

Zelie Heger SC

Barrister

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I have a public and commercial law practice, including constitutional law, administrative law, environment and planning law, inquiries, and general commercial law.

Professional history

2013-present	Barrister, Eleven Wentworth (appointed Senior Counsel 2024) Board Member of Eleven Wentworth (2020-2022) Member of NSW Bar Association Education Committee (2023-current) Member of Legal Qualifications Committee of LPAB (2026-current) Leading Administrative/Public Law counsel, Doyles Guide, 2022-2025 Leading Environment and Planning counsel, Doyles Guide, 2024-2025
2011-2013	A/Senior Solicitor – NSW Crown Solicitor’s Office (Administrative Law Group; Constitutional and Native Title Law Group)
2012, 2013	Lecturer in Evidence – University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney
2009-2010	Associate to the Hon. Chief Justice French AC, High Court of Australia
2008-2009	Associate to the Hon. Chief Justice Black AC, Federal Court of Australia

Education

2012	Highest Aggregate Mark in June 2012 Bar Exams
2010 – 2011	Master of Law, University of Cambridge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Studied on a <i>John Monash Scholarship, Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Scholarship</i> and <i>University of Sydney Travelling Scholarship</i>• First Class grade, Glanville Williams Prize and Sir Peter Gadsden Prize• Jesus College Foundation Scholarship
2003 – 2007	Bachelor of Laws, University of Sydney <ul style="list-style-type: none">• University Medal and First Class Honours• Prizes for Litigation (Evidence and Procedure), Third Year Law (Federal Constitutional Law; Law Lawyers & Justice) and International Law• World Champions of Jessup International Law Moot (2007)• Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in the HSC, UAI 100.00• Exchange Scholarship to Universiteit Utrecht
2003 – 2005	Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy; Government), University of Sydney <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emeritus Prof FA Bland Prize, John S D’Arcy Prize for Third Year Govt• Tish Proctor Memorial Prize, Turner Prize for First Year Govt

Recent appearances (current to February 2026)

Appellate / High Court

- *La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council v Quarry St Pty Ltd* [2025] HCA 32 (and in the courts below: [2024] NSWCA 107; [2023] NSWLEC 62) – judicial review of decision to grant land claim under *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) regarding former Paddington Bowling Club site
- *Fulton v Chief of the Defence Force* [2025] HCASJ 20 – judicial review, apprehended bias
- *Della Bruna v HCCC* [2025] NSWCA 105 – appeal from NCAT professional misconduct findings
- *NSW v Wojciechowska* [2025] HCA 27 – constitutional law – led by S Free SC
- *State of NSW v Hamze* [2025] NSWCA 22 – statutory construction
- *Pearson v Cth* [2024] HCA 46 – constitutional law – led by C Lenehan SC, leading M Maynard
- *Zaksaw Pty Ltd v Gudu* [2024] NSWCA 296 – judicial review of District Court decision affirming criminal conviction, on appeal from Local Court
- *Granville Hotel Operations v ILGA* [2023] NSWCA 248 (and at first instance: [2022] NSWSC 1408) – judicial review, statutory construction
- *Huynh v Attorney General (NSW)* [2023] NSWCA 190 – judicial review, statutory construction
- *Ramsay v Minister for Lands and Water* [2023] NSWCA 200 – jurisdiction, statutory construction
- *BRD21 v ABC* [2023] FCAFC 101 – public interest disclosures, parliamentary privilege
- *NZYQ v Commonwealth* [2023] HCA 37 – constitutional law – led by S Donaghue KC, P Herzfeld SC, leading A Hammond
- *Vanderstock v State of Victoria* [2023] HCA 30 – constitutional law – led by M G Sexton SC
- *Minister for Immigration v Montgomery* (heard in 2022, discontinued) – constitutional law, application to re-open *Love* – led by S Donaghue KC, C Lenehan SC, P Knowles
- *Mineralogy v WA* [2021] HCA 31 – constitutional law, led by J Thomson SC, S Free SC, J Shaw

Administrative and constitutional law (first instance)

- *Bui v Minister for Immigration* [2025] FCA 10 – judicial review
- *Star Training Pty Ltd v Commissioner of Police* [2025] NSWCATOD 6 – merits review, security licensing
- *Zillman v NSW Treasury* [2025] NSWCATAD 161 – freedom of information, statutory construction
- *DK Retail Management Pty Ltd v Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority* [2025] NSWCATAD 68 – merits review, liquor licensing
- *Narraport Woollahra Holdings Pty Ltd v Ice Box Liquor Pty Ltd* [2024] NSWCATAP 240 – appeal from decision of Tribunal granting a liquor licence in Woollahra
- *State of NSW v Gill* [2024] NSWSC 1263 – orders regarding disposal of human remains
- *Tickle v Giggle for Girls Pty Ltd* [2024] FCA 960 – discrimination and constitutional law - first decided case on gender identity discrimination under *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth)
- *WQKK v Minister for Immigration* [2024] FCA 1169 – judicial review
- *KVRK v Minister for Immigration* [2024] FCA 698 – judicial review
- *Munkara v Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd (No 4)* [2024] FCA 414; *(No 5)* [2024] FCA 717 – application to set aside subpoenas issued by Santos to various environmental groups

- *CBH23 v Child Support Registrar* [2024] FedCFamC2G 201 – statutory construction, estoppel
- *Australian Electoral Commission v Craig Kelly* [2023] FCA 854 – constitutional law, electoral law
- *Aymsbeen v Pty Ltd v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* [2023] NSWSC 1237 – constitutional law – motion for separate question on whether payroll tax an excise under s 90 *Constitution*
- *Tatla v Minister for Immigration* [2023] FCA 1138 – whether applicant “ordinarily resident” in Australia under s 12(1)(b) of *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* (Cth)
- *Child Support Registrar v CDJ22* [2023] FCA 1057 – appeal from AAT, child support
- *Alameddine v State Parole Authority* [2022] NSWSC 726 – judicial review of parole authority decision
- *Children’s Guardian v DVR* [2022] NSWSC 1036 – appeal from NCAT, working with children check
- *Davis v Minister for Health* [2022] NSWCATAD 342 – application for summary dismissal of application for review of public health order requiring vaccination of health care workers (also appeared in [2022] NSWCATAP 115; [2021] NSWCATAD 293; [2021] NSWCATAD 310)
- *McDonald v Ku-ring-gai Council* [2022] NSWCATAD 17 – freedom of information
- *Hickey v State Parole Authority* [2022] NSWSC 1389 – application for direction to parole authority
- *Attorney General (Cth) v Pender (Preliminary)* [2022] NSWSC 1360 – preliminary hearing for application for extended supervision order under *Criminal Code (Cth)*, and previously appeared at final hearing [2021] NSWSC 1644 led by P Herzfeld SC

Environment and planning

- *NSW Aboriginal Land Council v Minister Administering Crown Land Management Act* [2025] NSWLEC 144 – appeal under *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW)
- *Trustee for Good Times Holdings NSW Trust v Council of City of Sydney* [2023] NSWLEC 1572 – merits appeal – application to exceed height/FSR controls under cl 4.6 SLEP
- *Bathurst Regional Council v Natural Resources Access Regulator* [2022] NSWSC 846; [2022] NSWSC 1113; [2021] NSWLEC 109 – judicial review of caution issued by NRAR
- *Weston Aluminium v Environment Protection Authority* [2022] NSWCA 236 – statutory construction
- *Barana Properties (No 7) Pty Ltd v City of Sydney* [2021] NSWLEC 1293 – appeal against conditions of development consent
- *Randren House Pty Ltd v Water Administration Ministerial Corporation (No 4)* [2019] NSWLEC 5; [2019] NSWLEC 63 – judicial review and associated claims for remediation to land
- *R v Alpha Nobis FM Pty Ltd* (2019, Local Court) – sentencing for breach of development consent
- *Environmental Protection Authority v Newcastle Ports Corporation* [2019] NSWLEC 92 – application to inspect documents produced under subpoena – whether subject to privilege
- *Help Save Mt Gilead Inc v Mount Gilead Pty Limited (No 4)* [2018] NSWLEC 149 – challenge to LEP

Inquiries

- *National Anti Corruption Commission* (2024) – appeared as Counsel Assisting in private examinations
- *Operation Hector – NSW ICAC inquiry into Inner West Council and Transport for NSW* (2023) – appeared for Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd in public inquiry
- *Operation Galley – NSW ICAC inquiry into Hurstville City Council/Georges River Council* (2022) – appeared as Counsel Assisting to conduct compulsory examinations and appear at public inquiry

Commercial

- *Proceedings concerning Greensill Bank AG* (FCA) – previously acted for BCC Trade Credit in proceedings relating to various Greensill risks – led by P Braham SC, J Williams SC, J Hutton SC
- *Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust v Attorney General NSW* [2024] NSWCA 30 – whether property subject to charitable trust – led by M Izzo SC, leading P Springthorpe
- *Watson v Greenwoods & Herbert Smith Freehills* [2023] FCAFC 132 – proper construction of whistleblower protections under *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) – led by M J Darke SC
- *Ritchie v Advanced Plumbing & Drains Pty Limited* [2022] NSWSC 330; [2019] NSWSC 1028 – torts, class action – led by P Greenwood SC
- *ASIC v Westpac Securities Administration Limited* [2021] FCA 1008 – penalty hearing for contravention of s 961K of *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) – led by J Williams SC
- *H2O Exchange Pty Ltd and Innovation and Science Australia* [2019] AATA 4195 – whether “R&D activities” under *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth)
- *In the matter of Citadel Financial Corporation* [2019] NSWSC 65 – set aside statutory demand
- *White v Attorney General NSW* [2019] NSWSC 917 – application for cy-près scheme
- *Lochtenberg v Commissioner of Taxation* [2019] FCA 1167 – whether earnings “derived...from foreign service” within s 23AG of ITAA 1936 – led by M Richmond SC
- *Pacific Equity Partners Pty Ltd v Kernwick* [2017] NSWSC 1302 – application for preliminary discovery – alleged disclosure of private equity firm’s “track record” – led by J K Kirk SC
- *Morrison-Conway & Anor* [2018] NSWSC 685 – application for judicial advice re trust
- *Dispute between two resources companies* (2017) – arbitration, contract dispute – led by A Sullivan QC
- *Al-Jaafari Society Inc v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* [2017] NSWCATAD 283 – stamp duty
- *ASIC v Whitebox Trading Pty Ltd* [2017] FCAFC 100 – whether *Criminal Code (Cth)* applies in civil penalty proceedings under Pt 9.4B, *Corporations Act 2001* – led by J Gleeson SC
- *Woolworths Limited v About Life Pty Ltd* [2017] NSWSC 1117 – contractual dispute regarding lease of premises at Kiaora Lane shopping centre in Double Bay – led by M J Darke SC
- *Commissioner of Taxation v Primary Health Care* [2017] FCAFC 131, and in the AAT below [2017] AATA 393 – review of Commissioner’s refusal to extend time – led by M Richmond SC