

Meg O'Brien

Barrister

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Overview: Barrister with a practice in commercial and public law

ADMISSIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- **2017:** NSW Bar
- **2013-2014:** Masters of Law (First Class Honours) (Leonard Coling Scholarship), University of Cambridge (UK)
- **2009:** Legal Practitioner, Victoria & Federal Court
- **2003 – 2008:** Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) (Dean's Scholarship), Monash University, Melbourne

SELECTED CASES

Inquests, Inquiries and Commissions

- *Inquest into the death of Frederick Elrezz* (NSW Coroners Court No. 2020/79909) (Corrective Services New South Wales)
- *Inquest into the death of CG* (NSW Coroners Court No. 2024/1164074) (Corrective Services New South Wales)
- *Inquiry into Greyhound Racing NSW* (Statutory Inquiry) (Counsel Assisting) (2024-2025)
- *Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes* (Special Commission of Inquiry) (Counsel Assisting, led by P Gray SC and J Emmett SC) (2022-2023)
- *Inquest into the disappearance suspected death of Habtom Ghilagaber* (NSW Coroners Court No. 2020/00299793) (Counsel Assisting, unled)
- *Inquest into the death of J.S.Z* (NSW Coroners Court No. 2023/298225) (Counsel Assisting, unled)
- *Inquest into the death of N.B* (NSW Coroners Court No. 2024/35627) (Counsel Assisting, unled)

Administrative law

- *Peter Ristevski v Liverpool City Council* (NCAT 2026/68586) (merits review) (unled)
- *Gills College Australia Pty Ltd v Australian Skills Quality Authority* (GAP 2024-001-0068) (merits review) (led by T Wong SC and with E Kneebone)
- *Doran v National Disability Insurance Agency* (AAT 2025-003-559) (merits review) (unled)
- *Pearson v State of NSW* (LEC 2025/204559) (judicial review) (led by T Wong SC)

- *Ku-ring-gai Council v State of NSW* (LEC 2024/00173748) (judicial review) (led by S Free SC and Tiffany Wong SC)
- *Lougher v National Disability Instance Agency* (AAT 2022/2836) (merits review) (unled)
- *National Disability Insurance Agency v Paterno* (AAT 2021/4711) (merits review) (unled)
- *NSW Electoral Commission v Kempsey Shire Council (No 2)* [2022] NSWSC 282 (judicial review)
- *Frankcom v Commissioner of Corrective Services* [2022] NSWSC 225 (judicial review) (unled)
- *North Parramatta Residents' Action Group Inc v Infrastructure New South Wales and Minister for Planning and Public Spaces* [2021] NSWCA 146 / [2021] NSWLEC 60 (judicial review) (led by R Beasley SC)
- *Reyson Pty Ltd v Minister administering the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)* [2020] NSWCA 281 / [2019] NSWLEC 203 (judicial review) (led by S Free SC)
- *Youssef Nouh v Commissioner for NSW Fair Trading* [2019] NSWSC 1303 (judicial review) (unled)
- *Mwango v Fair Work Commission* [2019] FCA 1274 (judicial review) (unled)

Commercial

- *Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Keith Charles Cohen* (NSD2083/2025) (appeal; conflicted remuneration; breach of directors' duties) (led by C Caleo KC SC and with T Kane and M Brunner)
- *Axis North Pty Ltd (in liq) (recs and managers appointed) & Ors v Clancy* (2024/00467278) (led by Michael Hodge KC)
- *Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Keith Charles Cohen & Anor* (NSD1114/2021) (conflicted remuneration; breach of directors' duties) (led by T Wong SC, E Nekvapil SC and with T Kane)
- *Forge Group Ltd (In Liq) (Receivers and Managers Appointed) v Hutchinson (No 2)* [2021] NSWSC 370 (security for costs) (led by W Edwards)
- *OneHub Business Pty Ltd v Optus Mobile* (contractual dispute) (unled)
- *Supay FX Pty Ltd Ors v Chandos Projects (Kirrawee) Pty Ltd and Ors* (property; equity) (New South Wales Supreme Court No. 2020/00054218) (led by K Andronos SC)
- *Spotlight Pty Ltd v Fatseas Investments Pty Ltd* [202] NSWCA 312 (contractual dispute; leases; evidence) (led by D Lloyd SC)
- *Patakas v Bevan* (contractual dispute and oppression proceedings) (SC NSW 2016/124927) (led by M Elliot SC)
- *Sunderland Marine Insurance Company Limited, in the matter of Sunderland Marine Insurance Company Limited* [2018] FCA 565 (application for dispensation from compliance with s 17C(2)(c) of the *Insurance Act 1973*) (Cth) (led by M Izzo SC)
- *International Consulting and Business Management (ICBM) Pty Ltd & Ors v ACN 080 349 855 and Skybase (VIC) Pty Ltd* [2017] ACTCA 43 (evidence) (led by K Rees SC)
- *In the matter of South Head & District Synagogue (Sydney) (Administrators appointed)* [2017] NSWSC 823 (conflict of laws) (led by V Whittaker)

Construction, planning and environment

- *Knight Cattle Company Pty Ltd v Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water* (class 1 appeal) (LEC 2026/00289184) (unled)
- *Nadge v A-CAES and Minister* (class 1 appeal) (LEC 2925/00118477) (unled)
- *Lambess v Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation & Anor* (LEC 2021/00304807) (unled)
- *Hy-Tec Industries Pty Ltd v Parramatta City Council* [2022] NSWLEC 1041 (led by Michael Hall SC)
- *Styles v Department of Planning, Industry and Environment* (class 1 appeal) (LEC 2021/00194333) (unled)
- *Benning v Department of Planning, Industry and Environment* (LEC 2021/00040948 and 2021/00040919) (unled)
- *Sell & Parker v Minister for Planning and Public Spaces & Anor* (class 1 appeal) (LEC 2020/000101315) (unled)
- *Winten (No 21) Pty Ltd v Newcastle City Council & Ors* (class 1 appeal) (LEC 2019/19165) and *Winten (No 21) Pty Ltd v Lake Macquarie Council & Ors* (LEC 2019/19121) (unled)

Criminal

- *CDPP v McDonald's Australia Limited* (prosecution under to s 8C(1)(a) of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth)) (led by C Withers SC)
- *CDPP v EC Audit Pty Ltd and Evett* (prosecution under the s 989CA of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (led by C Withers SC)

Interlocutory

- *Ristevski v Liverpool City Council* [2026] NSWSC 592 (summary dismissal) (led by Henry El Hage SC)
- *Resort Living Group Limited v Strategic Advisers Group LLC* (NSWSC 2021/00155345) (default judgment) (led by C Withers SC)
- *Rahme v Satouris (No 2)* [2019] NSWSC 208 (application for indemnity costs) (unled).
- *Elmo Software Limited v Enero Group Limited* (District Court, 2020/00138076) (application to transfer proceedings) (unled)
- *Yang v Jin* (2019/00178715) (freezing order) (unled)
- *Manly Property Holdings Pty Ltd v Lisker Pty Ltd & Anor (No. 2)* [2018] NSWSC 61 (costs) (led by Michael Izzo SC)

Taxation

- *Fitzpatrick Investments Pty Ltd v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* (NCAT 2019/00021637-001) (stamp duty dispute) (led by M Richmond SC)
- *Lochtenberg v Commissioner of Taxation* [2018] AATA 4667 (led by M Richmond SC)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

October 2014 – October 2016: Supervising Associate at Simmons & Simmons LLP, London (Commercial Arbitration and International Arbitration)

July 2014 – October 2014: Researcher in International Dispute Resolution and Arbitration, University of Cambridge

November 2012 – October 2013: Lawyer at Arnold Bloch Leibler (Litigation)

October 2011 – November 2012: Associate to Justice J Forrester, Supreme Court of Victoria.

2011: Seconded solicitor with the Human Rights Law Centre

February 2009 – October 2011: Graduate and Solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons) (Dispute Resolution)