

ELEVEN WENTWORTH



Harriet Lenigas

Profile:

Harriet has over ten years' experience advising and appearing in large scale, high value cross-border commercial disputes. She has appeared in ICC, LCIA, LMAA, HKIAC and UNCITRAL arbitrations in London, New York, Hong Kong and Australia. With a broad national practice, appearing in important proceedings throughout Australia in the Federal and Supreme Courts, Harriet accepts briefs in all areas of commercial law. Harriet also has significant experience in major infrastructure and energy disputes and class actions.

Harriet was recognised in the Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2025 edition as one of the leading junior counsel in construction, infrastructure and property (Band 1) and in commercial disputes (Band 3) with the following commentary.

'Harriet is an excellent construction/infrastructure barrister. Her strengths are the law, and ensuring matters are well prepared for hearing to achieve the best possible outcome.'

'Harriet is extremely hard working and will not rest until deadlines are complied with. She has a receptive manner. She produces written work of a high quality.'

Harriet was recognised as one of the leading arbitration junior counsel in Australia by Doyle's Guide 2023 and 2024.

Since June 2024, Harriet has been a member of NSW Bar Association Wellbeing Committee.

Prior to being called to the Bar, Harriet was a Senior Associate at Ashurst, where she instructed in international arbitrations and significant Australian court proceedings.

Harriet was also the associate to the Hon L. G. Foster in the Federal Court of Australia.

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Contact details:

11/180 Phillip Street
Sydney NSW 2000
DX 377 Sydney
t: (02) 8231 5080
e: lenigas@elevenwentworth.com

Admission to the Bar:

2019
Admission as a solicitor, 2011

**Principal areas
of practice:**

- Commercial law
- Equity
- Arbitration
- Class actions
- Public and private international law
- Building and construction law
- Trade practices & competition law
- Environment, planning & property law
- Insurance law

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Cases

Select Australian court proceedings

- *Munkara & Ors v Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd* – Federal Court of Australia (see *Munkara & Ors v Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd* [2023] FCA 1348, *Munkara & Ors v Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd (No 2)* [2023] FCA 1421). Multiple injunction proceedings and urgent final hearing. Proceedings commenced by Tiwi Islanders against Santos concerning the proper construction of the applicable regulatory regime (the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environmental) Regulations 2009* (Cth)) as it applied to Santos' Barossa Gas Project. Ms Lenigas conducted the cross-examination of archaeologist and geomorphologist expert witnesses. The case was a matter of national importance and received significant media coverage. Led by Joshua Thompson SC, Vanessa Whittaker SC, John Waters SC and Nathan Landis. Instructed by Quinn Emanuel.
- *Munkara & Ors v Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd* – Federal Court of Australia – third party costs application against the Environmental Defenders Office (see *Munkara v Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd (No 4)* [2024] FCA 414), *Munkara v Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd (No 5)* [2024] FCA 717 (ongoing). Led by Vanessa Whittaker SC and Adam Hochroth.
- *INPEX Operations Australia Pty Ltd & Anor v AkzoNobel N.V. & Ors* – Federal Court of Australia. A \$9.6 billion dollar misleading and deceptive conduct claim concerning the coating applied to the INPEX Ichthys LNG Facility. Led by Jeff Gleeson KC, Tim Breakspear SC, Gabi Crafti SC and Elizabeth Bateman with Boxun Yin. Instructed by Corrs Chambers Westgarth (ongoing – part-heard).
- *INPEX Operations Australia Pty Ltd & Anor v AkzoNobel N.V. & Ors, (No 2)* [2024] FCA 815. Unled against silk. Privilege dispute. Instructed by Corrs Chambers Westgarth.
- *Epic Pharmacy Services Pty Ltd v Giles & Ors* – Supreme Court of NSW (interlocutory proceedings) and Supreme Court of Victoria (transferred proceedings). Acting for entities in the ICON Group in various disputes concerning the provision of hospital pharmacy services (interlocutory proceedings: transfer application and injunctions, principal proceedings: breach of contract, termination of contract, restraint of trade). Led by Vanessa Whittaker SC, instructed by King and Wood Mallesons (ongoing).
- *Owners Strata Plan No 80877 v Lannock Capital 2 Pty Ltd* [2023] NSWSC 1401. Supreme Court of NSW. Acting for Westpac, NAB and others in a dispute concerning the termination of the Mascot Towers strata scheme (priority dispute with other creditors). Led by Vanessa Whittaker SC, instructed by Thompson Geer. Unled in costs dispute.
- *Cornerstone Investment Aust Pty Ltd (in liquidation) v Seymour & Ors* [2022] NSWSC 1564 – Supreme Court of NSW. Strike out application. Led by Peter Brereton SC, instructed by Ashurst.
- *CPB Contractors Pty Ltd & Ors v HDI-Global SE Australia & Ors* – Supreme Court of NSW. Insurance dispute concerning the construction of a major road in New Zealand. Led by Anne Horvath SC, instructed by Clayton Utz (ongoing).
- *A&L Lindsay v B&J McNamara Pty Ltd and Carter Holt Harvey Pinepanels Pty Ltd* – Supreme Court of NSW. Construction defects case. Led by Fiona Roughley SC, instructed by Freehills.

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- *Man Investments Australia Ltd v Kelly & Anor* – Supreme Court of NSW. Interlocutory injunction. Led by James Lockhart SC, instructed by Allens Linklaters.
- *Sydney Water Corporation v Durrubbin Water Features* – Supreme Court of NSW. Construction and infrastructure – defects and quantum issues concerning the rectification of a water pipeline. Led by Tim Breakspear SC, instructed by Clayton Utz.
- *CommsChoice Pty Ltd v Workways Australia Ltd* – Supreme Court of NSW. Technology and communications – breach of contract. Led by Nicholas Bender SC, instructed by Arnold Bloch Leibler.
- *McAssey & Anor v HoldCo & Ors* – Supreme Court of NSW. Privilege dispute. Led by CRC Newlinds SC and Nicholas Bender SC, instructed by ABL.
- *Pheasant Wood Pty Ltd v Fulton Hogan Pty Ltd* – Supreme Court of NSW. Construction and infrastructure - defects and breach of contract. Led by Tim Breakspear SC, instructed by Paul Tobin of Sparke Helmore.
- *GN Residential Pty Ltd v Robert Bird Group Pty Ltd* – Supreme Court of NSW. Construction and infrastructure. Led by Tim Breakspear SC, instructed by Lander & Rogers.
- *Meriton v Owners Corporation SP91965* – Supreme Court of NSW. Breach of Contract, mistake. Led by CRC Newlinds SC, instructed by HFW.
- *GAG Kingsley Property Company Pty Ltd v Chief Executive of Subsidence Advisory NSW* – Land and Environment Court of NSW. Judicial review and merits review. Led by James Hutton SC, instructed by Sparke Helmore Lawyers.
- *Beta ACT Pty Ltd as Trustee for the Brendas Family Trust v FTI Consulting Pty Ltd* [2021] ACTSC 293. Interlocutory dispute re limitation issues, summary dismissal and amendment of pleadings. Led by Fiona Roughley SC, instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright.
- *Tomingley Gold Pty Ltd v Protector* – Supreme Court of NSW. Construction and infrastructure – breach of contract, defects in plant. Led by Tim Breakspear SC, instructed by Allen & Overy.
- *WCX M4-M5 Link AT Pty Ltd v Acciona Infrastructure Projects Australia Pty Ltd* – Supreme Court of NSW. Construction dispute. Led by Jeremy Giles SC, instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright.

Class actions

- Opal Towers class action – Supreme Court of NSW. Led by Matthew Darke SC, Robert Yezerski SC and Nuala Simpson. Instructed by Corrs Chambers Westgarth (settled).
- Lendlease class action – Supreme Court of NSW. Led by WAD Edwards SC and Ryan May, instructed by Maurice Blackburn (principal proceedings ongoing, HCA Special Leave Application re class closure, ongoing).
- Light Rail class action – Supreme Court of NSW. Led by AJ Bannon SC, Adam Hochroth and Lucas Shipway, instructed by Banton Group.
- Blue Skye class action – Federal Court of Australia. Led by Michael Hodge KC.

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Select international and arbitration matters

- \$40m London Maritime Arbitration Association (LMAA) arbitration seated in London before a three-member tribunal under English law. The arbitration concerned breaches of a coal supply contract. Led by Peter Braham SC and James Hutton SC, instructed by Ashurst.
- HKIAC arbitration seated in Hong Kong. Acting for a design and construct contractor in a dispute with an insurer and reinsurer concerning the construction of a hotel and casino in Macau. Led by Nuala Simpson SC and Rhea Thrift, instructed by King and Wood Mallesons (ongoing).
- \$800m ACICA arbitration concerning defects and complex delay and disruption claims. Led by Duncan Miller SC, Damian O'Leary and Robert Williams, instructed by LK Law.
- \$25m ad hoc arbitration concerning the construction of a reinsurance contract. Led by Vanessa Whittaker SC, instructed by Jackson Macdonald.
- ICC arbitration seated in New York under New Jersey Law concerning disputes arising out of a distribution agreement. Breach of contract, consumer fraud and CISG claims. Led by Adam Hochroth, instructed by AF Commercial Lawyers.
- \$2.8bn ICC arbitration concerning the construction of an LNG facility. Led by Adam Constable QC (England), Duncan Miller SC and Tim Breakspear SC, instructed by DLA and Clyde & Co.
- *Formerank Ltd v Luo* [2020] NSWSC 1641. Interlocutory application seeking injunctive relief and worldwide disclosure orders in support of an international arbitration seated in Hong Kong under HKIAC Rules. Led by Jonathon Redwood SC, instructed by Clayton Utz.
- Confidential arbitration concerning the construction of a solar farm. Led by Tim Breakspear SC and Mark Sheldon, instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright.
- Acting for Infrastructure NSW in relation to disputes arising out of the construction of the new Sydney Fish Market. Led by Nuala Simpson, instructed by King and Wood Mallesons.
- Infrastructure arbitration concerning the construction a major road network. Led by Jeremy Giles SC, instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright.
- Confidential arbitration concerning the construction of a Tollroad. Led by Tim Breakspear SC, instructed by Ashurst.
- Expert determination concerning defects in infrastructure operated by a NSW Government State Owned Corporation. Led by Tim Breakspear SC, instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright.
- Assistant to the Hon Robert McDougal KC – Lochard Energy & Ors v Energy Australia Investments & Ors (Supreme Court of Victoria). Facilitating multiple expert conclaves.

Select unled matters

- *INPEX Operations Australia Pty Ltd & Anor v AkzoNobel N.V. & Ors, (No 2)* [2024] FCA 815. Unled against silk. Privilege dispute. Instructed by Corrs Chambers Westgarth.
- *Owners Strata Plan 80877 v Lannock Capital 2 Pty Ltd (No 2)* [2024] NSWSC 618. Costs dispute. Acting for Westpac, NAB and others in a

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dispute concerning costs in Mascot Towers proceedings (priority dispute with other creditors). Instructed by Thompson Geer.

- *Shellbay Stones International Pty Ltd v Geoff Hopkins & Associates Pty Ltd* – Supreme Court of NSW, dispute concerning the construction of the Harbord Diggers Club. Instructed by Clayton Utz.
- *Global Switch v Exyte Singapore Pte Ltd* – Supreme Court of NSW. Construction dispute concerning the construction of a specialised IT facility. Instructed by Clayton Utz.
- *Healey v National Australia Bank*, NSW District Court, instructed by Thompson Geer.
- *Jalloh v Multiplex Constructions Pty Ltd & Ors* – District Court of NSW. Construction dispute. Instructed by Mills Oakley.
- Acting for Supabarn in a multimillion-dollar dispute concerning the construction of a shopping centre. Instructed by Corrs Chambers Westgarth.
- *Lavigne v Garrett* – Supreme Court of NSW. Professional negligence claim against solicitors acting on a property transaction (ongoing). Instructed by Quinn Emanuel.
- *Centennial Coal v AirEng Pty Ltd* – construction dispute. Instructed by Sparke Helmore Lawyers.
- *Coronation Property* – Various disputes. Instructed by Landerer & Company.
- *Mavroidis v The Owners – Strata Plan 63341* – Supreme Court of NSW. Strata dispute. Instructed by Summerville Legal.
- *Verizon Connect Australia Pty Ltd v Proactive Drilling Services Pty Ltd* – Local Court. Breach of contract, misleading or deceptive conduct and defects in equipment.
- *Samira Alqastoma v Arcadia Funds Management Pty Ltd* – District Court of NSW. Summary dismissal and negligence proceedings. Instructed by HFW.
- *Meriton v Owners Corporation SP81965 & Ors* – Supreme Court of NSW. Interlocutory application – joinder of parties under r 6.19 of the UCPR and application to transfer proceedings. Instructed by HFW.
- *Barclay Pearce Capital Pty Ltd v Aegros Ltd* – Supreme Court of NSW. Transfer application and subsequent proceedings in the District Court of NSW, instructed by HWL Ebsworth.
- *Lucius Pitkin Inc v AIS Technical Limited* – Supreme Court of NSW. Summary Judgement. Instructed by Bridges Lawyers.
- Confidential arbitration concerning the construction of an aged care facility. Instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright.

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- Publications:** Presentation at ACICA Australian Arbitration Week, 2022. "Nuance, challenge and opportunity: How courts and tribunals are approaching different laws applying to the seat and the contract".
- Co-editor of Ashurst's "Disputes - Year in Review" publication, 2018.
- Australian International Disputes Centre Bulletin, "Hot Tubbing in international arbitration: finding a path through the maze of expert evidence," 2016.
- Energy Source, "Demobilising offshore drilling rigs: shifting costs," 2016.
- Ashurst Australia, Privilege Update, "When fair may be foul: waiver of legal privilege over compliance advice," 2015.
- Co-author of articles on international arbitration for the Australian International Disputes Centre Bulletin, 2012.
- Appointments, memberships and committees:** NSW Bar Association
NSW Bar Association Wellbeing Committee
- Qualifications:** B Mus, JD, G Dip LP

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Background:

2011-2019, Ashurst, Senior Associate

Harriet was a senior associate at Ashurst where she advised and acted for clients in international arbitrations and proceedings in Australian courts.

Oil and Gas Exploration Company: Acting in an LCIA arbitration seated in London under English law concerning a \$90 million contractual dispute with an off-shore drilling contractor (with Dr Andrew Bell SC and James Hutton).

Major Electricity Producer: Acting in two domestic arbitrations concerning claims for force majeure arising from two successive and catastrophic plant failures. The claimant claimed \$75 million in liquidated damages for failure to supply electricity (with Dr Andrew Bell SC and James Hutton).

Petroleum Joint Venture: Acting for an international petroleum joint venture in an UNCITRAL arbitration against a State for the wrongful cancellation of a petroleum development licence and pipeline licence.

Sub-sea contractor: Acting in an ICC arbitration concerning various construction and contractual disputes relating to construction and installation activities at the Chevron Gorgon and Wheatstone LNG facilities (with Duncan Miller SC and James Hutton).

Oil Search: Advising on the defence of class action proceedings in the PNG National Court of Justice concerning alleged contamination of a wetland protected by the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

Loyal Coal (a subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal): acting for Loyal Coal in Federal Court proceedings brought by the ACCC for alleged bid rigging and anti-competitive conduct concerning the tender process for the award of exploration licences in the Bylong Valley (with Dr Ruth Higgins SC).