Brent Michael

Sixth Floor Selborne Wentworth Chambers

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Practice

Broad commercial practice. Contracts; equity and trusts; corporations and partnerships; funds and managed investment schemes; misleading and unconscionable conduct; confidentiality and restraint of trade.

Briefs also accepted in other areas including negligence, freedom of information, defamation, public law, inquiries.

Experience

New South Wales Bar	2015 – Prese	nt

Barrister

University of New South Wales 2013, 2017–18

Lecturer, Civil procedure

University of Sydney Jul – Dec 2014

Lecturer, Evidence and Torts

King & Wood Mallesons 2009 – 2013

Solicitor, Dispute Resolution group, Sydney

Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of New South Wales

Tipstaff (judge's associate), Justice D.H. Hodgson AO

Education

Columbia Law School, LLM (Hons) (Litigation, constitutional, jurisprudence, history)

University of Sydney, LLM (Commercial litigation, contracts, judicial power, tort)

University of New South Wales, BA (Philosophy), LLB (Hons)

- First place in course: Legal Interpretation; Advanced Contract Law;
 Commercial Equity Litigation; Defamation and the Media; Judicial Power of the Commonwealth; The Causation Element; Biopolitics and Biotechnology;
 Political Theory and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Prizes: Columbia Law School Milton B. Conford prize for jurisprudence;
 Sydney Law School Sir Maurice Byers prize for constitutional law; UNSW Dean's List for Academic Excellence; World Runner-Up, Philip C. Jessup International Moot; Winner, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators National Arbitration Moot.

2008

Recent matters

Mir v Mir & Ors (NSWCA)

Trusts – removal of trustee; partnerships – whether arising over corporate group. (Led by C. Bova SC)

• Student A by his tutor Peter Johnston v Council of Newington College (NSWSC)

Trusts – construction – for the College Council defending challenge to power to transition College to a co-educational school. (Led by N. Hutley SC)

• Arnold & Ors v Belmore 88 Pty Ltd & Ors (NSWSC)

Trusts – joint venture – residential & commercial property development – allegations of unauthorised transactions, breaches of trust, disputed loans. (Led by C. Bova SC)

 Morgan v Bruan Park Pty. Limited in its capacity as trustee for the RM & PL Morgan Family Trust (NSWSC)

Trusts – discretionary trust – dispute re access to trust documents. (Unled)

Re Dexus Capital Investors Limited

Trusts – For Dexus re dispute concerning withdrawal request and investment management fees. (Led by M. Izzo SC)

GPT RE Limited v ACPE Limited & Ors (NSWSC)

Contracts – indemnities – share sale agreement – enforcement of indemnity against vendor re lease liabilities; rectification. (Led by M. Izzo SC)

• In the matter of Bird House Early Learning Centres Pty Ltd (NSWSC)

Corporations – childcare centres – oppression; derivative claims for breach of director's duties re fund defalcations; share transfer validity. (Led by T. Alexis SC)

- Mir v Mir & Ors [2023] NSWSC 408; [2024] NSWSC 791; [2024] NSWSC 899
 Partnerships; corporations winding up; trusts terms governing, application to remove trustee business with \$300m+ assets. (Led by C. Bova SC)
- Patrick; Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and Minister for Climate Change & Energy [2024] ARTA 7
 FOI – confidentiality and other exemptions – for Snowy Hydro. (Unled)
- Proclear International P/L v United Beverage Co-Packers [2024] NSWSC 1455
 Contracts manufacture confidentiality, exclusivity, quality. (Led by T. Alexis SC)
- Jeffery v Adams [2023] NSWSC 1270; [2024] NSWCA 96; [2024] NSWCA 149
 Easements s 88K, Conveyancing Act; deed of licence. (Led by T. Alexis SC)
- Patrick; Secretary, Department of Defence [2021] AATA 4627; [2024] AATA 336
 FOI commercially sensitive information re future submarine program confidentiality and other exemptions for Naval Group France. (Unled)
- Magellan Asset Management Limited as responsible entity for the Magellan Global Fund v Keybridge Capital Limited [2023] NSWSC 1332

Corporations – managed investment scheme – construction of constitution – validity of meeting request to resolve to delist/redeem units. (Led by D. Thomas SC)

- HSBC Bank Australia Ltd v Potts [2022] NSWCA 165; [2023] HCATrans 49
 Banking misleading and deceptive conduct for HSBC re \$28.8m claim against former directors of Dick Smith. (Led by D. Thomas SC)
- Watson & Co Superannuation Pty Ltd v Dixon Advisory and Superannuation Services Ltd (in administration) [2022] FCA 1273

Corporations – application by class action claimant for insurance polices of company in administration. (Led by D. Williams SC)

- Davis & Ors v Certain Lloyd's Underwriters & Ors [2022] NSWSC 131
 Trusts for trustee's insurers defending \$10m breach of duty claim for not preventing
 - share dilution. Discontinued after trial. (Led by T. Alexis SC)
- Broadway Plaza Investments Pty Ltd v Broadway Plaza Pty Ltd & Ors [2020] NSWSC 1778; [2021] NSWSC 1374; [2021] NSWSC 1537

Partnership – property development; authority/agency; banking mandate; director's duties; \$130m+ in claims. (Led by N. Hutley SC & C. Bova SC with D. Reynolds)

• Caron & Seidlitz v liquidators of Courtenay House Pty Ltd & Courtenay House Capital Trading Group Pty Ltd (in liq) [2020] NSWCA 117

Trusts – mixed fund – distribution method, tracing. (Led by M. Izzo SC)

• In the matter of Courtenay House Capital Trading Group Pty Ltd (in liq) [2018] NSWSC 404; [2019] NSWSC 1113; [2020] NSWSC 780

Trusts – Ponzi scheme – whether two funds totalling \$40m+ held on trust for investors; distribution method. (Led by M. Izzo SC)

Publications

'Migratory Boundaries of Coastal Properties in Cases of Artificially Caused Erosion' (2018) 7(2) *Property Law Review* 80.

'Failing to Assess a Borrower's Repayment Capacity', Law Society Journal, April 2016.

'Recourse to Contractual Context Reaffirmed' (2015) 89(3) Australian Law Journal 181 (with D. Wong).

'Criteria for identification of "corporations" and "trading corporations" under 51(xx) of the Constitution', *Bar News*, Winter 2015.

'Sea Changes in Coastal Protection Laws' (2013) 87 Australian Law Journal 15 (with K. Coleman).

'Western Export Services v Jirch International: Ambiguity as the Gateway to Surrounding Circumstances?' (2012) 86(1) Australian Law Journal 57 (with D. Wong).

Cited in: Mainteck Services Pty Ltd v Stein Heurtey SA [2014] NSWCA 184; McCourt v Cranston [2012] WASCA 60; Bisognin v Hera Project Pty Ltd [2016] VSC 75; Toga Pty Limited v Perpetual Nominees Ltd [2012] NSWADT 80.

'International Law in Constitutional Interpretation: A Theoretical Perspective' (2012) 23(3) *Public Law Review* 197.

'Must an Accessory be a Know-It-All?' (2010) 18(4) *Trade Practices Law Journal* 234 (now *Competition & Consumer Law Journal*).

Cited in: Sugarloaf Hill Nominees Pty Ltd v Rewards Projects Ltd [2011] WASC 19.

'Responding to Attacks by Non-State Actors: The Attribution Requirement of Self-Defence' (2009) 16 Australian International Law Journal 133.