

Zelie C F Heger

Barrister

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I have a public and commercial law practice, including constitutional law, administrative law, environment and planning law, inquiries, tort and general commercial law. I regularly appear unled in final and interlocutory hearings and as junior counsel in more complex and appellate matters.

Professional history

2013-present	Barrister, Eleven Wentworth Board Member of Eleven Wentworth (2020-2022) Deputy Chair of NSW Bar Association Education Committee, 2023-2024 Leading Administrative/Public Law junior counsel, Doyles Guide, 2022, 2023 Leading Environment and Planning junior counsel, Doyles Guide, 2024
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)• USYD Scholarship for Outstanding Achievement in the HSC• 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

High Court of Australia (current to May 2024)

I have appeared in constitutional and administrative law cases, including for the Cth and NSW:

- *Pearson v Cth* (ongoing) – led by C Lenehan SC, leading M Maynard
- *NZYQ v Cth* [2023] HCA 37 – led by S Donaghue KC, P Herzfeld SC, leading A Hammond
- *Vanderstock v State of Victoria* [2023] HCA 30 – led by M G Sexton SC
- *Minister for Immigration v Montgomery* (heard in 2022, discontinued) – led by S Donaghue KC, C Lenehan SC, P Knowles
- *Mineralogy Pty Ltd, Clive Palmer v WA* [2021] HCA 31 – led by J Thomson SC, S Free SC, J Shaw
- *Cbetcuti v Commonwealth* [2021] HCA 25, [2020] HCA 42 – led by S Donaghue KC, C Lenehan SC
- *Westpac Banking Corporation v Lenthall & Ors* [2019] HCA 45 – led by J Gleeson SC, W A Edwards
- *Clubb v Edwards; Preston v Avery* [2019] HCA 11 – led by J K Kirk SC
- *Plaintiff M47/2018 v Minister for Home Affairs* [2019] HCA 17 – led by S Donaghue KC, P Herzfeld
- *Work Health Authority v Outback Ballooning* [2019] HCA 2 – led by S Donaghue KC, leading T Wood
- *Alford v Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corps and Financial Services* [2018] HCA 57 – led by S Free SC
- *Bell Group NV & Anor v WA* [2016] HCA 21 – led by J Gleeson SC, J Watson and M O'Meara
- *Duncan v ICAC* [2015] HCA 32 – led by B Walker SC, G Watson SC and S Free
- *Duncan v State of NSW* [2015] HCA 13 – led by M G Sexton SC and S Free

Unled matters

Administrative and constitutional law

Tickle v Giggle for Girls Pty Ltd (2024, FCA, reserved) – first case of gender identity discrimination under *Sex Discrimination Act 1984* (Cth) – appeared for Sex Discrimination Commissioner – leading Z Graus

Munkara v Santos NA Barossa Pty Ltd (No 4) [2024] FCA 414 – application to set aside subpoenas issued with view to making third party costs order application – instructed by Marque Lawyers – leading B Smith

Quarry St Pty Ltd v Minister for Crown Lands [2024] NSWCS 107, and at first instance [2023] NSWLEC 62 – judicial review of decision to grant land claim under *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW) – instructed by DPIE – leading C Akthar

CBH23 v Child Support Registrar [2024] FedCFamC2G 201 – appeal from departure prohibition order – statutory construction and estoppel – instructed by Sparke Helmore

Granville Hotel Operations v ILGA [2023] NSWCA 248, at first instance [2022] NSWSC 1408 – judicial review – decision under s 40 *Gaming Machines Act 2001* – instructed by NSW CSO – leading R McCaw

Aymsbeen v Pty Ltd v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue [2023] NSWSC 1237 – motion for separate question on whether payroll tax an excise, s 90 *Constitution* – instructed by NSW CSO – leading B Smith

Huynh v Attorney General (NSW) [2023] NSWCA 190 – whether refusal to refer conviction for inquiry/to CCA made was under federal law and engaged ADJR Act – instructed by NSWCSO – leading S Gerber

Ramsay v Minister for Lands and Water [2023] NSWCA 200 – whether LEC has jurisdiction to hear merits appeal – instructed by DPIE – leading S Hoare

Star Training Pty Ltd v Commissioner of Police (2023-2024, NCAT, reserved) – merits review of decision to revoke security licence – instructed by Maddocks – leading A Hammond

Zillman v Treasury (2023, NCAT, rsvd) – appeared for Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust as third party objector on application under GIPA Act – instructed by Mills Oakley – leading H Ryan

AEC v Craig Kelly [2023] FCA 854 – prosecution of Mr Kelly for breach of electoral law – inconsistency with implied freedom of political communication – instructed by AGS – leading M Jackson

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) – instructed by Clayton Utz – leading E Scoufis

Child Support Registrar v CDJ22 [2023] FCA 1057 – appeal from AAT decision extending child support assessment – instructed by Sparke Helmore – leading E Scoufis

BRD21 v ABC [2023] FCAFC 101; [2021] FCA 960; [2021] FCA 1347 – *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2013* (Cth) – parliamentary privilege – instructed by AGS – unled at first appeal hearing and at first instance; led at second appeal hearing on constitutional point by C Lenehan SC, leading J Wherrett

Children’s Guardian v DVR [2022] NSWSC 1036 – appeal on question of law from NCAT decision granting a working with children check – instructed by NSW CSO – leading C Robertson

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) – instructed by NSW CSO

McDonald v Ku-ring-gai Council [2022] NSWCATAD 17 – application under *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW) re Lindfield Village Hub development – instructed by Sparke Helmore

JKL v Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network [2021] NSWCA 94 – construction of s 48 of *Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990* (NSW) – instructed by NSW CSO

Angilley v Child Support Registrar [2021] FedCFamC1A 52 – appeal from order for payment of child support debt to Full Court – instructed by Mills Oakley

Fain v Ferson (2021, Ierace J, unreported) – resisted injunction prohibiting NSW Health from disclosing risk of blood borne virus to plaintiff’s clients – instructed by NSW CSO

Kazal v Independent Commission Against Corruption [2019] NSWSC 556; [2018] NSWSC 1370 – misfeasance in public office – for ICAC, instructed by NSW CSO

DKP v Children’s Guardian [2019] NSWCATAP 185 – whether proceedings in diversity jurisdiction, *Constitution* s. 75(iv) – whether Appeal Panel exercising judicial power – instructed by NSW CSO

Mahony v Dental Council of NSW [2019] NSWSC 276 – construction of s 158/158A of Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW) – instructed by NSW CSO

Child Support Registrar v MQMV [2019] FCA 1171 – judicial review of AAT decision – jurisdiction to conduct second review, s 96A of the *AAT Act* – appeared as contradictor appointed by the Court

Re WS (No 2) [2017] NSWSC 475 – inconsistency under s 109 *Constitution* between Family Law Regulations and *Adoption Act 2000* (NSW) – appeared for Cth AG, instructed by AGS

Banerji v Minister for Immigration and Border Protection [2017] HCATrans 101 – judicial review of termination of employment, implied freedom of political communication – instructed by Ashurst

Environment and planning

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 – instructed by City of Sydney Council

Weston Aluminium Pty Limited v Environment Protection Authority [2022] NSWCA 236 – statutory construction – whether appellant liable to pay waste levy – instructed by EPA – leading T Poisel

Bathurst Regional Council v Natural Resources Access Regulator [2022] NSWSC 846; [2022] NSWSC 1113; [2021] NSWLEC 109 – judicial review of caution issued by NRAR for breach of *Water Management Act 2000* – instructed by DPIE – leading A Brown

Barana Properties (No 7) Pty Ltd v City of Sydney [2021] NSWLEC 1293 – appeal against conditions of development consent – instructed by City of Sydney Council

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 – instructed by NSW CSO

R v Alpha Nobis FM Pty Ltd (2019, Local Court) – sentencing hearing for breach of development consent – appeared for the Prosecutor – instructed by City of Sydney Council

Environmental Protection Authority v Newcastle Ports Corporation [2019] NSWLEC 92 – application to inspect documents produced under subpoena – whether subject to privilege – instructed by EPA

Help Save Mt Gilead Inc v Mount Gilead Pty Limited (No 4) [2018] NSWLEC 149 – challenge to validity of local environmental plan – instructed by Addisons

Inquiries

Operation Galley – ICAC inquiry into Hurstville City Council/ Georges River Council (2022) – briefed as Counsel Assisting to conduct compulsory examinations and appear at public inquiry

Operation Hector – ICAC inquiry into Inner West Council and Transport for NSW (2023) – briefed to appear for Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd, with R Mansted – instructed by Corrs Chambers Westgarth

High risk offenders / parole

Alameddine (State Parole Authority, 2022) – appeared for Commissioner of Corrective Services at parole hearing – instructed by NSW CSO

Hickey v State Parole Authority [2022] NSWSC 1389 – application for direction to SPA that information was false, misleading or irrelevant under s 176 of *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999* (NSW) – instructed by NSW CSO – leading S Hoare

Attorney General (Cth) v Pender (Preliminary) [2022] NSWSC 1360 – preliminary hearing for application for extended supervision order under *Criminal Code (Cth)* – instructed by AGS – leading J Wherrett

Alameddine v State Parole Authority [2022] NSWSC 726 – judicial review of SPA’s decision to refuse parole – “terrorism related offender” under Div 3A of *CAS Act* – instructed by NSW CSO

State of NSW v JS [2020] NSWSC 28 – application for extended supervision order under *Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006* (NSW) – instructed by NSW CSO

Commercial

Smith v Minister Administering Crown Lands (NSWSC, ongoing) – contractual dispute about sale of Crown Road – instructed by Clayton Utz

Ritchie v Advanced Plumbing and Drains Pty Ltd (No 2) [2022] NSWSC 849 – application under UCPR 42.8 and 42.15A for indemnity costs – instructed by McCabes – leading R McCaw

H2O Exchange Pty Ltd and Innovation and Science Australia [2019] AATA 4195 – whether “R&D activities” under *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth) – instructed by HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

In the matter of Citadel Financial Corporation Pty Ltd [2019] NSWSC 65 – application to set aside statutory demand – appeared for Deputy Commissioner of Taxation – instructed by AGS

White as administrator of estate of Josephine Agnes Virgona v Attorney General NSW [2019] NSWSC 917 – application for cy-près scheme – instructed by NSW CSO

Morrison-Conway & Anor; Estate of the Late Judith Christine Walsh [2018] NSWSC 685 – application for judicial advice under s. 63 of *Trustee Act 1925* – instructed by NSW CSO

Al-Jaafariya Society Inc v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue [2017] NSWCATAD 283 – application for exemption from stamp duty – appeared for Chief Commissioner – instructed by NSW CSO

Led matters

Commercial

Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust v Attorney General NSW [2024] NSWCA 30 – whether property subject to charitable trust – instructed by Mills Oakley – led by M Izzo SC, leading P Springthorpe

Watson v Greenwoods & Herbert Smith Freehills [2023] FCAFC 132 – proper construction of whistleblower protections under ss 1317AD and 1644 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) – instructed by Assured Legal – led by M J Darke SC

Federal Court proceedings concerning Greensill Bank AG (FCA, ongoing) – acting for BCC Trade Credit Pty Ltd proceedings relating to the underwriting of various Greensill risks – instructed by Kennedys – led by P Braham SC, J Williams SC, J Hutton SC; with J Entwisle; D Reynolds; K Dyon and S Thomson

International Minerals Pty Ltd v State of Western Australia [2022] FCA 938 – acted for WA, the Hon Mark McGowan and the Hon John Quigley – application to impose conditions on leave to discontinue proceedings brought by Mr Clive Palmer’s company, International Minerals, alleging unconscionable conduct and misleading and deceptive conduct – instructed by Clayton Utz – led by J Thomson SC

ASIC v Westpac Securities Administration Limited [2021] FCA 1008 – penalty hearing for contravention of s 961K of *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) – instructed by Allens – led by J Williams SC

Lochtenberg v Commissioner of Taxation [2019] FCA 1167 – whether earnings “derived...from foreign service” within s 23AG of ITAA 1936 – instructed by Munro Lawyers – led by M Richmond SC

Pacific Equity Partners Pty Ltd v Kernick [2017] NSWSC 1302 – application for preliminary discovery – alleged disclosure of private equity firm’s “track record” – instructed by KWM – led by J K Kirk SC

Dispute between two resources companies (2017) – four week arbitration before the Hon Kevin Lindgren – instructed by Piper Alderman – led by A Sullivan QC

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* – instructed by Quinn Emanuel – led by J Gleeson SC

Woolworths Limited v About Life Pty Ltd [2017] NSWSC 1117 – dispute regarding lease of premises at Kiaora Lane shopping centre in Double Bay – construction of right of first refusal granted to Woolworths – instructed by Corrs Chambers Westgarth – 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 for objection to NOA under s 14ZX of *Taxation Administration Act 1953* (Cth) – instructed by King & Wood Mallesons – led by M Richmond SC

Public law

EWV20 v Minister for Home Affairs (No 3) [2021] FCA 866 – judicial review of decision to cancel visa under s 501(3)(b) of *Migration Act 1958* (Cth) – instructed by AGS – led by C Lenehan SC

Public Service Association and Professional Officers’ Association Amalgamated Union of NSW v Industrial Relations Commission of NSW [2021] NSWCA 64 – judicial review of IRC’s decision to refuse 2.5% wage increase for public servants in NSW – instructed by NSW CSO – led by I Taylor SC and M Easton

Minister for Home Affairs v Pender [2021] NSWSC 921; [2021] NSWSC 1644 – application for continuing detention order under *Criminal Code* (Cth) – led by P Herzfeld SC, and leading C Ernst

GetSwift Limited v Webb [2021] FCAFC 26 – successful appeal from Lee J’s refusal to disqualify himself from hearing GetSwift class action – appeared for GetSwift – led by M Darke SC and A Shearer

Decision restricted [2021] NSWCA 63 – successfully sought recusal of District Court judge from hearing criminal proceedings – led by G Bashir SC

Ku-ring-gai Council v Buyozo Pty Ltd [2021] NSWCA 177– scope of modification power under s 4.56 EPA Act – proper construction of “gross floor area” under LEP – led by S Free SC

Wilson v Chan & Naylor Parramatta Pty Ltd [2020] NSWCA 213 – whether matter in NCAT within s 76(ii) *Constitution* and, if so, whether NCAT has power to make costs orders – instructed by NSW Crown Solicitor’s Office – led by M G Sexton SC

Osman v State Parole Authority [2020] NSWSC 1392 – judicial review of decision of State Parole Authority – instructed by NSW CSO – led by D Kell SC

Tannous v State of NSW [2020] NSWCA 261 – statutory construction – duration of extended supervision order under *Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006* (NSW) – instructed by NSW CSO – led by D Kell SC

Karimbla Construction Services (NSW) Pty Ltd v Premier of NSW & Ors [2019] NSWLEC 76 – proceedings brought by Meriton group subsidiary seeking mandamus in relation to undetermined planning proposal – application for discovery and for removal of Premier – instructed by NSW CSO – led by J K Kirk SC

Council of the City of Ryde v State of NSW [2019] NSWLEC 47 – validity of State environmental planning policy on low rise medium density housing – instructed by Sparke Helmore – led by J K Kirk SC

Ku-ring-gai Council v Bunnings Properties Pty Ltd [2019] NSWCA 28 – whether LEC’s “amber light” approach to Class 1 planning appeals permitted by statute – instructed by Allens – led by J K Kirk SC

Tort

Ritchie v Advanced Plumbing & Drains Pty Limited [2022] NSWSC 330; [2019] NSWSC 1028 – class action relating to bushfire in Carwoola – instructed by McCabe Curwood – led by P Greenwood SC

Sparks v Hobson [2018] HCATrans 191 – application for special leave – medical negligence – application of ss. 5I and 5O of the *Civil Liability Act 2002* – instructed by Avant Law – led by J K Kirk SC, K Burke

Wright, Glen bbt James Stuart Wright v Optus Administration Pty Limited & Anor [2017] HCATrans 159 – application for special leave – negligence – reasonable foreseeability – aggregation of corporate employees’ knowledge – instructed by Firths – led by B Walker SC

Norris v Routley [2017] HCASL 104 (application for special leave, decided on papers); [2016] NSWCA 367; [2015] NSWSC 883; [2015] NSWSC 1875 – hearing on quantum – action under *Compensation to Relatives Act 1897* (NSW) for damages arising from death of husband due to medical negligence – instructed by Avant Law – led by J K Kirk SC