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)
- *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)
- *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)
- *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)
- *Fonterra Brands (Australia) Pty Ltd v Bega Cheese Limited* (NSW Court of Appeal, 2025/00202017) (led by Justin Gleeson SC and V Whittaker SC and with B Lambourne, for the appellant in an appeal as to the availability of declaratory relief, instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills) (settled)
- *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] WASCA 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)
- *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)

- *Kingfisher Mobile Australia Pty Ltd v Telstra Limited* (Supreme Court, 2023/00429982) (led by V Whittaker SC and R Pietriche, instructed by King & Wood Mallesons, for Telstra) (settled)
- *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

- *North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency Limited v Northern Territory* (High Court, judgment reserved, led by P Garrisson SC, for the Attorney-General of the Australian Capital Territory)
- *President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales v Cullen* (High Court, judgment reserved, led by P Herzfeld SC, for the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth)
- *White Australia Party v Commonwealth* (High Court, judgment reserved, led by S Roberston SC, for the Attorney General for New South Wales)
- *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 of the Commonwealth (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)