

David Hume SC
6 Selborne Wentworth

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Practice

Areas of specialisation

Commercial Law (including tax, contracts, equity, trade practices, building & construction, torts)

Public Law (including administrative law, criminal appeals, migration, land and environment, constitutional law)

Doyles Guide leading administrative & public law, taxation and construction & infrastructure junior counsel

Called to the Bar in 2013

Education

Harvard Law School

LLM (2009)
Frank Knox Memorial Fellow
John Monash Scholar

University of New South Wales

LLB, University Medal in Law
BA (Hons I), University Medal in Philosophy

Professional Background

Barrister

Sixth Floor

Appointed Senior Counsel: 2025

2013-

Lecturer, UNSW and Melbourne University

Constitutional Law and Administrative Law

2008, 2014

Lawyer

Australian Government Solicitor

Constitutional Litigation Unit

2011-2012

Solicitor

Freehills

Commercial Litigation
Supervising Partner: Geoff Healy

2009-2011

Associate

High Court of Australia

The Honourable AM Gleeson AC

2007

Practice

- Appeared in more than 40 High Court appeals and original jurisdiction matters, including leading cases in constitutional law, administrative law, tax and building and construction.
- Appears regularly led and unled in appeals and trials in Courts and Tribunals around Australia, and also in private arbitrations.
- Recent unled matters include:
 - *Stuart v Minister for Transport* [2025] NSWSC 39 (administrative law)
 - *Johnson v Commissioner of New South Wales Police* [2025] NSWSC 21 (warrants)
 - *Harlech Enterprises Pty Ltd v Beno Excavations Pty Ltd* [2025] NSWCA 5 (restitution)
 - *Coveney v Asbestos Injuries Compensation Fund* [2024] NSWCA 317; *In the matter of Asbestos Injuries Compensation Fund* [2024] NSWSC 1163 (trusts)
 - *Fredon Infrastructure Pty Ltd v Hitachi Rail GTS Australia Pty Ltd* [2024] NSWSC 1244 (security of payment)
 - *Australian Turf Club Ltd and Commissioner of Taxation* [2024] AATA 2278 (and related matters) (tax)
 - *Commissioner of Police v Attorney-General for New South Wales* [2014] NSWCA 150 (public interest immunity)
 - *Meticon Homes Pty Ltd v Lipari* [2024] NSWSC 566; [2024] NSWSC 684 (building and construction)
 - *In the matter of Riverina Solar Pty Ltd* [2024] NSWSC 480 (statutory demands)
 - *Canterbury Bankstown Council v General Works and Construction Pty Ltd* [2024] NSWSC 310 (building and construction / security of payment)
 - *Forte Sydney Carlingford Development Limited v Forte Sydney Carlingford Pty Ltd* [2024] FCAFC 9 (building and construction / security of payment)
 - *A-Civil Aust Pty Ltd v Ceerose Pty Ltd* [2024] NSWCA 7 (building and construction / security of payment)
- Recent led matters include:
 - *Commonwealth of Australia v Stradford* [2025] HCA 3 (High Court: judicial immunity, intentional torts)
 - *Automotive Invest Pty Ltd v Commissioner of Taxation* [2024] HCA 36 (luxury car tax)
 - *SFQV and Commissioner of Taxation* [2024] ARTA 9 (GST)
 - *Oracle Corporation Australia Pty Ltd v Commissioner of Taxation* [2024] FCA 1262 (mutual agreement procedures)
 - IAL / Greensill and commodity trading litigation (Federal Court and Supreme Court of NSW: insurance)
 - a major international commercial arbitration relating to an Australian infrastructure project

- *Denman Aberdeen Muswellbrook Scone Healthy Environment Group Incorporated v MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd* [2024] NSWLEC 86 (Pt 4 / judicial review)
- *Enermech Pty Ltd v Acciona Infrastructure Projects Australia Pty Ltd* [2024] NSWCA 162 (security of payment / performance bonds)
- *Major v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs* [2024] FCA 597 (migration)
- *Hartley v Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police* [2023] FCAFC 197 (search warrants)
- *ACCC v Lactalis Australia Pty Ltd* [2023] FCA 830; [2022] FCA 1087 (civil penalties)
- Select publications:
 - *People Power: How Australian Referendums are Lost and Won* (2024, UNSW Press) (with George Williams)
 - *Human Rights under the Australian Constitution* (2013, Oxford University Press, 2nd ed) (with George Williams) (winner of the Australian Publishing Association's best Tertiary Scholarly Resource)
 - *People Power: The History and Future of the Referendum in Australia* (2010, UNSW Press) (with George Williams) (finalist for the John Button Prize for best Australian Public Policy and Politics writing)