

CHRISTINE ERNST

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Areas of practice

Christine has a broad practice, advising and appearing for commercial and public sector clients in commercial disputes, regulatory matters, public law matters and insurance matters.

Professional experience

2019-	Barrister
2018-19	Counsel Assisting the Solicitor-General of the Commonwealth
2015-18	Senior Legal Officer/Legal Officer, Attorney-General's Department
2013-14	Lawyer, Allens, Sydney (Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Competition Law)
2012-13	Associate to the Hon Justice Susan Kiefel AC, High Court of Australia

Academic qualifications

2015	Bachelor of Civil Law (Distinction), St John's College, University of Oxford Awarded the Sir Ninian Stephen Scholarship by the Sir Robert Menzies Foundation
2011	LLB (Hons I)/Bachelor of Economic and Social Sciences, University of Sydney Pitt Cobbett and C A Hardwick prizes for Federal Constitutional Law

SELECTED APPEARANCES

Commercial and regulatory

- *Greensill Bank AG v Insurance Australia Limited* and related proceedings arising from the collapse of the Greensill Group, Federal Court of Australia (led by S Finch SC, D Thomas SC and D Hume SC, instructed by Allens for Insurance Australia Group) (ongoing)
- *Hunt Leather Pty Ltd v Transport for NSW* [2025] HCA 53 (led by A Bannon SC, L Shipway and A Hochroth, instructed by the Banton Group, for the lead applicant in a nuisance claim)
- *Zonia Holdings Pty Ltd v Commonwealth Bank of Australia Limited* (High Court, judgment reserved, led by J Gleeson SC, W Edwards KC and C Winnett, instructed by Maurice Blackburn and Phi Finney McDonald, for the applicants in shareholder class actions)
- *Dexus Capital Investment Services Pty Ltd v Australia Pacific Airports Corporation Limited* [2026] NSWSC 600 (led by A Myers KC and Z Hillman, instructed by Gilbert + Tobin, for a shareholder in a dispute arising under a shareholders' deed)
- *Shao v Crown Global Capital Pty Limited* [2025] HCA 43; [2024] NSWCA 302 (appeal); [2023] NSWSC 820 (first instance) (led by S Lawrance SC, instructed by Mangioni Biggs + Co, for the respondents in a contractual dispute)
- *Karpik v Carnival plc (The Ruby Princess)* [2025] FCAFC 96 (led by J Sexton SC and with M Gvozdenovic, instructed by Shine Lawyers, for the lead applicant in a tort and consumer claim)
- *Wright Prospecting Pty Ltd v Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd (No 26)* [2026] WASC 101 (led by C Withers SC, A Hochroth and D Delany, instructed by YPOL Lawyers, for J Hancock and B Rinehart) (appearances at trial and various interlocutory hearings – *Wright Prospecting Pty Ltd v Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd (No 25)* [2024] WASC 132; *Wright Prospecting Pty Ltd v Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd (No 24)* [2023] WASC 393; *DFD Rhodes Pty Ltd v Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd (No 3)* [2023] WASC 392; *DFD Rhodes Pty Ltd v Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd* [2022] WASC 97; *Wright Prospecting Pty Ltd v Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd (No 13)* [2021] WASC 214)
- *Thynne v Jevny Pty Ltd* [2026] NSWCA 40 (led by P Knowles SC, instructed by O'Neill McDonald Lawyers, for the defendant in a trust dispute)
- *FNC Follow-on Fund, LP v Pearl Management Pty Ltd* [2026] NSWSC 69 (unled, instructed by Hamilton Locke, for the plaintiff in a default judgment application)
- *Horizon Capital Fund v Insurance Australia Limited* and related trade commodities insurance litigation, Supreme Court of New South Wales (led by D Hume and J Kennedy, instructed by Allens for Insurance Australia Group) (ongoing)
- *AAI Limited v The Owners – Strata Plan No 91086* [2025] FCAFC 6 (led by J Sexton SC and C Colquhoun SC, instructed by Moray & Agnew, for AAI Limited)
- *Shinetec (Australia) Pty Ltd v The Gosford Pty Ltd* [2025] NSWSC 431 (led by J Kay-Hoyle SC, instructed by King & Wood Mallesons, for the Bank of China in an application to lift a stay on comity grounds)
- *Medical Device Technologies Pty Ltd v Health Administration Corporation* [2024] NSWCA 142 (appeal); [2023] NSWSC 602 (first instance) (led by D Studdy SC, instructed by Gilbert + Tobin, for the Health Administration Corporation in a contract and consumer law claim)

- *Resilient Investment Group Pty Ltd v Barnet and Hodgkinson as liquidators of Spitfire Corporation Limited (in liq)* [2023] NSWCA 118 (appeal); [2022] NSWSC 340 (first instance) (led by M Izzo SC, instructed by Clayton Utz, for the Commonwealth)
- *KTC v David & Ors* [2022] FCAFC 60 (led by A Bannon SC, instructed by YPOL Lawyers for the applicants in a summary dismissal application)
- *Copyright Agency Limited v Isentia Pty Ltd* [2022] FCAFC 163 (led by N Murray SC, instructed by Allens, for News Limited)
- *Thynne v Jevny Pty Ltd* [2025] NSWSC 986 (led by P Knowles SC, instructed by O'Neill McDonald, for the defendants in a family trust dispute)
- *Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Grays Ecommerce Group Limited* [2024] FCA 771 (led by J Williams SC, instructed by Gilbert + Tobin, for the respondent in consumer law proceedings)
- *Matheson Property Group Pty Ltd (Trustee) v Virgin Australia Holdings Limited (No 2)* [2023] FCA 899 (led by M Darke SC, instructed by Gilbert + Tobin, for Virgin Australia Holdings Limited)
- *Shao v One Funds Management Limited (in its capacity as trustee of the Iprosperity JY Hotel Fund)* [2023] VSC 192; [2023] VSC 251 (unled, instructed by Allens, for the respondent)
- *University of Adelaide v Copyright Agency Limited*, Federal Court of Australia (led by N Murray SC, instructed by Banki Haddock Fiora, for Copyright Agency) (settled)
- *Krejci, in the matter of Union Standard International Group Pty Ltd (in liq)* [2021] FCA 1483 (led by R Scruby SC, instructed by Colin Biggers Paisley, for the administrators)
- *TWW Yachts SARL v The Yacht "Loretta" (No 1)* [2021] FCA 240; *(No 2)* [2021] FCA 241 (led by M McHugh SC, instructed by Colin Biggers Paisley, for the plaintiff seeking to enforce contract of sale)
- *Woolworths v SCT Logistics* [2021] NSWSC 344 (led by M McHugh SC, instructed by Colin Biggers Paisley, for the plaintiff)
- *TX Australia Pty Ltd v Australian Competition and Consumer Commission* [2020] FCA 1100 (led by K Morgan SC, instructed by Minter Ellison, for Broadcast Australia intervening)
- *Lavigne v Kumar* [2020] NSWSC 1120 (led by S Lawrance, instructed by Watson Mangioni, for the defendant in a contractual dispute)
- *Hurford Hardwood Kempsey Pty Ltd v Kempsey Timbers (Sawmilling) Pty Ltd (No 5)* [2020] NSWSC 287 (led by R Scruby SC, instructed by Colin Biggers Paisley, for the defendant resisting a third party costs order)
- *Zaps Transport (Aust) Pty Ltd (in liquidation) (controlled appointed) v Catlin Syndicate No 2003* [2020] FCA 1311 (led by M McHugh SC, instructed by Colin Biggers Paisley, for the respondent)
- *Calacoci v Calacoci* [2020] NSWSC 476 (led by S Balafoutis SC, instructed by HPL Lawyers, for the defendants in a partnership dispute)
- *In the matter of Merlin Diamonds Limited (Provisional Liquidator Appointed)*, NSWSC no. 2019/335350 (unled, instructed by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission)

Public law

High Court and intermediate appellate courts

- *Government of the Russian Federation v Commonwealth* [2025] HCA 44 (led by S Donaghue KC and E Smith, for the Commonwealth)
- *Babet v Commonwealth* [2025] HCA 21 (led by S Donaghue KC and B Lim, for the Commonwealth)
- *AIX20 v Director-General of Security* [2025] HCASJ 26 (led by P Herzfeld SC, for the Director-General)
- *Fulton v Chief of the Defence Force* [2025] HCASJ 20 (led by Z Heger SC, for the Chief of the Defence Force)
- *Lama v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs* [2025] HCASJ 13 (unled, for the Minister)
- *HBSY Pty Ltd v Lewis* [2024] HCA 35 (led by S Donaghue KC, for the Attorney-General (intervening))
- *Attorney-General (Cth) v Huynh* [2023] HCA 13 (led by S Donaghue QC and T Glover, for the Attorney-General (intervening))
- *Vunilagi v The Queen* [2023] HCA 24 (led by S Donaghue QC and B Lim, for the Attorney-General (intervening))
- *Ruddick v Commonwealth* [2022] HCA 9 (led by S Donaghue QC and B Lim, for the Commonwealth)
- *Taylor v Attorney-General* [2019] HCA 30 (led by S Donaghue QC, T Begbie and K Evans, for the Attorney-General)
- *Lordianto v Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police; Kalimuthu v Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police* [2019] HCA 39 (led by S Donaghue QC and L Livingston, for the Commissioner)
- *TESA Group Pty Ltd v Mining and Energy Union* [2026] FCAFC 86 (led by T Begbie KC, for the Commonwealth)
- *Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) v President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales* [2026] NSWCA 20 (led by T Begbie KC, for the Commonwealth)
- *AIX20 v Director-General of Security* [2025] FCAFC 38 (appeal); [2024] FCA 1130 (first instance) (led by P Herzfeld SC, for the Director-General of Security)
- *Precious Family Day Care Pty Ltd v Secretary, Department of Education* [2025] FCAFC 148 (led by P Knowles SC, for the Secretary)
- *RCLN v Minister for Immigration and Citizenship* [2025] FCAFC 113 (unled, for the Minister)
- *AKW22 v Commonwealth of Australia* [2024] FCAFC 22 (led by P Knowles SC); *AKW22 v Commonwealth of Australia* [2023] FCAFC 71 (led by N Wood SC, for the Commonwealth)
- *Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police v Yang* [2023] VSCA 271 (led by D McLure SC, for the Commissioner)
- *FKV17 v Minister for Home Affairs* [2022] FCAFC 93 (led by G Kennett SC, for the Minister)

- *Minister for Home Affairs v Lee* [2021] FCAFC 89 (led by G Kennett SC and P Knowles, for the Minister)
- *Carberry v Australian Capital Territory* [2022] ACTCA 55 (unled, for the Territory)
- *LibertyWorks Inc v Commonwealth* [2021] FCAFC 90 (led by S Donaghue QC and T Howe QC, for the Commonwealth)
- *BDS20 v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs* [2021] FCAFC 91 (led by C Lenehan SC, for the Minister)
- *Will v Brighton* [2020] NSWCA 355 (led by T McDonald SC, for the applicant (pro bono))

Other courts and tribunals

- *Central Australian Frack Free Alliance Inc v Minister for Environment* [2024] NTSC 75 (led by G Rich SC and H Baddeley, for Tamboran B2 Pty Ltd)
- *JLW24 v Director-General of Security* [2024] FCA 1319 (led by P Herzfeld SC, for the Director-General of Security)
- *Gaynor v Minister for Communications* [2024] FCA 1186 (led by H Younan SC, for the Minister)
- *NCKX v Australian Information Commissioner* [2024] AATA 1100 (unled, for the Commissioner)
- *Roberts-Smith v Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force* [2023] AATA 1095 (unled before a judicial member, for the Inspector General)
- *Roberts-Smith v Fairfax Media Publications Pty Limited (No 41)* [2023] FCA 555 (led by K Stern SC, A Mitchelmore SC, J Single SC and J Edwards, for the Commonwealth and the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force)
- *Whitebull HTL Pty Ltd v Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority* [2023] NSWSC 588 (led by K Morgan SC, for the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority)
- *Williams v Australian Capital Territory* [2023] ACTSC 18 (led by H Younan SC, for the Territory)
- *Barnes v Director of Professional Services Review* [2023] FCA 129 (led by T Wong SC, for the Director)
- *R v Collaery* [2022] ACTSC 108 (led by P Herzfeld SC and T Begbie QC, for the Attorney-General)
- *Newman v Minister for Health and Aged Care* [2021] FCA 517 (led by C Lenehan SC, for the Minister)
- *Minister for Home Affairs v Pender* [2021] NSWSC 1644 (led by P Herzfeld SC and Z Heger, for the Minister)
- *BNL20 v Minister for Home Affairs & Ors* [2020] FCA 1180; *BNL20 v Dawson* [2020] WASC 315 (for the Commonwealth respondents) (led by P Knowles)
- *Winston v Commonwealth* [2021] NSWSC 62 (led by A Mitchelmore SC, for the Commonwealth)
- *FDT20 v Minister for Home Affairs* [2021] FCA 1484 (led by P Knowles and with C Roberts, for the Minister)
- *Eggleton v Commissioner of Corrective Services NSW* [2021] NSWSC 1605 (unled, for the Commissioner)