills
<i>KVRK v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship & Multicultural Affairs</i> [2024] FCA 698: Appeared for the Minister in an application for review of the AAT's decision not to revoke the cancellation of the applicant's visa on character grounds. Application dismissed.	Z Heger	Sparke Helmore
<i>GBR v Children's Guardian</i> [2024] NSWCATAD 324: Appeared for the applicant seeking an enabling order under the <i>Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012</i> (NSW). Application granted.	Unled	Parker & Kissane
<i>Huynh v Attorney General (NSW) (No 2)</i> [2023] NSWCA 268: Appeared for the NSW Attorney General in an appeal of a first instance decision dismissing an application under the <i>Crimes (Appeal and Review) Act 2001</i> (NSW). Appeal dismissed.	Z Heger	NSW Crown Solicitor's Office

SELECTED MATTERS	With	Instructors
White collar crime		
<i>R v Savage</i> : Acting for a former senior executive of Leighton Holdings in committal proceedings in relation to criminal charges under the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth) in the context of foreign bribery allegations. Ongoing.	Neil Clelland KC, Julia Roy	Arnold Bloch Leibler
Royal commissions, inquiries and inquests		
<i>Inquest into the death of Kumanjayi Jurrah</i> [2024] NTLC 12: Appeared on behalf of a mother in an inquest into the death of her two-year-old child in a public swimming pool in a remote community in the Northern Territory.	Unled, all other interested parties represented by senior counsel	North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
<i>As solicitor:</i>		
<i>Review of The Star Pty Limited</i> (2022): Acted for five non-executive directors of Star Entertainment Group Limited in relation to the inquiry into The Star's suitability to hold a NSW casino licence.	Michael Henry SC, Melanie Cairns, Leanne Rich	Arnold Bloch Leibler
<i>Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory</i> (2016-17): Acted for vulnerable witnesses AA, AB, AC, AY and another young person not issued with a pseudonym.	Stephen Free, Lincoln Crowley, Elizabeth McLaughlin, Tamzin Lee	North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
<i>NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption</i> (2014): Acted for Australian Water Holdings Pty Limited in relation to investigations into its dealings with Sydney Water Corporation and NSW Liberal Party funding for the 2011 State election campaign (Operations Credo and Spicer).		MinterEllison
Torts		
<i>Neal v MacDonnell Regional Council</i> (2024, NT Supreme Court): Acted for the plaintiffs in proceedings alleging negligence and seeking damages under the <i>Compensation (Fatal Injuries) Act 1974</i> (NT) relating to the death of their two-year-old child in a public swimming pool in a remote community in the Northern Territory. Judgment entered for the plaintiffs on settlement.	Unled, defendant represented by senior counsel	Maurice Blackburn
<i>As solicitor:</i>		
<i>Binsaris v Northern Territory</i> [2020] HCA 22; (2020) 270 CLR 549 (and related proceedings): Acted for four young people in proceedings concerning the use of tear gas at Don Dale Youth Detention Centre. Instructing solicitor from costs argument in the Northern Territory Supreme Court to successful appeal before the High Court. Solicitor advocate in <i>JB v Northern Territory (No 2)</i> [2019] NTCA 3 (led by Kathleen Foley).	Bret Walker SC, Kathleen Foley, James McComish	North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
<i>Petersen v New South Wales</i> (2021, NSW District Court): Acted for the plaintiff in proceedings alleging malicious prosecution, battery, assault and false imprisonment by officers of the NSW Police Force. Judgment entered for the plaintiff on settlement.	Timothy Boyle	Arnold Bloch Leibler