
CHAMBERS ASIA-PACIFIC 2024

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms in Asia-Pacific

Australia



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Aviation

Aviation
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
Clayton Utz
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Mills Oakley
MinterEllison
Band 2
Norton White
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Davis Richard <i>HWL Ebsworth Lawyers</i>
Leece Andrew <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Martin Ben <i>Norton White</i>
Band 2
Douglas Gavin <i>Mills Oakley</i>
Johnston Rebecca <i>Johnston Wheeler (ORL) ♦</i>
Kendal James <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Young Thomas <i>K&L Gates (ORL) ♦</i>
♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allens

What the team is known for Allens is sought after by Australia's major international airports for its expertise in negotiating air service agreements, as well as terminal services and facilities agreements with airlines. The aviation team also advises on airline lease agreements, aviation sector procurement and construction issues. The firm possesses additional strengths in infrastructure access and competition law. Notable clients include Perth Airport, Sydney Airport and NSW Rural Fire Service.

Strengths

"Allens make me feel like a valued client; I feel I can trust them to handle complex, high-importance

Aviation: Liability
Leading Firms
Clyde & Co
Colin Biggers & Paisley
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Norton White
Leading Individuals
Brooks Matthew <i>HWL Ebsworth Lawyers</i>
Cooper James M <i>Clyde & Co</i>
Mackrell Mark <i>Norton White</i>
Tulloch Andrew <i>Colin Biggers & Paisley</i>

matters."

"They are excellent, with quality people at all levels of the team."

Work highlights Allens acted for Multiplex on its successful bid to design and construct the terminal and related works for the new Western Sydney Airport.

Notable practitioners

Practice head David Donnelly is a key contact.

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz maintains a practice with longstanding experience in the aviation industry offering a comprehensive service to international and domestic airports throughout Australia. The law firm's expertise encompasses domestic and international air services agreements, as well as terminal services agreements, airline pricing agreements and airport conditions of use. Its legal team also advises on the development of aviation infrastructure. Clayton Utz's major clients include Commonwealth and state government departments, which it advises on aviation services and airport construction and infrastructure matters, including environmental and planning aspects.

Strengths

"I really rate them; they are commercially astute and excellent negotiators. The partners bring

innovations to the work they do and they have performed incredibly well in negotiations."

"The Clayton Utz team has a deep understanding of the aviation sector and the corresponding legal framework. It is extremely responsive and proactive, while always providing outstanding quality."

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised the Victorian government on the development and negotiation of agreements with both the Commonwealth and Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) and the provision of strategic advice in respect of the development and operation of a new rail link on the airport site.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Leece is a pre-eminent practitioner who represents airlines and government bodies as well as both domestic and international airports. He demonstrates a wealth of experience advising on a wide range of issues, encompassing terminal services agreements, airline pricing agreements and various airport infrastructure-related issues, including land access questions. **Strengths:** "Andrew is a really good operator and understands subject matter unique to the airport space, which puts him in an excellent position to negotiate." "We have received excellent support from Andrew and his team." "Andrew provides a high level of service and coordination of team to manage our issues." "Andrew has outstanding knowledge of the aviation industry." **James Kendal** advises a range of airports on property, pricing and services agreements as well as construction and regulatory matters. His other clients include airlines, state governments and corporates. **Strengths:** "James is a very good adviser who is reliable and technically strong." "James is a very approachable lawyer with good technical skills."

Clyde & Co

What the team is known for Clyde & Co is a leading global aviation firm with Australian offices that

are able to integrate its worldwide expertise to resolve claims arising out of aviation operations. Clients include major international airlines and cargo carriers, which it advises in relation to catastrophic major loss and attritional claims. Notable clients include Emirates and Dnata Catering.

Strengths

"They are always available and provide quick turnaround of documents, with excellent advice and broad and deep commercial awareness."

"They have a detailed knowledge of this area of the law, a keen sense of the practicalities of the aviation sector and are dedicated to their clients' interests."

Work highlights Clyde & Co represented Alpha Flight Services in ongoing defence of claim and court proceedings relating to an allegation of liability for an incident in which a passenger aircraft owned by Bond Business Services and leased to and operated by Brindabella Airlines was damaged at Sydney Airport when struck by a catering vehicle.

Notable practitioners

James Cooper is an established practitioner who acts for a range of clients, including major international airlines, flight training schools and other market participants. He is instructed on claims relating to major loss as well as passenger and workplace injury, cargo and baggage claims. **Strengths:** *"James was very good and very responsive. We had a very contentious matter and they did an excellent job."* *"James offers sound knowledge and great assistance."* *"He is a top-flight transport leasing specialist."* *"I thoroughly enjoyed working with James. His grasp of what we were trying to achieve was excellent."* *"He is very knowledgeable, friendly and responsive."*

Colin Biggers & Paisley

What the team is known for Colin Biggers & Paisley is known for its comprehensive coverage of transport liability matters, including experience representing insurers and their insureds on claims arising from aircraft damage and fatal accidents, as well as in relation to claims for business interruption, cargo losses and other forms of damages. The firm also advises on drafting and amending aviation insurance policies for aircraft and UAVs. The aviation team are also experienced in acting for passengers on compensation rights. Notable clients include QBE Insurance, NTI and AIG.

Work highlights Colin Biggers & Paisley advised HDI Global Specialty on various aircraft accident claims, including a fatal accident at Serpentine WA.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Tulloch advises insurers and claimants on claims relating to cargo damage, fatal accidents, business interruption and personal injury.

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth Lawyers advises airlines and airport clients on commercial and regulatory matters related to their domestic and international operations. The aviation team has experience advising on the establishment of new commercial routes for international airlines, airport expansion matters, airline

asset acquisitions and in assisting clients with securing regulatory approvals. The law firm offers a comprehensive aviation liability practice, which extends to advising major commercial airlines on insurance matters and damage claims. Its notable clients include Perth Airport, Singapore Airlines and Western Sydney Airport.

Work highlights HWL Ebsworth advised an Asian international airline on an application to Australian regulatory authorities for Foreign Air Transport AOC, International Airline Licence and other regulatory approvals.

Notable practitioners

Richard Davis has a well-established practice in commercial aviation matters. He is regularly instructed by airlines, airports and other market participants on regulatory and financial aspects of asset transactions as well as environmental and planning aspects of airport infrastructure.

Matthew Brooks acts for airlines and insurers on passenger claims as well as on various aircraft-related recovery claims.

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for Mills Oakley assists airlines and charterers with regard to the provision of charter services, notably for domestic and international services within the energy and natural resources sector. The law firm also handles transactional mandates with respect to the sale and leasing of aircraft, as well as operational contracts and airport development matters. Notable clients include Qantas Airways, Brisbane Airport Corporation and Sydney Seaplanes.

Strengths

"They are very responsive and diligent."

Work highlights Mills Oakley advised Dove-tail Electric Aviation Holdings on its partnering arrangements with Regional Express Holdings.

Notable practitioners

Gavin Douglas has a well-established aviation practice. He acts for a broad range of clients, including various aircraft operators, on matters relating to leasing, other aircraft-related transactions and aviation technology mandates.

Strengths: *"Gavin is an exceptional lawyer and a pleasure to work with. He is a real asset to Mills Oakley."*

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison is noted for its broad aviation skill set acting for a diverse range of clients, including airlines, airports and aviation industry service providers. The firm is regularly instructed on a variety of mandates, including aircraft operating leases, air safety regulation and enforcement, drone regulation and the establishment of new international commercial flight routes. The team is also experienced with aviation liability matters, as well as advising on employment issues in the aviation sector. Notable clients include Toll Group, the International Air Transport Association and Jetstar Group.

Strengths

"The team is very timely, very good, very strategic, always has a commercial lens and knows our business very well."

Work highlights MinterEllison advised Qantas and Jetstar in relation to authorisation of Jetstar's Pan Asia Strategy, assisting the parties with seeking re-authorisation from the ACCC to enable coordination between Qantas and Jetstar branded companies.

Notable practitioners

A key contact for clients is practice head Beverley Newbold.

Norton White

What the team is known for Norton White maintains a group of dedicated practitioners representing airlines, operators and insurers in litigation arising from aircraft accidents. The team also advises on aviation insurance policy drafting and the full range of legislation and regulation affecting airlines, insurers and aircraft operators in Australia.

Strengths

"They are very user-friendly and practical, as well as market-leading for aviation regulatory investigations."

Notable practitioners

Ben Martin enjoys a strong reputation in the market for aviation law, where he advises across regulatory, competition and transactional matters. **Strengths:** *"Ben is very good and very well recognised."* *"Ben Martin is very user-friendly, very commercial, extremely affable and available."*

Mark Mackrell represents a range of market participants, including airlines and guarantors. He acts on a variety of liability claims and additionally maintains an active practice in regulation and competition in the aviation space. **Strengths:** *"Mark Mackrell is excellent; he is dedicated, knowledgeable, very practical and thorough."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Rebecca Johnston of Johnston Wheeler advises a wide range of clientele in the aviation industry on transactional, environmental, and regulatory compliance issues, as well as charter operations.

Strengths:

"I am very pleased with Rebecca's abilities, advice and performance."

"Rebecca is well informed and keeps up with the constantly changing environment."

"She is polite, client-sensitive and a true professional in all aspects of business."

"Her service levels and expertise are excellent."

Thomas Young of K&L Gates is regularly instructed by aircraft operators and a variety of other industry actors to give regulatory and contractual advice. He demonstrates experience in both domestic and cross-border mandates.

Strengths:

"Tom Young has a very strong understanding of our industry and brings a lot of commercial awareness to any transaction."

"Tom has a clear understanding of the issues to be resolved."

"It was a pleasure working with Tom."

Banking & Finance

Banking & Finance: Acquisition Finance
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
Ashurst
Gilbert + Tobin
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
Band 2
Clayton Utz
Clifford Chance
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Band 3
Baker McKenzie
Johnson Winter Slattery
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Cho Yuen-Yee <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Schembri John <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Wytenburg Shawn <i>Ashurst</i>
Band 2
Christopher Gail <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Gordon Richard <i>Clifford Chance</i>
Kidston Mark <i>Allens</i>
Mosley John <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Neilson Hayley <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Robertson Stewart <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Schlosser Alex <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Band 3
Beckett David <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>
Cormack Stuart <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Gourlay Alastair <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Lynch Simon <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Stawell Will <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Tang Kenneth <i>Gadens</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

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Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy has a strong cross-border practice advising borrowers and lenders on corporate finance matters, including structured lending arrangements. The banking and finance team is proficient in structuring multicurrency credit facilities and is able to draw on expertise from the firm's global reach to supplement its capability in multi-jurisdictional transactions. Its clients include domestic and international banks and financial institutions, private equity firms and high-profile corporations. Its key clients include Ventia, Forum Partners and Oaktree.

Strengths

"Allen & Overy is our preferred provider for Australian financing transactions; the level of service is a key aspect of maintaining preference. The team understands commercial considerations and provides pragmatic advice."

"Their practitioners are experts in their field, with excellent expertise and the ability to explain complex concepts simply."

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised Starwood and BREDS on its financing of the AUD8.9 billion

Banking & Finance Asset Finance & Leasing
Leading Firms
Band 1
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
Band 2
Allens
Band 3
Ashurst
MinterEllison
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Huinink Jason <i>Allen & Overy LLP</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Angus John <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Canning John <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Band 2
Maxton Alan <i>Allens</i>
Mok James <i>MinterEllison</i>
O'Shea Jock <i>Ashurst</i>
Band 3
Bouudy Renee <i>Allens</i>
Elias John <i>MinterEllison</i>
Rayner Dale <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>

acquisition of Crown Resorts by entities owned by Blackstone and its affiliates.

Notable practitioners

Jason Huinink is a leading asset financing practitioner with a broad-ranging practice covering transactions involving assets as varied as aircraft and mining equipment. He is a senior consultant in the firm's Sydney office.

Allens

What the team is known for Allens is noted for its leading full-service practice with top-tier domestic and international bank clients, as well as global corporates and funds. The firm possesses a market-leading acquisition finance practice with notable strengths in the areas of defence and logistics acquisitions, and is very well regarded for property financing and large syndicated corporate financing. The team is prominent in asset finance and leasing, operating across all major asset classes, notably including aircraft and automotive. Allens is also able to leverage its alliance with the global Linklaters network to further assist clients. Its key clients include Woolworths, IFM Investors and Zenith Energy.

Strengths

"The Allens team can coordinate a large number of relationships in a dynamic fashion. Their actions are always constructive to allow for a satisfactory commercial outcome for both sides to eventuate."

"They are across industry and market practices. They consistently meet deadlines and provide guidance on critical issues."

Work highlights Allens advised Star Entertainment on its AUD1.1 billion debt facilities, including the establishment of the lending platform, ongoing debt facilities and the bank waivers to facilitate the AUD800 million equity raise

Banking & Finance: Property Finance
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
Ashurst
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
MinterEllison
Band 2
Clayton Utz
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Band 3
Arnold Bloch Leibler
Dentons
Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 4
Baker McKenzie
Gadens
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Maddocks
McCullough Robertson
Mills Oakley
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Gurney Graeme <i>Mills Oakley</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Astridge Ken <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Berriman Tony <i>MinterEllison</i>
Coleman Martin <i>Ashurst</i>
Marks Daniel <i>MinterEllison</i>
Band 2
Cottrell Melita <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
De Jong Leigh <i>MinterEllison</i>
O'Shea Jock <i>Ashurst</i>
Santikos Kathy <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Band 3
Folan Jo <i>Allens</i>
Gilham David <i>McCullough Robertson</i>
Husband Brad <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Key Brenton <i>Ashurst</i>
Kidston Mark <i>Allens</i>
Lipscombe Timothy <i>Dentons</i>
Mahoney Ben <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>
Nguyen Kenneth <i>Ashurst</i>
Self Henry <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Sharp Stephen <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>
Solomon Ian <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>

announced in February 2023.

Allens advised a syndicate of domestic and international financiers on its portfolio debt financing package to Squadron Energy as part of its approximately AUD4 billion acquisition of CWP Renewables.

Notable practitioners

Tom Highnam is active on corporate and acquisition finance, and is particularly noted for his work in the funds finance area. **Strengths:** "Tom always takes the time to step back and look at the bigger picture, applying a commercial lens to ensure the legal advice given is practical and relevant." "He's very good when it comes to more complex issues. I engage him when it's not plain vanilla and I need an extra layer of experience and expertise." **Mark**

Banking & Finance: Corporate Finance	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Allens	
Ashurst	
Gilbert + Tobin	
Herbert Smith Freehills	
King & Wood Mallesons	
Band 2	
Clayton Utz	
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	
MinterEllison	
Norton Rose Fulbright	
Band 3	
Allen & Overy LLP	
Arnold Bloch Leibler	
Baker McKenzie	
Clifford Chance	
Dentons	
Johnson Winter Slattery	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Cho Yuen-Yee	King & Wood Mallesons
Maxton Alan	Allens
Schembri John	Gilbert + Tobin
Band 2	
Coleman Martin	Ashurst
Highnam Tom	Allens
Lynch Simon	Gilbert + Tobin
Robertson Stewart	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Smith Steve	Ashurst
Wytenburg Shawn	Ashurst
Band 3	
Bourke Aaron	King & Wood Mallesons
Christopher Gail	Gilbert + Tobin
Cunningham Matthew	MinterEllison
D'Angelo Nuncio	Norton Rose Fulbright
Gourlay Alastair	Baker McKenzie
Hunwick Jim	Pinsent Masons (ORL) ◇
Maynes Andrew	King & Wood Mallesons
Oldham Jonathan	King & Wood Mallesons
Paisley Bryan	Hogan Lovells International LLP (ORL) ◇
Schlosser Alex	Clayton Utz
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Kidston is a respected acquisition finance practitioner who also handles property financing matters and leads Allens' leveraged finance practice. **Strengths:** "Mark is very user-friendly and easy to work with. He's well respected on both sides by sponsors and banks and very thorough and solutions-focused." **Alan Maxton** is one of Australia's leading figures in corporate and asset finance, with an impressive track record advising some of Australia's largest companies on their financing transactions and asset-backed lending. **Strengths:** "He's top-notch – highly experienced, responsive and commercial." "He is extremely knowledgeable, with an excellent ability to distil complex legal matters and make them easy to understand by putting them into plain English." **Renee Boundy** specialises in asset finance and handles a range of matters including aircraft, airport and automotive financing. **Jo Folan** heads the property finance practice and is known for representing borrowers, lenders and sponsors on significant mandates. **Strengths:** "Jo Folan seam-

lessly integrates into our team. She can come in and be a value-add on any deal."

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler is noted for its highly respected property finance practice, particularly with regard to its representation of borrowers, such as property developers, real estate companies and investment groups, on the financing of property acquisitions and developments. The firm also assists borrowers and lenders on corporate financing mandates, including large cross-border syndicated facilities, bespoke bilateral facilities and refinancings. Its clients include private family groups, investment funds, domestic and international banks, and project sponsors and underwriters. Its key clients include carsales.com, Nufarm and AsheMorgan.

Strengths

"They always find a commercially appropriate solution. They offer quick response times and always have appropriately skilled staff available."

"We find the skill level and service to be excellent, no matter the combination of lawyers on any given matter."

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler advised Hemsley Capital in relation to the proposed USD5 billion financing of Kumul Petroleum Holdings.

Arnold Bloch Leibler advised Corsair Capital in connection with negotiating and structuring its investment in a joint venture to acquire the former Amcor paper mill in Alphington, in Melbourne.

Notable practitioners

Ben Mahoney is a respected property finance specialist with noted expertise in the area of property development facilities. **Stephen Sharp** is an experienced lawyer who is noted for his expertise with regard to property finance matters.

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst maintains a highly respected lender-side practice with panel appointments for all of the major Australian banks and frequent engagements from international financial institutions operating in Australia. The team is highly regarded for its expertise in the handling of large syndicated corporate transactions and leveraged acquisitions, adeptly handling cross-border and domestic matters. Ashurst is well reputed for property finance and offers notable experience in the areas of asset finance and leasing, and in advising corporate borrowers on high-value and complex refinancing matters. The law firm offers clients a full and global service, drawing on expertise in other practice areas, such as M&A, real estate and tax, with additional benefit from the firm's international presence. Its key clients include ANZ, MUFG and Fletcher Building.

Strengths

"Ashurst has a very experienced team who make themselves available at all times, under tight timeframes. The team has the ability to assess both commercial issues as well as legal issues."

"The team has a great depth and breadth of experience and offers more than just legal advice. They understand us as a client and tailor their advice to our unique structure. Their market knowledge is

very valuable to us."

Work highlights Ashurst acted for NAB, CBA, and HSBC as the lenders and agents for Australian Grain Export's AUD290 million syndicated asset-backed facility.

Ashurst advised the lenders and ESG structuring coordinators on the senior secured syndicated and bilateral club sustainability-linked loan facilities provided to the Charter Hall Office Trust.

Notable practitioners

Martin Coleman has a strong reputation for advising on property and infrastructure finance. He is also sought out by major banks and financiers for complex corporate finance issues.

Strengths: "Martin is astonishingly affable, but below that approachable surface, he is a formidable lawyer with an ability to crush in negotiation, but only when necessary. He has a finely tuned awareness of which buttons to push and when to push them."

Shawn Wytenburg is a leading figure in the space with significant experience in both corporate and acquisition finance matters.

Strengths: "Shawn is one of the leading lending counsel lawyers in the Australian market."

Jock O'Shea is singled out by sources for his expertise in asset and property financing, with experience across a range of real estate and asset classes. **Strengths:** "Jock is efficient, professional and commercial." **Steve Smith** has a practice that encompasses a broad range of corporate financing matters. He has particular experience in complex cross-border financing, senior and mezzanine debt packages and hybrid instruments.

Strengths: "Steve is extremely sharp but not brash about it. His ability to see the big picture makes him a great asset."

Brenton Key focuses principally on property finance issues, acting for leading Australian and international banks on transactions across the commercial, residential, industrial and hospitality property spectrum. **Kenneth Nguyen** is head of the Ashurst global loans team and is best known for his adept handling of real estate financings. He advises financiers, including banks and private credit funds, as well as corporate borrowers and developers. **Strengths:** "Kenneth is well known and has a strong market presence."

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie is well regarded for its considerable bank-side work in the property sector, assisting lenders with the provision and refinancing of sizeable cross-border facilities. The firm frequently acts for major clients in the renewable energy sphere on significant financing transactions in this sector. The firm leverages its large network of international offices to handle cross-jurisdictional mandates. Its key clients include CEP Energy, Virtus and Westpac.

Strengths

"All of the lawyers we have worked with at Bakers are very strong and can handle complex and sophisticated matters. They are very responsive and can handle many different types of matters effectively."

"The team is well rounded and very responsive, with strong up-and-comers."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised the joint lead arrangers on financing EQT's AUD2.4 billion acquisition of Icon.

The firm also advised OMERS Infrastructure on negotiating and documenting a committed non-recourse financing package from NAB and RBC for its AUD950 million acquisition of TPG Telecom's mobile towers assets and rooftop portfolio.

Notable practitioners

Alastair Gourlay advises investors, banks and funds on a range of domestic and cross-border corporate and acquisition finance matters.

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz has a considerable reputation for acquisition financing arrangements and the refinancing of corporate facilities. The banking team advises a variety of borrowers and financiers on the financing of property acquisitions and developments with complex and cross-jurisdictional elements. The firm acts on large-scale domestic and cross-border financing for an impressive list of banking, investment and brokerage clients. It offers clients a full range of integrated services across the commercial and front-end banking practice areas to support clients on major LBO, MBO and IPO mandates. Its key clients include Blackstone, New Forests and Clean Energy Finance.

Strengths

"The team work very hard and are very responsive to emails and requests for phone meetings. The partner values the relationship and is not solely focused on billable hours."

"Clayton Utz has the necessary mix of technical skills and knowledge and extensive experience across the firm. Clayton Utz was able to provide timely advice and understand the commercial drivers of the deal."

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised Goldman Sachs, as arranger and underwriter, and the lender syndicate on its AUD675 million multicurrency facilities to AUB, including for the acquisition of Tysers from Odyssey Investment Partners. The firm also acted for National Australia Bank as agent and two bank syndicates in relation to the concurrent and linked refinancing of Spotlight's two existing retail and property syndicated facilities agreements.

Notable practitioners

Kathy Santikos enjoys a strong reputation for property finance work, particularly for matters involving cross-border aspects. **Strengths:** *"Kathy has been able to drive negotiation results and pin down issues that lead to favourable outcomes. Kathy has always been responsive and considerate to the client's situation."* **Alex Schlosser** offers expertise in both acquisition and corporate finance. His clientele includes private equity firms, major banks and corporate borrowers.

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance is noted for its robust team of banking and finance practitioners with a proven ability to deliver on acquisition finance, including cross-border mandates. The firm possesses additional expertise in corporate finance transactions and regularly acts

for major multinational lenders. Its key clients include Bluescope, Webuild and Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Strengths

"Clifford Chance has an excellent team with depth and solid knowledge. They offer quick, professional responses and a solid understanding of commercial imperatives and choices."

"Clifford Chance provided clear, practical advice. The communication between the team was good, and the whole team was up to speed with all the issues of the transaction."

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised Partners Group on its portfolio-level vendor staple debt financing for its sale of CWP Renewable to Squadron Wind Energy Assets.

Clifford Chance advised Highbridge Capital Management and Whitebox Advisors on the negotiation of a EUR100 million senior secured convertible facility for Mithra Pharmaceuticals.

Notable practitioners

Richard Gordon is a highly experienced partner based in Sydney, where he is noted for his expertise in acquisition and leverage finance. His experience spans complex and substantial syndicated loans, as well as sustainability-linked facilities.

Strengths: *"Richard is an excellent lawyer. He is incredibly knowledgeable, calm under pressure and personable. His advice was balanced and he understood the commercial objectives."*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth boasts an established team targeting quality corporate and real estate acquisitions. The team is experienced acting on cross-border mandates for borrowers and lenders, especially supporting international financiers with their Australian activity, and has established credentials assisting foreign private equity clients with Australia financing arrangements and repricing. The law firm acts on a wide range of property matters including acquisitions, developments and refinancings. Its key clients include Coca-Cola, Goldman Sachs and Tritium DCFC.

Strengths

"Corrs has taken a commercial and pragmatic approach to solving issues. The firm has an ability to prioritise key issues and negotiate effectively. They never missed deadlines."

"They are very strong, not just in handling matters, but also in explaining them in simple terms to help find solutions. The team are always very impressive."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised the mandated lead arrangers, underwriters and bookrunners to Stonepeak and Spirit Super on their AUD1.1 billion joint bid for Geelong Port from SAS Trustee and LINX Cargo Care.

The Corrs team advised Oversea-Chinese Banking on loan facilities provided to the LaSalle group to fund the acquisition of the Crossroads Home-maker Centre in Casula in New South Wales.

Notable practitioners

John Mosley commands an excellent reputation for acquisition finance work. He advises private and public funds, as well as major banks and other investors. **Strengths:** *"John is a brilliant adviser who provides sound and timely advice and consist-*

ently delivers great outcomes." **Stewart Robertson** has an established reputation for his work in corporate and acquisition finance, with particularly noted expertise where restructuring and multicurrency facilities are concerned. **Strengths:** *"He is proactive, provides excellent insight, and I know if he is leading the transaction, I can be sure of a great outcome for all stakeholders."* **Brad Husband** is head of the Corrs Chambers Westgarth property finance team in Melbourne and counts both bank and non-bank lenders amongst his clientele. **Strengths:** *"Brad proactively engages in matters to minimise potential conflicts. He provides a commercial interpretation of negotiated points aligned to the target audience."* **Henry Self** is well regarded as a property finance specialist who acts prominently on development financing matters. **Strengths:** *"Henry provides a very solid and efficient service on real estate financings."* *"Henry is very experienced and provides excellent service."*

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons maintains a well-regarded practice acting for the major banks on the financing arrangements for property developments and acquisitions. The team offers domestic and cross-border expertise in syndicated and bilateral corporate finance and bank lending. The law firm has a strong bank-side practice, counting domestic and overseas banks among its clients, but also advises borrowers, funds and government agencies on various banking and finance matters. Its key clients include ING, Macquarie Group and Moneytech Finance.

Strengths

"Dentons are very responsive, always available and easy to get hold of, and they make you feel like they're only doing your work."

Work highlights Dentons advised Ardonagh on the negotiation of working capital facilities and syndicated acquisition of the Envest group of companies.

The team also advised Marquette Property on the financing of its asset acquisition programme.

Notable practitioners

Timothy Lipscombe has an established reputation for expertise in the property finance market and regularly acts on complex cross-border mandates.

Gadens

What the team is known for Gadens is noted for its strong domestic practice with a prominent regional capability. The banking and finance team acts primarily for major domestic banking institutions, especially in matters relating to real estate, property and construction finance, including structured and syndicated finance. The team also advises borrowers on the financing agreements for real estate acquisitions and developments. The law firm operates within the institutional bank, corporate bank, commercial bank, business bank, retail bank and self-managed superannuation fund markets. Its key clients include Commonwealth Bank of Australia, CBR Development Group and Centuria Bass.

Strengths

"They are responsive to our queries and provide timely assistance, with good expertise across their

legal platform. They always provide us with sound commercial advice.”

“Gadens understood all key deliverables. Key areas of expertise were introduced as required, with proactive service always available on short notice.”

Work highlights Gadens acted for IDA Property Finance in a AUD76 million facility to fund the acquisition of land parcels in Werribee, in Victoria.

Notable practitioners

Kenneth Tang concentrates on large and complex deals in the acquisition finance space. He is noted for his considerable experience in unitranche financing, as well as funds.

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin boasts a top-tier practice advising market-leading acquisition finance players and possessing strong expertise with regard to large corporate refinancings. The firm has extensive experience acting on complex financings for private equity sponsors, banks and corporations. Its banking and finance team handles cross-border deals, especially those involving US private equity and US term loan B markets. It also enjoys an established reputation acting for both borrowers and lenders, including international investment banks. Key clients include Aware Super, Alinta Energy and Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Strengths

“They are extremely sophisticated and well-versed in managing and resolving issues. They know when to push and when to release pressure.”

“They have a deep and well-experienced bench. They understand the turnaround times required and are across all relevant deals and current market trends.”

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin advised CDC Data Centres on the AUD2.7 billion refinancing and upsizing of its debt facilities and its AUD308 million US private placement issuance.

Gilbert + Tobin advised Westpac, MUFG and Sumitomo Mitsui as the mandated lead arranger, bookrunner and underwriter on the financing of the AUD2.35 billion acquisition by Aurizon of freight rail group One Rail Australia from MIRA and PGGM, and the subsequent divestment of the ECR business to the Magnetic Rail Group.

Notable practitioners

John Schembri maintains his longstanding reputation as a leading acquisition and corporate finance lawyer. **Strengths:** “John is in the top echelon of legal practitioners in the Australian market.” “John is the standout leveraged finance lawyer in the Australian market. His great depth of experience, coupled with his ability to grapple successfully with complex problems and his commercial focus on client needs, position him as our first call on all leveraged financings.” **Gail Christopher** enjoys a strong reputation for her acquisition finance work and frequently provides advice to an impressive clientele consisting of major private equity firms and banks. **Strengths:** “She is deeply experienced, with great bedside manner, and proactive. I’m very happy with the service.” “She’s very hard-working and solutions-focused, as well as collaborative with clients. She will always find workable answers for everyone and is a really good problem-solver.” **Stuart Cormack** is active

advising both lenders and sponsors on high-profile leveraged finance mandates and acquisition facilities. **Strengths:** “Stuart is sophisticated, commercial, sensible, responsive and easy to use.” “He’s excellent and has already thought of a solution that works from a legal and also commercial perspective. Stu is just terrific.” **Simon Lynch** has considerable experience in corporate and acquisition finance and is frequently sought after for major mandates. **Strengths:** “Simon is excellent; he’s well connected and very knowledgeable. He can resolve things for his clients.” “His ability to delineate the issue and resolve it expediently is incredibly valuable.”

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills is renowned for its full-service practice with high-quality capabilities across the sector. The banking and finance team has notable experience on asset leasing matters combined with well-honed expertise acting on high-value real estate development and corporate financing and refinancing arrangements, acting for borrowers and lenders. The team has further expertise representing borrowers in relation to acquisition financings. The law firm also operates on complex cross-border financing, leveraging its broader global presence to assist multinational clients. Key clients include UBS, Deutsche Bank and Ampol.

Strengths

“The depth of the team has been excellent and they have shown true breadth of knowledge and experience.”

“The team were always available and responded immediately. They drove the negotiations forward during periods of difficulty and did so with an excellent level of professionalism. The quality of the work was top-notch.”

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills negotiated QIC’s new syndicated facility agreement, which links into a common terms deed with a syndicate of Australian and overseas lenders and bilateral lenders to refinance existing syndicated facilities and to recapitalise its core real estate fund.

Herbert Smith Freehills advised Export Finance Australia on its multi-jurisdiction USD1.33 billion financing of Telstra’s USD1.6 billion acquisition of Digicel Pacific.

Notable practitioners

John Angus is positioned at the forefront of the asset finance and leasing market and has considerable experience in aviation finance. **Strengths:** “He’s an exceptional lawyer who is great to work with.” “John’s many years of experience and deep knowledge of our business shines through in the service and expertise he provides.” **Melita Cottrell** is recognised for her expertise in major property finance matters and regularly acts for large funds, REITs, major banks and other investors. **Hayley Neilson** enjoys a strong reputation for acquisition finance, especially in private equity financing transactions, and regularly acts on complex matters.

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth Lawyers has a noteworthy team with a substantial presence in the property finance market. The firm represents banks, property developers and corporate borrowers on the financing of real estate acquisitions and developments. The team is active across a number of sectors including healthcare and retirement villages, retail, hospitality and agribusiness.

Strengths

“They look after our banking matters and are very practical and commercial.”

Notable practitioners

Harry Cormack, based in Sydney, is a key contact.

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery is recognised for its well-established borrower-side practice, advising on financing and refinancing matters. Its clients include ASX-listed corporations and private equity firms, as well as private companies and non-bank lenders on certain financing matters. The firm does not appear on major bank panels so as to give borrower clients maximum, conflict-free support. The banking team frequently handles corporate and acquisition finance matters.

Strengths

“Team members are strong. I find them easy to deal with, highly competent and over the details. They are my go-to advisers on all matters banking and finance-related.”

“They have deep experience and are always looking to round out issues quickly, while being very conscious of budget.”

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery advised on all aspects of the Adbri group’s circa AUD900 million core senior debt facilities, including transactional banking facilities, ISDA swap facilities and equipment finance facilities.

Notable practitioners

David Beckett is recognised for his expertise in acquisition finance and is active on a range of mandates. He is a frequent adviser to private equity houses and corporate borrowers.

Strengths: “David provides us with exceptional advice and keeps us aware of our business, so he knows how best to guide us. I highly rate and recommend him.”

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons stands out for its leading banking group which is active on sophisticated financing arrangements for borrowers, lenders and sponsors. The firm boasts an enviable client list, including major domestic and multinational financial institutions, property and infrastructure developers and investment funds. The team has a sterling reputation in all banking and finance disciplines, including asset, property, acquisition and corporate finance. It also deals with major cross-border aviation and shipping transactions and advises on innovative corporate finance products. The banking team is supported by King & Wood Mallesons’ strong practice in financial services regulation to provide clients with a comprehensive service, as well as top-tier corporate

and restructuring service offerings. Its key clients include Reliance Rail, HSBC and Australian Unity Investment Real Estate.

Strengths

"They are very high-quality. All of the partners I've dealt with have been excellent. They are very commercial, attentive and across our needs."

"The team have a great balance of being very sound and technical while taking a pragmatic and commercial approach that helps drive great outcomes. They are absolutely top-rate."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons advised BGH Capital on a AUD370 million holdco financing for the takeover of Virtus Health and consequently documented and closed AUD495 million first and second-lien term loan B facilities to finance the takeover.

The firm acted for Kestrel Coal, and sponsors EMR Capital and Adaro, on an USD860 million syndicated facility agreement.

Notable practitioners

Ken Astridge is one of the leading figures in the property finance sphere, where he has an impressive track record advising on funding major residential and infrastructure developments. **Strengths:** *"Ken is very specialised and has been around for a long time. He's very smart and stands out."* **John Canning** is a leading asset finance lawyer, with significant experience in the aviation finance field and structured cross-border finance transactions. **Yuen-Yee Cho** is a leading acquisition and corporate finance lawyer and regularly advises major corporates, banks and private equity funds on complex debt structures. **Strengths:** *"Yuen-Yee, in our opinion, is the best debt lawyer in the market. She is commercial but also deeply in touch with market and individual lender dynamics, which enables her to tailor advice to each specific situation flexibly and ensure that she delivers the absolute finest possible negotiation position, whatever the situation."* *"She's the best financing lawyer in the market."* **Aaron Bourke** has an established reputation for corporate finance matters and frequently acts on the arrangement of cross-border facilities. **Strengths:** *"He's a really great practitioner and a good human being with a loyal client base."* **Andrew Maynes** heads King & Wood Mallesons' Sydney office and is regularly called on by both banks and borrowers to advise on a range of corporate financings, from sizeable syndicated borrowing arrangements to green sustainability-linked loans to acquisition financing. **Strengths:** *"He is very productive in terms of getting things done, which is important to me."* **Jonathan Oldham** is based in Melbourne and is co-head of the firm's banking and finance department. He is mandated by both lenders and borrowers to advise on a range of corporate financings, as well as the refinancing of existing debt. **Strengths:** *"Jonathan has a strong standing in the market."* **Dale Rayner** is frequently engaged by major domestic and international banks. He has considerable experience in the asset finance sphere, advising on leasing platforms and structured financing arrangements. **Strengths:** *"Put senior management in front of him, and he can articulate complex regulatory environments in simple language. The way he communicates is flawless."* **Ian Solomon** is a distinguished practitioner

in the property finance space and is particularly relied upon for complex transactions. **Strengths:** *"He's a fantastic lawyer and relationship partner."*

Will Stawell is a specialist in acquisition finance and is based in the firm's Sydney office. His work spans the full gamut of acquisition financing, of late including holdco financings and the refinancing of acquisition facilities. **Strengths:** *"Will is excellent and a lovely bloke."* *"He brings a calm assuredness to negotiations and gets on with it. His strategic calls are quality, and he's such a fun, engaging person to work with."*

Maddocks

What the team is known for Maddocks fields an experienced property finance team from its Melbourne office. The team is regularly mandated on construction and project development financings, as well as asset financing matters. The firm often acts for property developers, asset managers and investors, as well as advising banks as lenders and non-bank private debt providers. Its key clients include Macquarie Bank, Madigan Capital and JDH Capital.

Strengths

"They have a great spread of experience and youth across their team. They acknowledge key steps and deliver on time, commonly before deadlines."

"They are a highly skilled team technically, and commercially astute, with good breadth throughout the team and a proactive and solution-oriented approach."

Work highlights Maddocks advised Qualitas on a senior syndicated construction debt facility advanced under its AUD600 million funding package for the new Aura Aqualand luxury development in North Sydney.

Notable practitioners

Arlene Colquhoun and Ilan Kraus are key contacts and co-heads of department.

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson is a noteworthy firm in the property finance market active on both purchase and development mandates. The financing team represents borrowers, developers and lenders, maintaining a roster of clients which includes banks, government bodies and private companies. The law firm is noted for its substantial presence in Queensland whilst also fielding expertise out of New South Wales.

Strengths

"The team consistently works through complex finance and provides practical and workable legal and commercial solutions. They are always available for a phone call and are very responsive."

"They offer strong leadership supported by a team that is capable and experienced. I feel confident that complex issues will be dealt with in a pragmatic and commercial manner."

Notable practitioners

David Gilham advises both investors and borrowers on structuring transactions and financing for residential and infrastructure developments. **Strengths:** *"David Gilham is great to work with."* *"David is extremely good when issues crop up."*

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for The Mills Oakley practice is noted for acting for major domestic and international banks as well as non-bank lenders on the financing arrangements for property developments and acquisitions. The firm also assists a range of borrowers and developers on property-related financings. Its key clients include Bank of Communications, Dangar St Wickham and Hycorp Group.

Strengths

"Mills Oakley operates with a culture of teamwork and is concerned with its clients getting the best results and not just disregarding the expected outcome for the sake of charging the client."

Work highlights Mills Oakley advised Dangar St Wickham, an entity associated with Multipart, on its facility agreement provided by the Dorado finance group to fund a property development in Newcastle.

Notable practitioners

Graeme Gurney maintains his position as a leading property finance lawyer, with significant experience advising prominent clients.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison maintains a market-leading property financing practice acting on substantial facilities for real estate acquisitions and construction projects, including green loan facilities. The firm is recognised for its expertise in acting for borrowers and lenders across infrastructure acquisitions as well as asset finance and leasing matters, especially in the aviation sector. The team has established relationships with leading domestic banks and multinational investment banks, as well as with prominent non-bank lenders. Key clients include AMP Capital, Bolton Clarke and Qantas.

Strengths

"They provide a very strong legal perspective when negotiating complex issues, but this doesn't come at the cost of a commercial lens."

"They can get their heads around complicated financing and due diligence and have the resources, so responses are elite. The way they manage tight turnarounds from a financing perspective is a standout."

Work highlights MinterEllison advised a syndicate of 12 banks on AUD1.47 billion secured facilities to Scape to fund 27 student accommodation buildings across Australia.

The firm represented the lenders in the funding of ESR's Australia Development Partnership fund, a develop-to-hold logistics fund.

Notable practitioners

Tony Berriman is a seasoned practitioner who enjoys a leading reputation in the property finance space. He boasts an impressive track record advising institutional banks and large property developments on major developments and real estate transactions. **Daniel Marks** is a leading figure for property finance and regularly advises bank syndicates on high-value facilities. **Strengths:** *"Daniel is an excellent banking lawyer and someone I wanted to specifically shout out."* *"Daniel is a standout."* **Leigh De Jong** acts for investors, banks, developers and REITs on complex and high-value property finance trans-

actions. **Strengths:** “I highly rate Leigh in the commercial real estate financing area and his ability to deliver a transaction.” “He’ll have seen every issue before and has an excellent sense of the market; he’s an incredibly safe pair of hands.” **James Mok** acts on asset finance mandates, most notably in the aviation sector. He is a frequent adviser to aviation companies and major banks. **Matthew Cunningham** receives plaudits for his corporate finance activity, and is noted for his presence in the agribusiness sector. **Strengths:** “Matthew is a great conduit to the MinterEllison brand. He is constantly available and has strong commercial awareness.” **John Elias** operates a respected asset finance practice, acting for both domestic and international banks, other financial institutions and leading corporates.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright acts for banking syndicates on high-value and cross-border financing arrangements, aided by the firm’s global presence. The banking and finance team is active on high-value, multi-jurisdictional acquisition mandates, with a substantial

presence in the property finance space acting for lenders, real estate companies and other borrowers. The firm has dedicated corporate finance expertise for debt restructuring and balance sheet strengthening mandates. Norton Rose Fulbright possesses a strong practice acting for international banks as well as global investment firms and major corporates. Its key clients include North Queensland Airport, ESR Australia and ANZ.

Strengths

“Our transaction required expertise across multiple practice areas, and Norton Rose was able to coordinate this expertise. The team was pragmatic, easy to deal with and responsive.”

“They have strong technical knowledge and are hard-working, responsive and available at all times. They think in the best interests of their clients.”

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Bank of America as lender, lead arranger, administrative agent and security trustee on an AUD800 million asset-based syndicated credit facility for Nufarm and its subsidiaries.

The team also acted for Blackstone as a lender in relation to an AUD42 million senior syndicated

secured loan to an Australian industrial property landlord and development group.

Notable practitioners

Nuncio D’Angelo is recognised for expertise in corporate finance, and regularly acts on high-value financing and restructuring mandates.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Jim Hunwick of Pinsent Masons has notable experience in the corporate finance space, acting for both major lenders and borrowers.

Strengths:

“Jim gives excellent, clear advice and is very calm in stressful moments, as well as able to deal with multiple parties in an efficient manner.”

Bryan Paisley of Hogan Lovells offers noted expertise in the corporate finance space, with experience across cross-border deals, fund financing and distressed refinancing.

Strengths:

“Bryan was very aligned with what we were trying to achieve and very responsive. We rely on and trust him.”

Capital Markets

Capital Markets: Debt	Capital Markets: Debt	Capital Markets: Equity
Leading Firms	Leading Individuals	Leading Firms
Band 1	Band 1	Band 1
King & Wood Mallesons	Harvey Philip King & Wood Mallesons	Gilbert + Tobin
Band 2	Paterson Ian King & Wood Mallesons	Herbert Smith Freehills
Allen & Overy LLP	Band 2	King & Wood Mallesons
Allens	Booth Andrew Herbert Smith Freehills	Band 2
Ashurst	Darcy James Allens	Allen & Overy LLP
Herbert Smith Freehills	Lowden Patrick Herbert Smith Freehills	Allens
Band 3	Morris James Norton Rose Fulbright	Ashurst
Baker McKenzie	Band 3	Clayton Utz
Clayton Utz	Dodd Jo King & Wood Mallesons	MinterEllison
Gilbert + Tobin	Elias John MinterEllison	Band 3
MinterEllison	McCoach Louise Gilbert + Tobin	Baker McKenzie
Norton Rose Fulbright	McGrath Duncan Baker McKenzie	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
* Indicates individual with profile.	Popic Karolina Allen & Overy LLP*	DLA Piper Australia
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Smart Caroline Ashurst	Johnson Winter Slattery
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Associates to watch	Band 4
	Cerche Paul K&L Gates (ORL) ◇	Arnold Bloch Leibler
		HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
		McCullough Robertson
		Norton Rose Fulbright

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy has a prominent team offering expertise across the full spectrum of DCM and ECM including high-value IPOs. The team has notable experience handling cross-border listings and funding for M&A transactions, particularly within the energy and resources sector. The firm is known for its strength in the securitisation arena and is experienced in working with an extensive range of

asset classes including auto loans, residential mortgages and credit cards. The team has access to the firm’s global network and is noted for its expertise in the US and European bond markets. Allen & Overy has long-established relationships with a number of international investment banks and top ASX-listed companies. Its key clients include Citigroup, the NAB and Macquarie.

Strengths

“The team are highly competent, knowledgeable and up to speed on current developments.”

“Their general client service is fantastic, very user-

friendly and reliable. They have a very approachable team, and I am always impressed by their specialist knowledge.”

Work highlights Allen & Overy acted as Australian and US counsel to Macquarie International Finance on its establishment of a USD5 billion US commercial paper programme.

The firm also advised Shaw and Partners and Canaccord Genuity as joint lead managers, under-

Capital Markets: Equity
Leading Individuals
Star individuals
Stone Philippa <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Band 1
Byrne Stuart <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Cook Peter <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Friedlander David <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Sparks Tony <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Band 2
D'Andreti Adam <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Donnan Julian <i>Allens</i>
McEwen Tim <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Pick Robert <i>Allens</i>
Scotti Daniel <i>MinterEllison</i>
Ziegelaar Michael <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Band 3
Bassil Rachael <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Groves Brendan <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Hart Philip <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Rumboll Anthony <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Band 4
Campion Meredith <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Laughland Iain <i>Mills Oakley (ORL) ◇</i>
Leibler Jeremy <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>
Merity Catherine <i>Maddocks (ORL) ◇</i>
Muraca Joseph <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Rozsa James <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

writers and book runners on Paladin Energy's AUD215 million fully underwritten institutional placement and non-underwritten share purchase plan.

Notable practitioners

Mark Leemen (see p.234) is highly regarded for the provision of US law expertise from his Sydney base, frequently advising clients in relation to major capital raisings. **Strengths:** "Mark is an absolute expert in his area of law. He is a pleasure to deal with, extremely experienced in his area of law and very good at being able to simply describe complex issues." **Tony Sparks** (see p.235) has an established practice acting for corporate clients in relation to IPOs and entitlement offers. **Strengths:** "Tony is highly competent, knowledgeable and up to speed on current developments." **Karolina Popic** (see p.235) is a leading figure in the securitisation space, frequently assisting clients with matters involving asset-backed securities and warehouse transactions, and is also noted for her DCM expertise. **Strengths:** "Karolina is an excellent lawyer and one of my go-to lawyers for complex securitisation deals." **Meredith Campion** (see p.231) is an experienced figure in the ECM legal market, particularly noted for acting on equity transactions for clients in the natural resources sector.

Allens

What the team is known for Allens maintains a strong reputation for its broad-ranging capital markets capabilities and works with a number of blue-chip clients, investment banks and other major financial institutions on significant ECM transactions including high-value block trades, IPOs and secondary offerings. The firm also pos-

Capital Markets: Securitisation
Leading Firms
Band 1
Clayton Utz
King & Wood Mallesons
Band 2
Allen & Overy LLP
Ashurst
Band 3
Allens
Dentons
Herbert Smith Freehills
MinterEllison
Band 4
Norton Rose Fulbright
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Edmonds-Wilson Ian <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Goumenis Sonia <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Jinks Andrew <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Popic Karolina <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Band 2
Schlosser Jennifer <i>Ashurst</i>
Smith Paul <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Band 3
Downie Benjamin <i>Allens</i>
Elias John <i>MinterEllison</i>
McBride Paul <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Neagle Anne-Marie <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Mok Stanley <i>Dentons</i>

sesses an impressive DCM practice working on a number of hybrid note issuances and US private placements. Allens handles matters involving offshore markets utilising the firm's cross-border expertise and its alliance with Linklaters. The team can draw on its significant regulatory expertise to advise arrangers and issuers, including institutional banks, on APRA guidelines. Its notable clients include Macquarie, Westpac and Bank of America.

Strengths

"Their ability to provide strategic solutions for challenging structures is one of the reasons we choose to work with this firm. They are strong on both legal and commercial aspects."

"They are really easy to work with as they are clear in their responses and advice."

Work highlights Allens advised Macquarie Capital and UBS Securities Australia on ANZ's AUD3.5 billion rights issue to partially fund the acquisition of Suncorp Bank.

The firm also acted for CSL and its subsidiary finance vehicle on its USD4 billion bond issuance, which was split across six tranches and undertaken to partially fund its acquisition of Vifor Pharma.

Notable practitioners

James Darcy is noted for his DCM expertise and often acts for corporates and financial institutions in relation to MTN programmes and bond issues. **Strengths:** "James provides excellent service, and his quality of advice is on point. He is extremely reliable and balanced between commercial and legal components." **Julian Donnan** is an established figure in the ECM space with experience assisting clients with IPOs, SPPs and placements. **Strengths:** "Julian is a very experienced capital

Capital Markets: US Law
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allen & Overy LLP
Sidley Austin
Sullivan & Cromwell
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Barila Mimma <i>Sidley Austin</i>
Dailey Bruce <i>Sidley Austin</i>
Jones Jr Waldo D <i>Sullivan & Cromwell</i>
Leemen Mark <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Band 2
Baume Cécile <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Reilly Andrew <i>Rimon, P.C. (ORL) ◇</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Schillerstrom Connor <i>Sullivan & Cromwell</i>

markets lawyer. He relates very well to clients and is a good negotiator. He is an excellent practitioner."

Robert Pick advises clients on a variety of ECM matters, including capital raisings, issuance, SPPs and hybrid securities matters. **Strengths:** "Robert is excellent. He is very commercial, manages issues well and is very thorough in his advice." **Benjamin Downie** is noted for his experience on securitisation and structured finance matters and often acts for financial institutions in relation to the establishment of securitisation programmes.

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler is noted for its established practice in the ECM space based out of Melbourne. Its capital markets team is frequently called upon to assist with equity raisings, IPOs and ASX listings, private placements and secondary offers. Its clients include financial institutions, asset managers and corporates in the life sciences and technology sectors, such as Tripp Investments and Elula.

Strengths

"At every stage the team's depth and breadth is fit for purpose, enabling the very best advice and comfort. This is, in our experience, very much a strength of Arnold Bloch Leibler."

"The standard of advice is very high quality. They are commercially savvy, and their decisions are concise and considered."

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler advised carsales.com on its AUD1.2 billion capital raising used to fund its acquisition of the remaining 51% share of Trader Interactive.

Notable practitioners

Jeremy Leibler is a notable figure in the market and gains recognition for his ability to advise clients on ECM matters, including placements and share purchase plans. **Strengths:** "He is incredibly knowledgeable and efficient. He knows where to spot the problems and protects the client."

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst has a highly commended practice offering in-depth knowledge across the whole spectrum of ECM, DCM and securitisation transactions. The law firm is known for working on novel and bespoke securitisation issues, including portfolio acquisition funding, auto loan and lease securitisation and establishment of fintech securitisation pro-

grammes. Ashurst is experienced in the Eurobond and US markets and acts for leading financial institutions, international banks and financiers in addition to its blue-chip corporate client base. The team is frequently instructed on major IPOs and ASX listings and placements. The firm's significant clients include J.P. Morgan, Barclays and Standard Chartered Bank.

Strengths

"The team demonstrate a strong understanding of commercial impetus for a transaction and are able to provide updates on current market trends given their broad experience and exposure across the market."

"It is a highly experienced, professional and knowledgeable team."

Work highlights Ashurst advised J.P. Morgan on its role as the sale agent, broker and operator of the sale facility and bookbuild process of the sale of Woodside Energy Group shares on behalf of BHP shareholders.

The firm also acted for StockCo in the establishment of its second warehouse with new lenders.

Notable practitioners

Jennifer Schlosser focuses on securitisation and structured financing matters, working with major banks and financial services providers, whom she advises on warehouse transactions and structured loans. **Strengths:** *"Her breadth of knowledge and experience have consistently added value to our business. Jennifer is a go-to counsel for more complex matters and advice."* **Caroline Smart** is noted for her commerciality and DCM expertise. Her clients include major banks and corporates and she frequently advises them on bond and note issuance matters. **Strengths:** *"Caroline is responsive, thorough, diligent and competent."*

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie demonstrates expertise in a range of ECM matters, including novel capital raisings and IPOs. The legal team routinely acts for underwriters, and handles cross-border capital raisings and listings throughout the Asia-Pacific region, with additional experience in the UK and US markets. Baker McKenzie is also noted for DCM expertise, including advice on note programmes and high-yield bonds. Its key clients include UBS, Citigroup and Sky Network Television.

Strengths

"The Baker McKenzie team is able to provide seamless advice across Australian and US securities law, understanding the complexity of the proposed transaction and delivering advice relevant to the context of the company and its capabilities and requirements."

"I have appreciated the extent to which Baker's ECM partners have made themselves available to provide timely, well-considered and commercially practicable advice."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie acted for Macquarie Capital as lead manager and underwriter of Sandfire Resources' AUD200 million equity raising.

The team advised Perpetual Trustee Company as issuer under a note securitisation programme where the proceeds of the notes formed part of the funding for Blackstone's AUD8.9 billion takeover of Crown Resorts.

Notable practitioners

Cécile Baume is a frequent adviser to clients for US law issues relating to various capital raisings, including IPOs and institutional placements.

Strengths: *"Cécile is great to work with, having taken the time to understand our company, and together with a strong understanding of the underlying financial transactions, she provided practical and commercially-focused advice."* **Duncan McGrath** heads the DCM department and is frequently engaged by clients to advise on a number of issues, including matters relating to EMTN programmes, and his clientele includes financial institutions and corporates. **Strengths:**

"Duncan understands sensitivities and advises on short, sharp issues, as well as complex matters." **Anthony Rumboll** heads the ECM department in Sydney and has experience handling large IPOs, placements and other capital raisings. **Strengths:**

"Anthony's advice is always very well considered, comprehensive and practical. His ability to see an issue from the client's perspective, and at times the counterparty's, allows him to offer well-tailored advice to his clients."

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz maintains a pace-setting team renowned for its outstanding securitisation practice, with extensive experience advising banks and financial institutions on new asset classes and securitisation structures. The capital markets team is well versed in an array of equity and debt transactions, including secondary raisings and kangaroo bonds. The legal team acts for both issuers and underwriters on IPOs, with a recent track record advising on many of the highest-value ASX listings. It is considered a go-to firm by technology companies for equity raisings. The department's key clients include Tianqi Lithium Corporation and Openpay Group.

Strengths

"The firm demonstrates excellent knowledge of technical areas of law and a deep understanding of the regulatory climate."

"Clayton Utz has the highest capability in dealing with technical matters overlaid with strong commercial acumen."

Work highlights Clayton Utz acted for Tianqi Lithium Corporation on its USD1.7 billion IPO and secondary listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

The firm also advised RACV Finance on establishing a new securitisation programme, including its inaugural two warehouse trusts funded by two senior bank lenders.

Notable practitioners

Stuart Byrne leads Clayton Utz's capital markets group and is well recognised in the industry, frequently acting for clients on major IPOs. He counts major corporates and banks among his clientele. **Strengths:** *"He is an excellent ECM practitioner who understands market practice very well and has a deep knowledge of investment bank policies and preferences when undertaking ECM transactions. He is very good at explaining concepts to our commercial team."* **Sonia Goumenis** is highly regarded as a leader for securitisation in Australia, often acting for clients on warehouse transactions and asset-based securities man-

dates. **Strengths:** *"Sonia is awesome. She is a very good lawyer, but more so has a great sense of the commercial issues and risks we're addressing. She is innovative, and outcome and solution-oriented."*

Andrew Jinks has a wealth of experience representing securitisation sponsors and frequently assists clients with regard to a variety of matters, including warehouse securitisation funding and RMBS issuances. **Brendan Groves** is an experienced equity capital markets specialist and often acts for underwriters and corporates in relation to IPOs and listings on the ASX. He also has experience in capital raisings and venture funding. **Strengths:** *"Brendan Groves is excellent. He is really attentive to client needs, is an expert in his field and deals very well with deal teams."*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth offers expertise in a wide range of domestic and global capital market matters. The team regularly acts for an impressive list of energy, natural resources and infrastructure clients, assisting with secondary offerings and capital raisings. The law firm is active advising on IPOs across a range of industries. Its key clients include Greenstone, Paladin Energy and National Australia Bank.

Strengths

"A strong array of technical expertise is brought to each matter, combined with excellent relationship management."

"They highlight important commercial risks but also provide advice that allows us to decide which specific points could be given away to negotiate a stronger position."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised Paladin Energy on its AUD215 million equity raise to fund the restart of the Langer Heinrich Mine in Namibia.

Notable practitioners

Key contacts are Sandy Mak and Brad Robinson.

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons is increasingly well recognised in the market for its considerable expertise in the securitisation sector. The firm acts for originators and financiers on mandates involving a broad range of asset classes. Its securitisation team has experience with warehouse facilities, green financing and auto loans. Notable clients include National Australia Bank, Westpac and ORDE Financial.

Strengths

"The team are extremely competent, responsive and efficient."

Work highlights Dentons advised NAB as the arranger and dealer on Plenti Finance's first green term securitisation transaction, which involved personal, renewable energy and renewable energy buy-now-pay-later loans.

Notable practitioners

Stanley Mok advises across a range of securitisation matters, including the establishment of warehouse facilities and covered bond structures. **Strengths:** *"He is extremely competent, responsive and efficient."*

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper is a well-respected full-service practice offering expertise in a range of equity transactions. The team continues to be highly active on cross-border matters, including acting for US and China-based entities. DLA Piper is known for its experience advising technology companies, particularly on raising development capital within domestic markets through non-listing funding transactions. The firm is also noted for its expertise within the natural resources sector, advising a number of mining companies on capital raises, placements and secondary listings. Its key clients include Nickel Industries and PlayUp.

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Lionheart III Corp on its USD360 million de-SPAC transaction with SMX to take SMX public on Nasdaq.

Notable practitioners

David Ryan is a key contact.

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin maintains a leading practice in the ECM space, known especially for its strength in handling high-value and complex IPOs, secondary offerings and block trades for issuers, investors and underwriters. The firm also has considerable expertise in DCM, where it is frequently engaged on complex restructures and refinancing of high-yield bonds. Its key clients include J.P. Morgan, Macquarie Capital and Goldman Sachs.

Strengths

"Gilbert + Tobin demonstrate a strong understanding of the commercial constructs of a deal and are able to relate those back to legal concepts." "They are continuously able to prioritise work and deliver strong outcomes in difficult situations and have the expertise across all product areas to help deliver on out-of-scope questions."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin represented RBC Capital Markets and UBS Securities as the joint lead managers, book-runners and underwriters of Atlas Arteria in its AUD3.1 billion entitlement offer to purchase a majority interest in Skyway Concession Company.

The firm also advised Enerflex on its debt financing arrangements, including a USD625 million note issuance, in connection with its acquisition of Exterran.

Notable practitioners

Peter Cook heads the equity capital markets team at Gilbert + Tobin and is widely respected as a top practitioner for the depth of his experience in ECM matters, frequently acting for underwriters and lead managers on major IPOs.

Strengths: *"Peter is a very sophisticated, well-connected and commercial lawyer with exceptional integrity."* **Adam D'Andreti** is an established practitioner, advising clients on ECM matters such as IPOs and secondary raisings. **Strengths:** *"Adam is incredibly experienced, commercial, professional and accommodating at all times."* **Rachael Bassil** has an active practice in ECM and often acts for lead managers on IPOs and equity issuances. **Strengths:** *"Rachael is highly commercial and deeply experienced in all complexities of capital markets law."* **Louise McCoach** is an established figure in the DCM space and often advises cli-

ents on the issuance and refinancing of secured and unsecured notes. **Strengths:** *"Louise is very responsive and conscious of our requirements, providing not only sophisticated legal advice but also advice with commercial acumen."*

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills is recognised for its highly respected team handling an array of DCM, ECM and securitisation work. The equity capital markets team maintains a strong reputation for acting for issuers on highly complex and innovative matters, including high-profile IPOs, dual listings and hybrid issuances. The firm boasts significant experience in the Eurobond and US private placement spheres. Herbert Smith Freehills is also noted for its depth of experience interacting with key regulators in the market. Its key clients include Goldman Sachs, UBS and Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills acted as Australian counsel for Air New Zealand on its two-for-one traditional renounceable rights issue, raising NZD1.2 billion.

The firm advised Ampol on its issue of AUD150 million subordinated sustainability-linked notes, which are convertible to shares if not redeemed at the first call date.

Notable practitioners

Philippa Stone is widely reputed as the dominant practitioner with regard to ECM matters, often being the lawyer of choice for issuers, underwriters and lead managers on major IPOs and secondary capital raising. **Strengths:** *"She is the doyenne in the market." "Philippa is undoubtedly the leader of equity capital markets in Australia."*

Andrew Booth has an established practice representing lenders and corporates in the establishment of AMTN programmes as well as bond issuances. **Patrick Lowden** is an established DCM lawyer with a wealth of experience acting for clients on debt capital raisings, including note and bond issuances. **Strengths:** *"I would always ask Patrick to work on our bond issuances."* **Tim McEwen** is a highly regarded lawyer in the ECM space who frequently acts for corporate clients in relation to issuances and listings. **Strengths:** *"Tim is a very strong and steady provider of legal advice. We are always in safe hands."* **Michael Ziegelaar** has an active practice advising corporates on institutional placements, security purchase plans and IPOs. **Strengths:** *"Michael is extremely experienced and capable in the Australian market. He is a very thorough yet commercial practitioner."* **Philip Hart** advises issuers, joint lead managers and underwriters on a range of IPOs, offerings and raisings.

Strengths *"I consider King & Wood Malleasons to be in the top tier of legal advisers in this field. They provide pragmatic commercial advice and help us navigate complex issues. Their lawyers are easy to deal with, proactive and readily available to provide quick advice on different transactions."*

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth Lawyers acts for both domestic and multinational clients from a range of different industries, with particular experience of fund-raising in the property sector. The firm handles the full range of ECM transactions, including accelerator programmes, and offers considerable expertise handling IPOs. The team is active on secondary listings and secondary offerings, particularly for clients within the technology and mining sectors.

Notable practitioners

Jamie Restas is a key contact for clients.

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery has an accomplished team of ECM specialists frequently engaged on complex transactions. The capital markets team acts for a number of prominent domestic and multinational companies on capital raisings in Australia. The firm is noted for its expertise in a number of sectors, particularly technology and natural resources. Johnson Winter Slattery has established relationships with firms across South-East Asia, the USA and the UK, further strengthening its cross-border offering. Its notable clients include Cooper Energy, Rubric Capital Management and NeoPhotonics.

Strengths

"They produce very high-calibre work, and we are especially comfortable working with them on anything complex."

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery acted for Cooper Energy in respect of a fully underwritten AUD244 million equity raising.

Notable practitioners

James Rozsa frequently acts for clients on IPOs and ASX listings. He boasts particular expertise in advising clients in the technology and life science sectors.

King & Wood Malleasons

What the team is known for King & Wood Malleasons is a pre-eminent full-service law firm offering comprehensive expertise across the full gamut of capital markets issues. The law firm handles complex hybrid securities mandates and is particularly renowned for the depth of its debt practice, advising on complex and innovative debt products from kangaroo, green and social to blockchain bonds. The equity capital markets team is known for its strong capabilities handling complex IPOs, block trades and secondary offerings. King & Wood Malleasons demonstrates considerable ability in complex cross-border matters, particularly those involving the USA and China. The firm's notable clients include Atlas Arteria, ANZ and The Star Entertainment Group.

Strengths

"I consider King & Wood Malleasons to be in the top tier of legal advisers in this field. They provide pragmatic commercial advice and help us navigate complex issues. Their lawyers are easy to deal with, proactive and readily available to provide quick advice on different transactions."

"The team operate seamlessly and are always available. Their deep experience, technical knowledge and calm, practical guidance make decision-making smooth and position the transaction for success."

Work highlights King & Wood Malleasons advised Prime Credit on the establishment of its second term securitisation and its eighth warehouse funding facility, provided by an international investment bank.

The firm acted for ANZ on its issuance of Capital Notes 7 and the associated redemption of Capital Notes 2.

Notable practitioners

Ian Edmonds-Wilson is a leading securitisation lawyer and often represents financiers and bor-

rowers in relation to the establishment of securitisation structures. **Strengths:** “*Ian must be among the most experienced practitioners in the securitisation space. He is extremely knowledgeable, with an encyclopedic knowledge of the market.*” **David Friedlander** is a leading figure for ECM matters who often acts for clients on placements and IPOs. **Strengths:** “*David is commercial and considered in his advice. He has huge experience in the space, which is really valuable.*” **Philip Harvey** is a highly regarded lawyer who is noted for his work assisting clients with the issuance of bonds and the establishment of note programmes. **Strengths:** “*Philip is extremely experienced, one of the most experienced in the country. He’s extremely knowledgeable and very well regarded.*” **Ian Paterson** is noted for the depth of his experience acting on major DCM matters. He acts for financial institutions in relation to a variety of debt raisings, bond offerings and note issuances. **Strengths:** “*On the debt side, he has an incredibly encyclopedic level of technical knowledge.*” **Paul Smith** acts for a varied clientele, including issuers, originators, managers and arrangers of transactions. He is highly experienced in relation to securitisation and structured finance matters, advising clients on the establishment of securitisation structures and the issuance of asset-backed securities. **Jo Dodd** is a well-regarded practitioner who often acts for clients on debt raisings, including bond and note issuances. **Strengths:** “*Jo makes herself available and has really good technical skills, but above all, she is really good at the client service part of the job.*” **Paul McBride** is highly regarded for his practice focusing on securitisation, derivatives and structured products. Based in Brisbane, he maintains an international practice, building on his previous experience working in Hong Kong to continue to act for international clients, particularly those in China and South Korea. **Strengths:** “*Paul is able to temper sound legal advice with commercial nous. He knows how to focus your attention on important issues and offers solutions which are practical from a commercial perspective.*” **Anne-Marie Neagle** is a well-regarded practitioner who often acts for financial services providers in relation to structured finance and derivatives transactions. **Strengths:** “*She knows her stuff inside and out and can direct her message to different audiences.*” **Joseph Muraca** is an established practitioner who demonstrates expertise with regard to equity capital raisings. **Strengths:** “*Joe is able to bring his strong experience in the ECM space and technical legal expertise to deliver strong commercial outcomes for his clients.*”

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson is well regarded for its strong presence in the Brisbane market and known for catering to clients from the life sciences, natural resources, logistics, and technology and telecommunications industries. The law firm is noted for its established relationships with both issuers and underwriters. The team maintains a solid reputation for advising mid-market clients on a range of equity transactions, including IPOs, secondary raisings and private placements. Its key clients include Bell Potter Securities, LGI and Imugene.

Strengths

“*McCullough Robertson has an experienced team across an array of legal matters. We have always found them to be very proficient in their fields of expertise and innovative in the approach they take to problem solving.*”

“*They have demonstrated a strong legal and commercial focus on delivering practical solutions to complex and sophisticated commercial agreements.*”

Work highlights McCullough Robertson advised LGI in relation to its successful AUD25 million IPO, which resulted in a market cap of approximately AUD130 million.

Notable practitioners

A key contact is Reece Walker.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison is highly regarded for its deft handling of debt and equity transactions. The legal team acts for an impressive range of issuers, underwriters and lead managers on ASX listings, secondary raisings and bond matters. In addition, the team also represents trustees, offshore investors, REITs, and senior and mezzanine financiers in securitisation and initial raisings. MinterEllison advises on mezzanine and warehouse facilities as well as debt issuance programmes. The firm principally handles high-profile domestic work, but is also active on cross-border matters as a result of affiliations with international firms. Its clients include Nissan, Atrium Investment Management and Polynovo.

Strengths

“*The firm demonstrates a high level of commercial awareness. It is a seasoned, competent team experienced in all facets of our complex transaction.*”

“*MinterEllison has always delivered excellent service in a timely manner.*”

Work highlights MinterEllison advised Mesoblast on its USD45 million private institutional placement, led by M&G Investments.

The firm also acted for Suncorp in respect of its AMTN programme, and a number of issuances under it.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Scotti is recognised as an established ECM lawyer, frequently acting for corporate clients and underwriters in relation to IPOs and ASX listings.

Strengths: “*Daniel makes complicated ECM matters seem easy.*” **John Elias** is well regarded for his work on DCM and securitisation matters, and regularly acts for clients on bond issuances and warehouse transactions.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright is a highly commended firm offering in-depth knowledge across the full gamut of capital market transactions. The capital markets team possesses particular experience in the corporate bond market and trustee advisory work. The team demonstrates strength in securitisation and structured finance transactions, as well as equity capital raises such as IPOs and secondary offerings. Norton Rose Fulbright boasts an impressive cross-border offering, strengthened by its international network of offices with

locations in Europe, in the USA and across Asia. The firm acts for clients from a diverse range of industries, including energy, infrastructure and technology. Its key clients include Citigroup, 777 Partners and National Australia Bank.

Strengths

“*They provide a unique combination of top-tier expertise and a deep commercial understanding of our business and what we are looking to achieve.*”

“*The depth of knowledge across the team is what stands them apart. Regardless of who you speak to or who is running an issue, you are able to receive market-leading answers.*”

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright acted as Australian counsel to Citi in respect of the update of EEA’s EUR20 billion debt issuance programme. The team acted for Commonwealth Bank of Australia and National Australia Bank as joint arrangers and joint lead managers on the launch of the University of Tasmania’s debt issuance programme and its subsequent issuance of AUD350 million green bonds.

Notable practitioners

James Morris is a well-regarded figure in the DCM space, noted for his wealth of expertise and his work in relation to EMTN programmes. **Strengths:** “*James is completely on the money. The manner in which he provides explanations is precise and knowledgeable. He’s practical and forward-looking and provides extremely helpful suggestions.*”

Sidley Austin

What the team is known for Sidley Austin maintains an office in Sydney which is home to a group of experienced US-qualified lawyers. The firm is praised for its extensive knowledge of US debt capital markets, including private placements and Rule 144A/Regulation S offerings. Its key clients include BNP Paribas, Citigroup Global Markets and CBA.

Strengths

“*The firm has a high level of client service, with a focused, dedicated team available at all times.*”

“*It’s the top firm in that particular space. They’re very strong technically, and the partner is very personable and able to communicate and manage stakeholders. The firm would be my number one preference.*”

Work highlights Sidley Austin advised the underwriters in the establishment of Westpac New Zealand’s MTN programme.

Notable practitioners

Mimma Barila heads the department at Sidley Austin and is recognised for her expertise in relation to US law capital markets, often advising clients on Rule 144A transactions, high-yield and investment-grade debt offerings and equity placements. **Strengths:** “*Mimma is the driver of the success of the firm and is a top practitioner in the market.*” **Bruce Dailey** is recognised as an established lawyer for US capital markets law who frequently acts for Australian clients on debt private placement matters. **Strengths:** “*Bruce is very easy to work with as he is very pragmatic, very commercial and understands his clients and what they need. I would describe him as the go-to lawyer for any Australian company looking to peep into the US private placement market.*”

Sullivan & Cromwell

What the team is known for Sullivan & Cromwell is highly reputed for US securities law in addition to high-yield and investment-grade debt offerings, private placements and bond raisings. The team is well placed to assist with IPOs and other equity raisings, as well as note and bond programmes, and Rule 144A/Regulation S issues. The firm is also frequently engaged by issuers and underwriters.

Strengths

“Sullivan & Cromwell have an excellent understanding of market practice and conventions in both Australia and the US. They are very adept at interpreting our commercial instructions and practices and reflecting them in relevant documentation.”

“Sullivan & Cromwell has a number of people with expertise in the areas where we need their support, and they have a breadth of practice areas, so we are always able to get the support we need.”

Notable practitioners

Waldo Jones Jr is highly regarded for his US law

expertise, frequently assisting clients with Rule 144A offerings and placements, among other capital market transactions. **Strengths:** *“Wally is a highly experienced and trusted lawyer. He provides almost instant responses to any question and has a very deep knowledge of US debt law and practices, as well as strong commercial acumen.”* **Connor Schillerstrom** is a special counsel with experience advising issuers and underwriters on a wide range of debt offerings. **Strengths:** *“Connor possesses a highly sophisticated knowledge of market practice and technical legal issues. He is able to disseminate complex and sophisticated concepts in a way that is accessible to his clients.”*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Paul Cerche of K&L Gates is an established DCM practitioner with a wealth of experience acting for clients on bond issuances and MTN programmes.

Strengths:

“He is a very strong lawyer in both commercial and technical aspects of structuring and execution.”

Iain Laughland of Mills Oakley advises clients in relation to IPOs and is particularly active assisting clients in the technology sector.

Strengths:

“Iain is proactive, business-minded and always finding the best and most efficient solutions.”

Catherine Merity of Maddocks maintains an active practice advising clients on equity raises, IPOs and ASX listings.

Strengths:

“Catherine is cool, calm and collected, never gets flustered and can deliver clear advice across the whole issue in question. She always considers the wider commercial questions as well as the strictly legal ones.”

Andrew Reilly of Rimon, P.C. is an established figure in the market and noted for his US law expertise. He often advises clients in relation to private placements, Rule 144A transactions and public offers.

Charities

Charities
Leading Firms
Band 1
Arnold Bloch Leibler
Gilbert + Tobin
Herbert Smith Freehills
Mills Oakley
Prolegis Lawyers
Band 2
Jackson McDonald
MinterEllison
Moores Legal
Sparke Helmore
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Fittler Darren Gilbert + Tobin
Macdougall Alice Herbert Smith Freehills
Robinson AM Anne Prolegis Lawyers
Visevic Vera Mills Oakley
Band 2
Cheung Jon Prolegis Lawyers
Cowling Bridgid Arnold Bloch Leibler
Geary Luke Mills Oakley
Seidel Peter Arnold Bloch Leibler
Tylich Elizabeth Jackson McDonald
Band 3
Borensztajn Joey Arnold Bloch Leibler
d'Apice Bill Makinson & d'Apice (ORL) ◊
Gordon Nicole MinterEllison
Huang Seak-King Milner + Huang (ORL) ◊
Turnour Matthew Neumann & Turnour (ORL) ◊
Yang Jae Charitas Law (ORL) ◊
Associates to watch
Cowen Marla Herbert Smith Freehills
◊ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler maintains a prominent practice in the representation of charitable and not-for-profit (NFP) entities and is active on behalf of an array of causes, ranging from the rights of indigenous peoples to the goals of educational, environmental, religious and cultural organisations. The team draws on other areas of expertise within the firm, providing support in areas such as tax, corporate matters and litigation, and offering particularly focused expertise in relation to the establishment of special-purpose philanthropic entities and private ancillary funds. In addition, the practice gains valuable strategic insight by virtue of its team members' involvement with boards and management committees in the direct administration of charities. The firm's notable clients include Greenpeace Australia Pacific, The Australian Conservation Foundation and Greening Australia.

Strengths

“We have found that Arnold Bloch Leibler are highly adept at socially complex issues that require nuanced navigation. They can understand complex matters quickly and provide nuanced and robust advice that has always enabled us to seek an overall positive resolution.”

“I cannot speak highly enough of the quality, care and responsiveness of the service provided by the team at ABL. They provide clear, sound and well-considered advice on any matter we raise with them. We are deeply appreciative.”

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler advised

Greenpeace Australia on its charitable tax concessions, governance and contractual matters.

Notable practitioners

Bridgid Cowling maintains a versatile practice which embraces governance, structuring, commercial and taxation issues pertaining to the charities and NFP sector. **Strengths:** *“Bridgid has extensive knowledge of charity law, governance and electoral law. She is incredibly responsive to requests for pro bono legal support. Her advice is practical and written in a way that communicates to non-lawyers.”* **Peter Seidel** leads the charities practice from the firm's Melbourne office, advising a highly varied range of charities and philanthropic entities on key constitutional, governance and contractual issues. **Strengths:** *“He is always attentive and responsive, and he works hard to ensure matters are resolved in a value-aligned but sophisticated way.”* **Joey Borensztajn** is a commercial lawyer active in many branches of the charities and NFP sector. He has particular expertise in matters relating to taxation, trusts and philanthropy. **Strengths:** *“Joey's dedication to providing exceptional legal advice and guidance has been truly remarkable.”*

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin offers a specialist service to the full range of not-for-profit (NFP) clients, including charities of all types and sizes, community organisations, corporate foundations and entities established by philanthropists and private families. The practice provides a broad range of charities expertise, including advice in relation to the establishment

and structuring of charities and NFPs, fund-raising, corporate governance and tax issues. The team is especially valued for its provision of big-picture perspectives on actual and potential policy developments in the NFP sector and its readiness to engage with regulatory authorities questioning the claims of organisations seeking classification as charities. The firm's notable clients include Little Company of Mary Healthcare, the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition.

Strengths

"The team are clearly experts in the field. What made them so exceptional, however, was the time they took to understand the complexities of the organisation and its goals and to entertain a wide variety of issues and options when navigating the not-for-profit space."

"The team are able to tailor their advice in the current economic climate and with an awareness of the different needs of a not-for-profit entity versus a for-profit."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin advised for Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition on its listing as a deductible gift recipient as well as charitable fund-raising in preparation for the referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice to parliament.

Notable practitioners

Darren Fittler heads the practice's charities and social sector and takes leading roles on key mandates across its full spectrum of operations. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"Darren is a superbly skilled lawyer with vast expertise and experience – and he's a delightful human being. His depth of knowledge powerfully guided our project. He was available to thoughtfully consider complex issues, discuss potential solutions and draw on other examples to find a path forward."*

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills is well respected for having specialist sector and statutory knowledge, backed by and fully connected to an outstanding range of expertise spread throughout the wider, full-service firm. The team advises extensively on structuring, tax and governance issues and is further noted for its handling of complex regulatory mandates. The firm's diverse clientele comprises both established and startup charities, with a particularly strong offering for philanthropic foundations and trusts, as well as for charities operating in the educational, healthcare and religious spheres. The team is also well placed, thanks to its international network, to advise charities headquartered in other jurisdictions on the establishment of Australian operations. Notable clients include R U OK?, Mackay Community Foundation and Housing Hub.

Strengths

"From the start, we have witnessed very strong knowledge in this area, and they have been able to communicate these complex and sophisticated matters in a way that we can understand."

"The HSF team brought knowledge and skill, as you would expect, but they also brought heart and empathy to our case."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised R U OK? on its successful application for a more appropriate and advantageous tax status.

Notable practitioners

Alice Macdougall heads the practice based out of the firm's Melbourne office. She advises across the board on charity-related matters, offering particularly focused expertise in taxation issues impacting on the sphere. **Strengths:** *"Alice has an outstanding reputation for her ability to deliver great outcomes for her clients."* **Marla Cowen** is based in the firm's Melbourne office and has a strong background in tax and government sectors. In addition to assisting not-for-profits on tax issues, she is recognised for her expertise in charity establishment, governance and regulation. **Strengths:** *"Marla has vast knowledge and credentials, a keen mind for commercial strategy and an amazing willingness to help."*

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for Mills Oakley is an expert, practical group advising charities, not-for-profits (NFPs) and religious and community organisations on the full range of administrative, transactional, compliance and potentially contentious issues, including defamation and other reputational concerns. The firm regularly assists charities and NFPs in dealings with the ACNC and the Australian Taxation Office. The practice is valued for its high standards of client service and for developing in-depth understanding of its clients' aims and objectives. Its key clients include the Salvation Army (Western Australia) Property Trust, International Society for Krishna Consciousness and Adsafe.

Strengths

"Mills Oakley's knowledge, advice and responsiveness are exceptional."

"It was the work of artists in their craft."

"The advice and contact throughout are of a very high level. Their knowledge of the not-for-profit and human rights space is comprehensive."

Work highlights Mills Oakley acted for The Youth Impact Foundation on its establishment and registration as a public benevolent charity subtype, with the foundation to act as the parent company for a number of NFP, charitable and for-profit entities with similar objects and purposes.

Notable practitioners

Vera Visevic has operated in the charities and NFP space for over 25 years and is active in areas such as compliance, governance and taxation. **Strengths:** *"Ms Visevic is a renowned practitioner in this area."* **Luke Geary** handles a spectrum of issues for charities and religious institutions. He is well regarded for contentious matters, particularly those with reputational or operational risks for NFPs. He also has experience advising on child sexual abuse claims. **Strengths:** *"Luke has a comprehensive knowledge of his field. He is respected for this throughout Australia."*

Prolegis Lawyers

What the team is known for Prolegis Lawyers is highly regarded as a pre-eminent charities and NFP boutique, handling the full range of practice area mandates for clients of all kinds, including public and private bodies and individual philan-

thropists. The firm is particularly noted for its ability to cover the full range of issues faced by charity and not-for-profit (NFP) clients, including the establishment, structuring and governance of charities, compliance and tax structuring. The practice is increasingly active on contentious, or potentially contentious, issues in the space, including assistance in respect of official investigations and inquiries. The firm counts the Paul Ramsay Foundation, NSW Wildlife Information Rescue & Education Service and Christian Education National among its key clients.

Strengths

"Prolegis specialises in areas of the law relevant to the not-for-profit sector, so they have the skills and experience to deal with complex and specific issues relevant to the organisation."

"Their expertise in Australian companies and not-for-profits is exceptional."

Work highlights Prolegis advised the Paul Ramsay Foundation on a multiparty grant agreement between itself as a philanthropic funder, the Australian government and tertiary education research institutions, on a programme that utilises statistical and data analysis to identify social patterns relating to finishing school in communities of disadvantage.

Notable practitioners

Anne Robinson AM is the founder of Prolegis and is highly recommended for mandates involving governance issues or interactions with bodies such as the ACNC and Australian Taxation Office. **Strengths:** *"Anne is a standout in her field."* **Jon Cheung** advises clients in the charities and NFP sector across a wide range of governance and operational concerns. **Strengths:** *"Jon is an exceptional communicator and has consistently provided professional and detailed advice."*

Band 2

Jackson McDonald

What the team is known for Jackson McDonald has a strong reputation in the Western Australian community for its representation of charities and not-for-profits (NFPs) across a comprehensive range of sectors, but is particularly well known for supporting indigenous organisations. The firm is also active in areas such as the health and aged care, sports and religious sectors, handling the structuring and establishment of charitable entities, and the formation of their constitutions, as well as governance, fund-raising and taxation issues. The team interacts regularly with the Australian Taxation Office and the ACNC and also acts extensively for government agencies, funders and individual philanthropists. The practice's notable clients include The National Trust of Australia (WA), Western Australian Cricket Association and ChitAmbara.

Strengths

"I always receive prompt responses to queries and requests for assistance, and it's always of excellent quality."

"They seem excellent. There were lots of moving parts, and they are very good at not forgetting those parts and pointing out how the decision on one aspect will affect the other aspects."

Work highlights Jackson McDonald advised St John Ambulance Western Australia on the renegotiation of its emergency ambulance services contract with the Western Australia government following the parliamentary inquiry into the emergency ambulance service in the state.

Notable practitioners

Elizabeth Tylich heads the practice, taking leading roles on mandates across the charities and NFP sector. **Strengths:** *“Her advice is clear and easy to understand, and she has always been able to assist.”*

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison offers a formidable breadth of knowledge from its offices across Australia, assisting all manner of clients, from small startups to global corporate bodies in an exhaustive range of areas, including community health and social welfare, medical research and education. The firm is also known for its work in the social enterprise space. In addition to a full suite of expertise across all practice areas, the team is well placed to connect clients with other specialists from within the broader firm. The practice provides clients with training and seminars covering such fields as tax and fund-raising, and is further noted for its good relations with regulatory authorities, especially the ACNC and the tax office. The firm’s notable clients include the Australian Scholarships Foundation, the Older Women Co-Housing Association and Sukyo Mahikari.

Notable practitioners

Nicole Gordon acts on a variety of practice area

mandates, advising notably on compliance, fund-raising questions and clients’ interactions with the ACNC and Australian Taxation Office.

Moore’s Legal

What the team is known for Moore’s Legal is a specialist firm based in Melbourne known for its expertise in the charity and not-for-profit sector. The firm advises clients in the aged care and retirement industries, social housing bodies, and faith-based and educational institutions. The diverse team handles governance, charitable registration and regulatory compliance issues.

Notable practitioners

Tessa van Duyn, the CEO and a practice leader at Moore’s, is a key contact for clients.

Sparke Helmore

What the team is known for Sparke Helmore boasts a fully dedicated not-for-profit and charities team that regularly advises across corporate, contractual, regulatory and tax issues. Its legal team has experience with registering and changing charity subtypes, governance and compliance concerning donations, gifts and funding. The firm is also noted for assisting indigenous groups in their incorporation process. Its key clients include Three Rivers Regional Assembly, Sisters in Law Project and Newcastle Fringe Festival.

Strengths

“They are extremely responsive and provide excellent advice on all governance matters.”

“They have wonderful communication and are always open to extra questions or concerns—a really collaborative team.”

Work highlights Sparke Helmore advised Feedback Organic Recovery on its registration as a company limited by guarantee, implementation of its governance frameworks, ACNC registration process and obtaining a deductible gift recipient endorsement as an environmental organisation.

Notable practitioners

Sydney-based Sally Weatherstone heads the firm’s charities team and is a key contact.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Bill d’Apice of Makinson & d’Apice is generally acknowledged as one of the charity sphere’s most prominent and respected players. He enjoys particular distinction for his work on behalf of Catholic and other religious charities.

Seak-King Huang of Milner + Huang handles a range of issues in the charities and not-for-profit sector, including governance structures, charity status registrations and attendant tax concessions.

Matthew Turnour of Neumann & Turnour advises widely on issues pertaining to the charity and not-for-profit sector, including structuring, taxation and commercial questions.

Strengths:

“He is highly, highly respected.”

Jae Yang is well regarded in the charities and not-for-profit space, advising on charitable status registrations, restructurings, compliance and tax concessions.

Competition/Antitrust

Competition/Antitrust	Competition/Antitrust	Competition/Antitrust
Leading Firms	Leading Individuals	
Band 1	Band 1	Poddar Dave Quay Law Partners (ORL) ◇
Allens	Armitage Peter Ashurst	Westmoreland Richard HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Ashurst	Coops Caroline King & Wood Mallesons	Band 4
Clayton Utz	Corrigan Michael Clayton Utz	Benbow Sarah Herbert Smith Freehills
Gilbert + Tobin	Crosbie Fiona Allens	Bull Matthew Jones Day
Herbert Smith Freehills	Downes Jacqueline Allens	Coorey Charles Gilbert + Tobin
King & Wood Mallesons	Evans Linda Herbert Smith Freehills	Flitcroft Richard Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Band 2	McCowan Mark Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Fraser Melissa Ashurst
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Nicotra Aldo Johnson Winter Slattery	Groshinski Katrina MinterEllison
MinterEllison	Webb Kirsten Clayton Utz	Harvey Belinda White & Case LLP (ORL) ◇ *
Band 3	Woodward Luke King & Wood Mallesons	Healy Rosannah Allens
Allen & Overy LLP	Band 2	Hill Ted Allens
Johnson Winter Slattery	Avery Elizabeth Gilbert + Tobin	Huett Lisa King & Wood Mallesons
Norton Rose Fulbright	Gay Patrick Herbert Smith Freehills	Klamka Louise Gilbert + Tobin
Band 4	Leach Wayne King & Wood Mallesons	Mardirossian Zaven Arnold Bloch Leibler
Baker McKenzie	McDonald Peter Allen & Overy LLP *	McHugh Nick Norton Rose Fulbright
Clifford Chance	Schoff Paul MinterEllison	Noble Miranda MinterEllison
K&L Gates	Stevenson Peta King & Wood Mallesons	Phillips Alyssa Ashurst
Webb Henderson	Band 3	Richmond Elizabeth Clifford Chance
Band 5	Carter Geoff MinterEllison	Smith Prudence Jones Day
Arnold Bloch Leibler	Christopher Andrew Webb Henderson	Uthmeyer Simon DLA Piper Australia *
DLA Piper Australia	Edghill Kathryn Mills Oakley (ORL) ◇	Walker Rob Allens
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers	Foster Georgina Baker McKenzie	Wilding Mihkel Clayton Utz
Jones Day	Guirguis Ayman K&L Gates	Zaurrini Ross Ashurst
* Indicates individual with profile.	Katdare Sar Johnson Winter Slattery	Up-and-coming individuals
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Lloyd Bruce Clloyd Utz	Edgar Lynsey Baker McKenzie
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Muys Simon Gilbert + Tobin	Kuti Adrian Clayton Utz
	Oddie Carolyn Allens	Zuk Tihana Ashurst

Band 1

Allens

What the team is known for Allens fields a well-resourced group, offering coverage of the full life-cycle of competition issues, backed by a global network and enhanced by a valued collegiate culture and a constructive relationship with the ACCC. The firm attracts particular praise for its handling of merger clearance mandates and is noted for expertise in the energy and resources, banking, pharmaceutical and telecommunications sectors. The team has experience defending ACCC enforcement proceedings, including cartel and misuse of market power prosecutions. The firm also provides regulated access, third-party access and price monitoring advice for both national and international clients. The practice advises extensively on clients' interactions with ACCC market inquiries, particularly in the financial services sectors. Its noted clients include Australasian Food Group, Pfizer and Pacific Equity Partners.

Strengths

"Allens' competition team provide technically excellent but also very commercial and pragmatic advice. They are extremely responsive and always looking for ways to add value for our business."

"They have extensive experience and expertise in competition and antitrust matters. From partners through to associates I'm very impressed with the high calibre of the Allens team. They are highly responsive and understand the importance of the matters they are dealing with."

Work highlights Allens advised a consortium comprising of Brookfield Asset Management and

MidOcean Energy on the proposed AUD15.5 billion acquisition of Origin Energy.

Notable practitioners

Fiona Crosbie is based in Sydney and advises a blue-chip client base across a range of major merger clearance, litigation and ACCC inquiry mandates as chair of the firm. **Strengths:** "Fiona is without doubt the most pre-eminent competition law partner in Australia. Her role as chair of Allens has provided a level of corporate insight and acumen that no other competition partner in Australia can match." **Jacqueline Downes** leads the practice from the Sydney office. She regularly provides merger clearance counsel to a prestigious roster of leading multinationals, in addition to showcasing well-developed regulatory expertise. **Strengths:** "She's personable, knowledgeable and clear, with excellent response times." "Jacqui has provided sound and solid legal advice to our business over a long period of time. We appreciate her insights and technical knowledge and the strength of her team. She is always available to talk things through and puts her clients first." "She displays impressive technical skills and provides practical, commercially focused legal advice." **Carolyn Oddie** is based in Sydney and concentrates primarily on regulatory matters, risk management and transactional issues. She is especially noted for her expertise in the healthcare sphere as Allens' health sector practice head. **Strengths:** "From the get-go she's been incredibly impressive and an incredible help. Technically, her knowledge of competition law in Australia and around the world is really impressive and she has the ability to distil complex advice to pragmatic and helpful advice."

Rosannah Healy handles both transactional and regulatory mandates from the Melbourne office, being particularly noted for her advice on questions concerning merger clearances and ACCC investigations. **Strengths:** "Rosannah is our go-to partner for difficult competition matters. She is a pleasure to deal with, very good with tight timeframes and her work is high quality." **Ted Hill** is based in Melbourne and is well known for his expertise in the infrastructure access sphere. He is prominently active in the financial services, mining and oil and gas sectors. **Strengths:** "Ted Hill is excellent in the competition law area, with a good strategic mind. He's an excellent operator." **Rob Walker**, in Melbourne, maintains a varied practice, covering both competition and consumer law issues and operating across the transactional, regulatory and contentious spectrum. **Strengths:** "I thoroughly enjoyed working with Robert. I think he is a great lawyer and leader and strongly invested in building a great working relationship with us." "He gives really clear and pragmatic advice that always hits the mark. He's a brilliant competition lawyer and an excellent technical lawyer who always has an eye for the client's reputational concerns."

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst provides coverage on behalf of a largely blue-chip clientele across the full range of competition issues, including cross-jurisdictional merger clearances and complex ACCC-related litigation, seamlessly coordinated with the work of other practice groups. The firm is noted for specialised

advice on both contentious and non-contentious infrastructure access issues and services a host of prominent clients from major retailers and global electronics companies to banks and financial institutions. The practice is in addition well placed to advise on major international mandates through the support of the firm's global network. Its clients include ANZ, Aurizon and Woolworths.

Strengths

"They have a strong team and went above and beyond to draw information out of the business and finesse our response, which ultimately delivered an excellent result."

"The Ashurst team have a good understanding of the relevant legal framework and demonstrated experience in handling larger matters and ACCC interactions. They have a wide spectrum of team members, ranging from very experienced partners to capable juniors."

Work highlights Ashurst advised nbn on obtaining ACCC authorisation for amendments to definitive agreements with Telstra required to facilitate Telstra's restructure.

Notable practitioners

Peter Armitage is based in the Sydney office and is noted for his handling of high-stakes mandates in both the transactional and contentious spheres. **Strengths:** *"Peter has vast experience, great judgement and strategy to respond to particular challenges effectively."* *"Peter's up there as one of the top competition lawyers in the company."*

"He's very experienced and knows how to run this sort of case." **Melissa Fraser** is based in Sydney and specialises in competition and antitrust matters, with experience handling merger clearances, enforcement litigation and strategic advisory and regulatory work. **Strengths:** *"She offers adaptability and is unflappable, very quick and very interested in our business. She is very strategic and puts a lot of effort into knowing the business."*

"She's terrific to work with, with great relationship management." **Alyssa Phillips** provides competition law guidance during major cross-border M&A transactions, in addition to advising on Federal Court litigation. Based in Brisbane, she is active across a wide variety of sectors, acting for clients across the transport, retail and industrial sectors. **Strengths:** *"She is super organised, responsive, very thoughtful and great to work with, with a lot of experience in merger clearance."*

Ross Zaurrini is based in Sydney and maintains a versatile competition law practice, both advising on sensitive ACCC and internal investigations and assisting leading international clients to secure merger and joint venture clearances. **Tihana Zuk** is a recently promoted competition law partner in Ashurst's Sydney office who advises extensively on clients' engagement with the ACCC in both regulatory and transactional contexts. **Strengths:** *"She was very impressive for ability and client service. Tihana is very bright and great to work with. She's very personable and effective in her communication."* *"She's very responsive and very easy to work with. She is happy to make a call and doesn't sit on the fence. She is good to bounce ideas off and calls on the resources she has."*

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for The Clayton Utz team is noted for its ready engagement with especially complex issues, particularly large cross-border mergers and alleged cartels. The firm is also prominent in the energy and resources, financial services, media, technology and telecommunications sectors, and increasingly active on the competition aspects of major infrastructure projects. The practice is a favoured Australian choice for referrals from international law firms thanks to its independence from formal alliances, and because much of its work focuses on the representation of global market leaders in their dealings with the Australian competition law authorities. Primarily Sydney-based, but with additional resources in offices in Brisbane and Perth, and highly valued as part of a well-integrated, national full-service firm, the team is equipped to provide back-up on corporate or commercial issues. Key clients include Jaguar Land Rover, United Airlines and Swift Networks.

Strengths

"The team are always very responsive and available for key commercial discussions. They are great at managing expectations and allocated budgets and advice often takes into consideration complex commercial aspects that also need to be managed."

"The Clayton Utz team is very experienced across regulated infrastructure assets and has a good depth of experienced lawyers. The team is well placed to respond to and handle complex transactions and advice."

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised Apple on a Part IV case in the Federal Court brought by Epic Games relating to Apple's decision to remove Fortnite from the App Store and to prevent Epic from including its own direct payment system within the Fortnite app.

Notable practitioners

Michael Corrigan is Sydney-based and regularly advises prominent international clients on securing ACCC approval for major acquisitions.

Strengths: *"His immense experience in the space shone through and he provided pragmatic, strategic advice."* *"He gave excellent service and advice."*

Kirsten Webb heads the Clayton Utz competition team from the Sydney office, maintaining a diverse practice which covers merger clearance, litigation and regulatory mandates. **Strengths:** *"Kirsten is great at quickly getting across a complex issue and suggesting a practical approach for resolving the issue."* *"She is fantastic and a delight to work with, and also somebody who really is incredibly able in thinking about a case's legal and commercial aspects."* **Bruce Lloyd** is based in Sydney and counsels both public and private sector clients on transactional matters as well as disputes relating to such issues as cartel conduct and misuse of market power. **Strengths:** *"Bruce is a trusted strategic adviser."* *"Bruce is involved in major issues for us. We hold him in very high regard."* *"He is so experienced with us that he can assist with the politics of the firm and navigate our internal issues domestically and internationally. He can handle strategic and complex thinking and legal advice and has an incredible depth of knowledge."*

Mihkel Wilding is Sydney-based and advises on major corporate acquisitions and disposals, as

well as tribunal proceedings and litigation. **Adrian Kuti** is active on both competition and consumer law mandates. He is particularly experienced in the handling of matters relating to the automotive sector. **Strengths:** *"I can go to Adrian because he is very commercial, to the extent that he's almost a colleague. He's very responsive."* *"Adrian has sound technical knowledge and commercial acumen. He is a highly trusted adviser and we are very happy with the services he provides."*

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin offers a universally acclaimed competition practice integrating commercial and regulatory advice, praised for its solutions-focused, commercial pragmatism and maintaining a high cross-border capability through links to similarly independent international firms. The team draws on expertise from across the firm to service competition mandates in a variety of sectors, including the highly regulated energy, financial services, infrastructure and telecommunications spheres, and is particularly noted for its grasp of digital disruption issues. The firm offers market-leading experience in responding to ACCC investigations and defending civil and criminal cartel prosecutions. The practice also offers specialists in niche areas such as digital economy and payments, and is also proficient on third-party access, pricing and economic regulatory issues. Notable clients include NSW Ports, Virgin Australia and Telstra Group.

Strengths

"They have a really deep team. A key strength is their intimate understanding of the ACCC and the way the ACCC thinks. They have a lot of institutional and strategic knowledge."

"I always receive practical, pragmatic advice. The team has the ability to get across complex facts quickly."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin advised Microsoft on the Australian competition aspects, including ACCC approval, of Microsoft's proposed AUD96 billion acquisition of Activision Blizzard.

Notable practitioners

Elizabeth Avery heads the Gilbert + Tobin competition team from the Sydney office, offering merger clearance experience covering a wide range of sectors, acting for financial services clients in particular. **Strengths:** *"She's a delight to work with and considered and practical in her advice. She's calm under pressure and convincing in the boardroom."* *"Elizabeth is a leader in her field."* *"Her main strength is to present practical and well-explained solutions to complex situations."*

Simon Muys heads the Melbourne competition group while personally operating a highly varied and versatile practice covering transactional, regulatory and contentious issues which often originate in the infrastructure and telecommunications spaces. **Strengths:** *"Simon Muys is a good operator."* **Charles Coorey** wins high praise from clients for his work on ACCC merger clearance and investigations matters. **Strengths:** *"He's clear, concise and cuts through to the commercial issues, tailoring the issues to the way the ACCC will think."* *"Charles is professional, responsive and commercial in his approach."* *"Charles has a client service-oriented approach, ensuring his own*

availability as needed but also using the depth of resources available to him. He works with his clients to ensure needs are being met and keeps his client apprised of developments so there are no surprises. Charles understands the industries in which his clients work." "Charles knows the law inside out but his advice is practical. On a recent matter, our legal position was good, but he gave a more realistic assessment of where we might end up in practice." **Louise Klamka** is particularly strong at advising clients in the aviation and technology sectors on a wide range of Australian competition and consumer law issues. **Strengths:** "Louise is an exceptional lawyer and our go-to partner for our most important competition and regulatory work. Louise has exceptional technical skills matched with an excellent commercial acumen and unparalleled understanding of our business. She has guided us through our most difficult and complex competition and regulatory matters over the last few years." "Louise is incredibly smart, knows the area better than anyone, is very engaging and interested in our business and delivers value to our company through multiple other services offered." "Louise was extremely helpful in the process with her diligence and patience for gathering and processing all the information and providing us with the best ideas in presenting the relevant arguments."

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills offers a global, regional and national depth of practice, bolstered by integration of competition expertise across the firm's international network and close collaboration with corporate and dispute resolution colleagues. The team is noted for its vigorous defence of ACCC enforcement proceedings, its frequent representation of leading energy sector players in regulatory investigations and its focus on market behavioural issues in the financial services sphere. Contentious competition law experience embraces both involvement in Full Federal Court and Competition Tribunal proceedings and increasing activity in private actions alleging the contravention of competition law provisions. The practice acts for blue-chip clients across a comprehensive range of industry sectors, including energy, financial services, infrastructure and telecommunications. These clients include National Australia Bank, BHP and Uber.

Strengths

"They have excellent technical skills combined with great commercial acumen, as well as the ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters with smooth and effective client service. They have a strong and effective working relationship with the ACCC, which is of great benefit to their clients."

"Their team covers a wider variety of skill sets and expertise. Service levels are outstanding and they are very responsive, with excellent commercial awareness."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills acted for Suncorp Group in the sale of its Australian banking business to Australia and New Zealand Banking, including advising on ACCC approval.

Notable practitioners

Linda Evans leads the regional Herbert Smith Freehills competition practice from the Sydney office and boasts expertise extending across the

competition spectrum, from the management of billion-dollar merger clearance mandates to advising on the highest-profile class action cases. **Strengths:** "She has a gravitas in Australian competition issues that demands respect." "She's fantastic and an authority on competition law. She has been brilliant, considered and thorough." "She is confident giving clear advice without hiding behind loads of qualification; she confidently shows her advice." "She's excellent and one of the most recognised competition lawyers in the country." "Linda can bring deep industry knowledge that's helped us really shape our position and posture." **Patrick Gay** assists a diverse clientele with merger control and regulatory investigations and is noted for his experience and knowledge of the ACCC and its key personnel. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** "He is a good thinker, responsive, patient and pragmatic and has useful contacts within the competition regulator. He is effective and gets to the point quickly. I trust his view and would go to him for a number of things." **Sarah Benbow's** knowledge and experience of competition and consumer law issues is regularly applied to advising clients on their interaction with ACCC investigations, prosecutions or enforcements, as well as on merger clearance. She is based in Melbourne.

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons fields a well-staffed, comprehensive competition/antitrust offering with global reach and a particularly impressive, fully integrated regional network, noted for its engagement with large, complex mandates. The firm's merger clearance experience extends to the representation of major multinational clients on the acquisition of Australian targets, and the litigation practice frequently acts on high-profile prosecutions, including cartel cases. The team is notably active on behalf of blue-chip clients from the financial services, pharmaceutical, resources and telecommunications sectors and adept in the handling of access issues and other matters in the energy and infrastructure spaces. A conspicuously loyal clientele benefits from the firm's in-depth knowledge of the ACCC, state and Commonwealth regulatory bodies and industry associations. Members of that clientele include Royal Bank of Scotland, Department of Defence and Bristol Myers Squibb.

Strengths

"The team provides strategic advice on some of our most important M&A transactions. Cost management is also great, clearly scoping their engagement with no surprises on fees. They are a very highly regarded team; one of the best (if not the best) in the market."

"They have a lot of experience with dealing with the ACCC. The quality of the strategic advice is always solid. They understand the business the most."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons advised Alliance Aviation Services in relation to competition clearance of Qantas' proposed AUD614 million acquisition of the shares in Alliance it did not already own.

Notable practitioners

Caroline Coops, based in Melbourne, advises across the competition and consumer law spectrum, being particularly well known for her han-

dling of challenging mandates involving ACCC investigation or prosecution. **Strengths:** "Caroline Coops is very good; she's exceptional." "Caroline is the intellectual leader of the practice." **Luke Woodward** is active across the contentious, regulatory and transactional spaces, advising global clients on major criminal cartel prosecutions, ACCC investigations and merger control. He is based in Sydney and leads the King & Wood Mallesons competition team. **Strengths:** "Luke provides insights and a level of sophistication that others can't." **Wayne Leach** is based in the Sydney office and advises a diverse, frequently blue-chip client base on major regulatory inquiries and merger clearance mandates. **Strengths:** "I was very impressed by his client service and ability." "Wayne is very helpful, thorough, and pragmatic. A lot of competition lawyers are quite academic, but he is able to explain things in the client's terms." "He has been lead partner on our work for an extended period and is trusted and valued." "Key strengths of Wayne in particular are just how open and receptive he is to what we need and what the ask is and making sure he is able to give exactly what we need. That level of openness of feedback is pretty unique." **Peta Stevenson** is based in Sydney and frequently assists clients with complex, high-profile regulatory disputes and enforcement proceedings. **Strengths:** "Peta particularly has stood out with regard to responsiveness and enthusiasm dealing with issues quickly and effectively. She's in the top echelon of strategic thinking and expertise." "She's approachable and good at understanding the issue and good at connecting people." **Lisa Huett** combines a busy ACCC investigatory and consumer protection practice with well-honed global merger control capabilities.

Band 2

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth operates an independent competition law practice offering comprehensive advice on merger, regulatory investigation and access issues for high-end clients, making it a popular choice for cross-border referrals. The firm's wide-ranging sector expertise includes coverage of energy and resources, technology and telecommunications. The team is also praised for complementing its core competition offering with an exceptional consumer law capability. The practice's litigation experience and regular engagement by the ACCC is leveraged to advise on areas of competition enforcement coming under increased scrutiny from the regulator, and augmented by an increased capability to handle investigation-related mandates. Clients include Meta (Facebook), Avast and Medibank.

Strengths

"The team is excellent at being able to deliver what I need in the way I need it. They understand the nuances of how our companies functions and are very good at delivering things crispy, clearly and commercially. The advice is also not overly legalistic and is incredibly commercial."

"The Corrs team as a whole were extremely reliable, responsive to client requests and queries and

adept at managing our global corporate structure by ensuring they were available to attend meetings and calls across various time zones. They were highly skilled at managing a large-scale investigation and proceedings.”

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth defended Google in a landmark private antitrust litigation commenced by Epic Games relating to allegations that Google misused its market power by preventing developers from distributing their apps other than through the Google Play store and forcing developers to use Google’s payment processing services.

Notable practitioners

Mark McCowan covers the full spectrum of competition matters, supplying transactional, contentious and regulatory counsel to a diverse client base from the Sydney office. **Strengths:** “Mark is super responsive; I can get him at any time. He’s a really trusted partner who I always know I can go to.” **Richard Flitcroft** is noted for his focus on ACCC investigation and other regulatory issues and experience of litigation in superior courts at both state and Commonwealth level. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** “He’s a true professional and his legal awareness and understanding are outstanding.” “His previous experience working with us was invaluable to managing the investigation and legal proceedings. He has a wealth of knowledge in the consumer and competition law space, as well as working with regulators such as the ACCC. His industry knowledge was what enabled us to receive effective, timely advice when critical decisions needed to be made by business stakeholders.”

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison’s competition team benefits both from a deep bench and extensive regional network, supporting the representation of blue-chip multinationals on cross-border merger clearances and providing a popular, independent choice for referrals from international law firms without an Australian presence. The firm is acknowledged for its prowess handling regulatory investigations or cartel issues, as well as its experience managing infrastructure access questions and advising public sector bodies on regulatory legislation. The team offers noteworthy experience advising on sensitive and highly publicised asset privatisations and behavioural prosecutions in such key, heavily regulated industries as energy and financial services. The practice is further noted for advising prominent clients from the transport and logistics, healthcare and telecommunications sectors, with key clients including Singtel Optus, THL and Cargotec.

Strengths

“They are organised, efficient and client-focused. They also have feet on the ground and excellent relationships with the authorities. Whenever we have to choose a firm here, they’re always at the top of our list.”

“Most of our matters are extremely complex and all of our advisers are very sophisticated, experienced and knowledgeable. They also consider the commercial realities of our business and industry when offering advice.”

Work highlights MinterEllison advised iRobot

on Australian competition aspects relating to its acquisition by Amazon for USD1.7 billion.

Notable practitioners

Paul Schoff’s Sydney-based practice balances contentious, regulatory investigatory and transactional considerations and is particularly strong where access or restrictive trade practices issues are concerned. **Strengths:** “Paul provided great advice that was very commercial.” “Paul is intelligent, insightful, easy to use and an elder statesman of competition law. He’s very practical and a deep thinker.” “He’s an expert in his field and extremely knowledgeable about the market.” **Geoff Carter** is based in Melbourne and has particular expertise securing clearance for large M&A transactions. In addition, he advises on ACCC and CDPP criminal cartel proceedings. **Strengths:** “Geoff Carter is very good.” **Katrina Groshinski** operates from the Sydney office and is prominently active on mandates involving ACCC litigation or regulatory investigations and inquiries, as well as on corporate advisory work. **Miranda Noble** is based in Melbourne and counsels a diverse client base on securing merger clearance for high-profile international transactions. In addition, she advises on investigatory and contentious mandates.

Band 3

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy fields a respected competition law team with high cross-border capability, backed by a worldwide network and frequently acting on behalf of high-profile clients from the Australian and international financial services, energy and technology sectors. The firm offers proven expertise advising global clients on multi-jurisdictional merger filings throughout the Asia-Pacific region. The practice is also noted for its competition litigation and investigation-related capabilities, complemented by in-depth, experience-based understanding of ACCC processes and constructive relations with the Commission. The team provides regulatory counsel to major multinationals in connection with ACCC inquiries into markets such as gas and electricity supply and digital platforms. Notable clients include Singtel, Dulux and Alinta Energy.

Strengths

“Allen & Overy offers excellent service levels and outstanding commercial awareness.”

“They have the ability to stay informed about a complex industry and structure and provide important advice in short turnarounds. The advice considers the commercial context, is digestible and demonstrates awareness of our business and operations.”

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised Google on the ACCC’s five-year Digital Platform Services Inquiry, under which the ACCC is required to prepare bi-annual reports.

Notable practitioners

Peter McDonald (see p.234) advises across the competition spectrum from the Sydney office, standing out for his experience of managing high-value merger clearance mandates and sensitive antitrust issues. **Strengths:** “Peter manages all of our competition and regulatory requirements with solid commercial awareness. Peter also supports

our need to engage with other practice areas at the firm.” “Peter is fantastic and very commercial. A lot of competition lawyers are very risk-averse, whereas Peter is much more commercial in the way he views risk. He has great knowledge of consumer law and the ACCC.” “Peter is an outstanding practitioner and a known expert in the field. He understands our business very well and it is comfort and a pleasure to have him in our corner.”

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery maintains a compact, specialist practice, noted for providing a particularly high level of hands-on partner engagement and in-depth cartel expertise that extends to advising on international and criminal cartel investigations initiated by the ACCC. The firm is also prominent representing clients from the aviation, consumer goods, energy and resources, financial services and healthcare sectors, and advises extensively on consumer law investigations and prosecutions. The practice regularly offers guidance on merger clearance issues for multinationals headquartered overseas and is frequently sought out specifically for competition-related advice by companies that use other firms for broader corporate work. Clients include Ramsay, Unilever and Domain.

Strengths

“They know our business and are very trusted advisers. They provide the full spectrum of strategic, sophisticated legal advice.”

“They actually give proper advice on how to respond to issues and what to do. I’m impressed with the team; they’re always available and willing to help, and give quick turnarounds.”

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery advised Qantas in relation to its acquisition of the remaining shares in Alliance Airlines, assisting Qantas in responding to information requests from the ACCC.

Notable practitioners

Aldo Nicotra is based in Sydney and is active in all areas of competition work, enjoying a particularly high reputation for his handling of contentious mandates, including cartel cases. **Strengths:** “Aldo offers strategic and pragmatic advice.” “Aldo always make himself available; no matter if you’re the biggest or smallest client, he makes you feel like the biggest and makes you feel valued. He wants you to succeed and has a sense of humour.” “We value his experience and wisdom.” **Sar Kaddare** maintains a diverse and busy practice from the Sydney office, covering such issues as merger authorisation and ACCC investigations and prosecutions. **Strengths:** “Sar has developed a deep understanding of our business drivers and short, medium and long term strategic ambitions in order to ensure his advice is thoroughly contextual and commercially informed. Sar has been able to combine the depth of his specialist expertise with a client-first commercial sensibility that is rare among private practitioners.” “Sar is really knowledgeable and has the ability to quickly frame a problem and a solution and provide guidance on possible outcomes. He has taken a lot of information quickly and made it easy for us to deal with.” “Sar is fantastic to work with and always provides great value and service to us.” “Sar understands our business

extremely well and is able to provide fast and practical advice." "Sar is a super smart and highly focused competition partner. Just the right mix of expertise, commerciality and attitude."

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright fields the Australian arm of a global practice, experienced in the handling of complex, multi-jurisdictional competition issues, including merger clearances, for blue-chip clients and acting both for and against the ACCC. The firm is especially active representing clients from the highly regulated energy, pharmaceutical and telecommunications sectors and is sought after for assistance on particularly sensitive issues by clients who include those facing investigation or prosecution for alleged criminal cartel activity or who are in receipt of ACCC requests for information. The practice's key clients include Stanmore Resources, Zurich Insurance and Petspiration Group.

Strengths

"In the competition law area there is a skilled team of lawyers who quickly grasped the nuances of our business."

"Their performance was very commercial, very prompt and technically very good."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Sandvik Australia Holdings on its acquisition of 100% of the issued share capital of S-Process Equipment Australia and its subsidiaries from Schenck Process Group as part of a global transaction.

Notable practitioners

Nick McHugh, who is based in Sydney, acts on a variety of competition matters, including merger control and joint venture questions and the regulation of utility companies, where he acts for both public and private clients. He is also an experienced handler of matters involving ACCC investigation or prosecution. **Strengths:** "He was great to work with and was always great with clients, even in challenging circumstances. He looks broadly beyond the immediate problem and thinks about strategic issues and looks at what effect they may have on something else. He's intellectually agile." "He is collaborative and easygoing, but very clear about what he wants and very effective, with very careful strategic thinking. He's efficient and market-savvy."

Band 4

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for The Baker McKenzie competition team is experienced in the representation of both the ACCC and leading private sector companies. Thanks to the resources of a global competition network, it is well placed to advise on significant cross-jurisdictional transactions, while maintaining a prominent presence in the domestic market. The practice is active across the full range of merger clearance, regulatory investigation and infrastructure access briefs, as well as being engaged to advise on local and global enforcement proceedings by both the ACCC and corporate clients. Clients include Wise-

Tech, Mercedes-Benz Australia and Sika.

Strengths

"They manage complexities calmly with careful scoping and prioritisation. We have never encountered a gap in capability or capacity. They have excellent commercial awareness and sensitivity to political and social developments."

"Team members have a range of skills and experience which is useful and ensures that there are no shortcomings in the advice and input provided. The team is also very responsive to requests for input."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie acted for SUEZ in Australia in relation to Veolia's global merger with SUEZ and obtaining ACCC merger clearance.

Notable practitioners

Georgina Foster leads the practice from the Sydney office and advises across the full landscape of transactional, contentious and regulatory work. **Strengths:** "She is incredibly insightful, very patient and good at listening and applying herself to business realities." "Georgina is an excellent relationship partner and lawyer. Georgina is well known in the industry as a leading competition lawyer and for very good reason." "She knows our business in and out, so I am able to go to her with any issues and within a short time frame I know she will have put into consideration a lot of ideas that I wouldn't have." **Lynsey Edgar** is based in Sydney and has significant experience handling disputes relating to all aspects of competition and consumer law, including enforcement litigation, merger clearance, ACCC investigations and cartel issues. **Strengths:** "Lynsey is our top lawyer, above all others, in our global network and legal panel. She has a wealth of knowledge, experience, and genuine concern for our welfare and security. She is always on top of the law, sensitive to commercial issues and exceptionally strong in managing global and cross-border projects." "She quickly understood the key issues and was precise in her analysis. She was approachable, flexible and always available." "Lynsey is a pleasure to work with; obviously, technically excellent, but her soft skills with clients are top-notch too. She is genuinely interested in her clients and their businesses and is a true business partner. Her ability to quickly build rapport with commercial members of my team can always be relied upon and is impressive, leading to efficient discussions and greater trust in the process."

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance fields a globally integrated practice with a deep regional footprint, acting as trusted advisers to major multinationals on Australian and cross-jurisdictional merger clearances, joint ventures, distribution agreements and infrastructure access arrangements. The team has a proven track record assisting global clients on misuse of market power, cartel investigations and enforcement proceedings. Clients include blue-chip global players in the energy and resources, financial services, consumer goods, technology and media sectors.

Notable practitioners

Elizabeth Richmond is based in Sydney and focuses on contentious and investigatory mandates, including ACCC enforcement actions and Federal Court litigation, advising additionally on merger clearance issues.

K&L Gates

What the team is known for The K&L Gates competition law practice is prominent in merger control, behavioural enforcement and regulatory issues, acting for significant clients in the construction, financial services, energy and resources, and pharmaceutical sectors, with additional expertise in the agribusiness, shipping and technology spaces. The firm frequently advises international companies and individuals responding to ACCC cartel investigations and prosecutions, including those with concurrent proceedings in other jurisdictions. The team is also increasingly active on behalf of clients seeking ACCC authorisation for legitimate instances of collective conduct. Key clients include ExxonMobil, Sinch and Sigma.

Strengths

"K&L has a deep industry knowledge and understanding of the commercial environment in which we operate, which means they are able to quickly grasp the issue at hand and provide the necessary advice in a timely manner. I have been impressed by the depth of industry knowledge and understanding."

"K&L Gates clearly have the depth of legal knowledge required, and more importantly were incredibly pragmatic in assisting us with providing a response to a complex regulatory legal matter."

Work highlights K&L Gates advised Macspred on merger clearance issues from the proposed sale of various agri-varieties to Syngenta.

Notable practitioners

Ayman Guirguis is based in Sydney and advises across a wide field of competition issues, including merger control and a variety of regulatory matters. **Strengths:** "I have been dealing with Ayman for more than ten years and have followed him between firms due to his deep industry knowledge and quick, commercial and pragmatic advice." "Ayman is a pleasure to work with. He is deeply knowledgeable and incredibly practical and pragmatic." "Ayman is very responsive and flexible in terms of delivery of advice."

Webb Henderson

What the team is known for Webb Henderson maintains a compact, highly respected competition law practice, noted for its frequent representation of the ACCC on key enforcement mandates and for private sector clients, including major players in FMCG, franchising, infrastructure, media and telecommunications spheres. The firm is especially well known for its handling of cartel cases, class actions and access regulation issues, but is also experienced in the representation of clients before the Australian Competition Tribunal and in litigation to Full Federal Court and High Court level. The practice has acted for individual executives requiring separate representation in competition cases. Its private sector clients include Yum! Restaurants Australia, Red Bull and Crossfire Motorcycles.

Strengths

"Webb Henderson does great cartel work."

Work highlights Webb Henderson acted for the ACCC in its enforcement proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia against Delta Building Automation, which involved allegations of attempted cartel conduct.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Christopher is based in Sydney and acts extensively for both public and private clients on regulatory investigations and enforcement proceedings. He is particularly respected for his regular stewardship of important mandates for the ACCC. **Strengths:** “Andrew Christopher is an excellent lawyer.”

Band 5**Arnold Bloch Leibler**

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler maintains a compact competition law practice with a strong focus on the representation of businesses facing contentious or potentially contentious competition issues, including ACCC investigations and prosecutions, with an emphasis on resolving matters out of court where possible. The team additionally offers support to clients conducting private litigation against competitors, suppliers or customers, and in consumer law disputes. It is also active on merger control, compliance and risk management mandates. Key clients include Zip Co, Mecca and Hostplus.

Strengths

“They are exceptional and have consistently demonstrated capacity to deal with peaks and troughs of the workload.”

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler advised Retail Food Group on an ACCC investigation and subsequent proceeding arising out of a Federal Parliamentary inquiry into the franchising sector alleging that the client acted in a manner that was systemically unconscionable in connection with the sale of corporate-owned stores to franchisees.

Notable practitioners

Zaven Mardirossian leads the practice from the Melbourne office, personally advising a varied clientele, including players from the retail, pharmaceutical and manufacturing sectors, on sophisticated regulatory dispute resolution and merger clearance issues. **Strengths:** “Zaven is a great litigator.”

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper offers an in-depth understanding of regulatory and commercial perspectives on competition law issues, based on extensive experience handling high-stakes mandates for both the ACCC and leading corporations. The team is particularly familiar with the regulatory landscapes affecting the automotive, energy, financial services and telecommunications industries, and is regularly instructed on merger clearance, infrastructure access and regulatory compliance issues. The practice is also experienced advising on contentious matters, including not only those involving Australian Competition Tribunal and Federal Court proceedings, but also those considered by regulatory bodies at state level. The firm is highly prized for its integration with the firm’s global network, facilitating cross-jurisdictional assistance and swifter familiarisation with worldwide competition law trends.

Strengths

“DLA Piper does a lot of great work for the ACCC and also does some good private stuff.”

Notable practitioners

Simon Uthmeyer (see p.236) leads the team from the Melbourne office, covering both the contentious and advisory sides of competition law practice, including infrastructure access, abuse of dominance and cartel matters. **Strengths:** “I really rate Simon very highly. He’s highly strategic and puts in a lot of effort with other consultants and with the client. He’s a great project manager. If I had a complex competition issue, I would go to him; he’s always thinking outside the box and does a lot of work for the ACCC so he brings a lot of healthy perspective to it.”

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth operates a full-service competition law practice with a broad national footprint, maintaining representatives in seven of the firm’s nine national offices. The team advises across the full spectrum of competition and consumer law issues, including merger clearance mandates, attracting particular respect for its handling of contentious matters, criminal cartel cases and consumer disputes. Key clients include Coles Supermarkets Australia, Sony Australia and Viva Energy.

Strengths

“The team was very available and able to jump on calls to speak to the other side, and turned things around quickly. They have the ability to focus in on the right matters and get value.”

“They gave excellent advice that was clear, concise, practical and always timely. They had broad knowledge of commercial transactions and were very quick to understand the client’s business.”

Work highlights HWL Ebsworth advised Singapore Airlines on an alliance and structured agency arrangements with Virgin Australia to achieve a range of outcomes that could not be achieved through the ACCC code sharing authorisation that the ACCC had granted to Virgin Australia.

Notable practitioners

Richard Westmoreland acts extensively on matters involving alleged breaches of the Australian Competition and Consumer Act, being particularly well known for his assured handling of criminal cartel cases. He also acts on the corporate advisory side, providing competition-related strategic counsel during M&A and joint venture transactions. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** “He is excellent and very good at conveying complex legal issues in a simplified great way. He asks great questions.” “Richard is highly competent and provides a very high level of service.” “He’s client-focused and technically excellent.” “He gets really involved and is very pragmatic. He puts himself in the client or regulator’s shoes and does a lot of heavy lifting, which is so very helpful. His experience is fantastic.”

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day maintains a well-regarded competition and antitrust law offering, with expertise in complex merger clearances, market investigations, enforcement litigation and cartel issues. The firm advises domestic and multinational companies across the energy and natural resources, technology, financial ser-

VICES and pharmaceutical sectors. The practice counts among its clients Brookfield Asset Management and THL.

Strengths

“They are a well-connected team who are very collaborative and terrific.”

“I’m impressed; they offer really astute advice, really quickly. Often the transaction can move very fast but they can keep up with the pace. They are commercially strategic and have an eye for where our business might be heading. They also understand global markets and future product developments and customer shifts internationally.”

Work highlights Jones Day represented Apollo before antitrust regulators in relation to its merger with Tourism Holdings in Australia, New Zealand and the UK.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Bull of Jones Day acts prominently on competition matters in the infrastructure, energy and natural resources sectors. His practice covers a wide range of matters, ranging from merger clearance and infrastructure access to regulatory enforcement. He is based in Melbourne. **Prudence Smith** of Jones Day offers both advisory and contentious matter support to clients based across Australasia and South-East Asia from the Sydney office. She is well placed to leverage past experience at the ACCC to inform strategic advice during complex disputes. **Strengths:** “She is very responsive and brings great regulatory insights from her time at the ACCC.” “Prudence is to the point, practical, readily available and highly personable. I really enjoy working with her.” “Prudence Smith provides deep knowledge of her practice area in competition law, with care and attention for her client, combined with a practical and commercial focus.” “She’s commercially astute and is aware of our business and our business perspective. She has a good practical sense of how we can achieve what we want commercially whilst also considering competition law. She’s really quick and committed to fast turnaround.” “Prudence is an excellent, experienced and competent lawyer. She always gives practical legal advice.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Kathryn Edghill leads the Mills Oakley competition law practice from the Sydney office and is endorsed by interviewees for her proficiency in both advisory and contentious work, with experience handling consumer law issues, class action disputes and cartel investigations.

Strengths:

“She has such a good understanding of the business, Australian competition law and client service. She is always available.”

“She is a well-respected figure in the market. She’s got an astonishing depth of experience and is insightful and practical, with good judgement. She’s also very good with clients.”

“Kathryn thinks about things deeply; I am confident in her ability.”

“She gives strategic advice and goes through the nuts and bolts of technical details of the law.”

“She has been such a part of the team that she is integral to the business. If she could clone herself,

I'd appreciate it."

Belinda Harvey (see p.233) of White & Case is based in Sydney and advises a diverse body of prominent clients on securing merger clearances, as well as on litigation and strategic competition law advice.

Dave Poddar of Quay Law Partners in Sydney covers the full range of competition mandates, including international merger clearances, cartel cases and high-stakes infrastructure access matters.

Construction, Infrastructure & Project Finance

Construction	Construction	Construction
Leading Firms	Leading Individuals	
Band 1	Band 1	Band 4
Clayton Utz	Capelli Sergio Clayton Utz	Ashworth Simon K&L Gates
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Nankervis Stewart MinterEllison	Bradbury Matt McCullough Robertson
MinterEllison	O'Brien Leighton Allens	Buchanan Robert Pinsent Masons
Band 2	Pether Peter King & Wood Mallesons	Cahill Meghan MolinoCahill Lawyers
Allens	Ryder Chris Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Chapman Andrew Maddocks
Ashurst	Stephenson Andrew Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Chew Andrew Corrs Chambers Westgarth
King & Wood Mallesons	Band 2	Gallagher John DLA Piper Australia *
Pinsent Masons LLP	Arkwright Kevin Norton Rose Fulbright	Jardine David Ashurst
Band 3	Brackin Dale Clayton Utz	Kelly Andrew Thomson Geer
Baker McKenzie	Budd Scott King & Wood Mallesons	McRobbie Isla Jackson McDonald
Herbert Smith Freehills	Cooper John Jones Day	Middleton Daniel Gadens
Maddocks	Croagh Matthew Pinsent Masons LLP	Morgan-Payler James Pinsent Masons LLP
Norton Rose Fulbright	Cubitt Beth Clyde & Co	Niemann Ren Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 4	Macpherson Hamish King & Wood Mallesons	Riethmuller Paul Riethmuller Legal (ORL) ◇
Arnold Bloch Leibler	McKechnie Elizabeth MinterEllison	Rudge Nick Allens
Clyde & Co	Quick Georgia Ashurst	Sage Gareth Ashurst
Colin Biggers & Paisley	Steinepreis Gregory C. Squire Patton Boggs	Steele Sandra K&L Gates
DLA Piper Australia	Waddell Mark Pinsent Masons	Strahorn Brad White & Case LLP
Jones Day	Wood Peter MinterEllison	Stulic Mathew Maddocks
McCullough Robertson	Band 3	Whiteside Alex Norton Rose Fulbright
MolinoCahill Lawyers	Bannon Frank Clayton Utz	Woods Paul Maddocks
White & Case LLP	Confos Emanuel Baker McKenzie	Band 5
Band 5	Dann Rod Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Arrow Anthony Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Gadens	Davidson Ben Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Campbell Greg Pinsent Masons LLP
Hall & Wilcox	Duthie Leigh Baker McKenzie	Cureton Cris Squire Patton Boggs
HFW	Frawley Kevin Arnold Bloch Leibler	Deschamps Paul HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers	Hartmann Alex Baker McKenzie	Fox Airlie Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Jackson McDonald	Laycock Scott Mills Oakley	Griffiths Andrew Herbert Smith Freehills
Johnson Winter Slattery	Misko Marko HWL Ebsworth Lawyers	Hansen Geoff Herbert Smith Freehills
K&L Gates	Pitney Andrew Maddocks	Mellick Julian Colin Biggers & Paisley
Mills Oakley	Read Graham Clayton Utz	Molino Tony MolinoCahill Lawyers
Squire Patton Boggs	Rowlands Grant Ashurst	Muir Matthew Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Thomson Geer		Orford Andrew MinterEllison
* Indicates individual with profile.		Warwick Glen Norton Rose Fulbright
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.		
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.		

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allens

What the team is known for Allens is highly regarded for its adroit handling of major road, rail and air transportation projects together with an established track record in the resources arena. It has an outstanding reputation in respect of all aspects of project financing and PPPs, and counts major public entities and corporate and banking groups among its clients. Allens handles downstream construction mandates, acting for gov-

ernment corporations as well as contractors, and is active on both contentious and transactional matters. Key clients include Transport for NSW, Equinor and Multiplex.

Strengths

"Allens have strong leadership and depth in personnel to ensure excellent support for each project. They always provide good service, support and responsiveness."

"Their team is well experienced at partner level and well supervised. The quality of the output is consistently high and the service levels are first-class."

"Allens are leaders in their field and have a high-performing team. They are very responsive and have good commercial awareness."

Work highlights Allens advised Transport for NSW on all construction aspects of the M1 Pacific Motorway extension to Raymond Terrace.

Allens advised Exemplar Health Consortium, led by Capella Capital, on the financial close of a PPP to deliver a redevelopment project.

Notable practitioners

Phillip Cornwell remains a figure of great authority in the market, maintaining an active profile as a consultant in the energy and infrastructure sectors. He is based in Sydney and offers expertise based on his rich experience of advising on the financing of major infrastructure developments, not only in Australia, but also across the Asia-Pacific region. **Leighton O'Brien**

Australia Construction, Infrastructure & Project Finance

Project Finance
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
King & Wood Mallesons
Band 2
Herbert Smith Freehills
White & Case LLP
Band 3
Ashurst
Clifford Chance
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Gilbert + Tobin
Norton Rose Fulbright
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Cornwell Phillip Allens
Doyle Peter Gilbert + Tobin
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Quinn Brendan White & Case LLP
Rennie Joel White & Case LLP
Ryan Michael Allens
Band 2
Clark Jeff King & Wood Mallesons
Crew Joanne King & Wood Mallesons
Gordon Richard Clifford Chance
Rogers Claire King & Wood Mallesons
Schembri John Gilbert + Tobin
Wakelin Erin Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 3
Adkins Nicholas Allens
Lynch Simon Gilbert + Tobin
Mason David Ashurst
McCoy Scott Allens
Pike Gerard Herbert Smith Freehills
Stapledon Adam Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Upfold Mark King & Wood Mallesons
Watt Rob Allens
* Indicates individual with profile.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

is based in Sydney and is known for his assured handling of landmark road construction and other infrastructure projects, advising not only on their procurement and delivery aspects, but also on the disputes which may arise from them. **Strengths:** "Leighton O'Brien is incredibly experienced and very good strategically with litigation." "Leighton is one of the best construction partners who covers both front end and back end." **Michael Ryan** is based in Melbourne, where he heads Allens' project finance practice. He stands out for his expertise in PPP financing and refinancing matters. **Strengths:** "Michael is very efficient, friendly and collegiate to work with." **Nicholas Adkins** is a Sydney-based practitioner offering experience, acquired on a national basis, of a comprehensive range of financing transactions across a comparably broad spectrum of social, economic, digital and energy and resources infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** "Nick demystifies complex issues and is always available to discuss anything. He has a high commercial acumen." **David Donnelly** is a highly versatile, Melbourne-based practitioner who advises on procurement, operational and delivery issues across such key sectors as public transport, healthcare and energy. **Strengths:** "David is

Infrastructure
Leading Firms
Band 1
Ashurst
Clayton Utz
MinterEllison
Band 2
Allens
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
White & Case LLP
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Walter John Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Leading Individuals
Band 1
McDonald Lee Ashurst
Nankervis Stewart MinterEllison
Band 2
Capelli Sergio Clayton Utz
Clark Andrew White & Case LLP*
Mitchell Chris King & Wood Mallesons
Sgro Josh White & Case LLP
Upfold Mark King & Wood Mallesons
Band 3
Block Peter MinterEllison
Donnelly David Allens
Foley Angus Ashurst
Fox Airlie Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Guy Alex Ashurst
Pugsley Joanna Clayton Utz
Rosengarten Alan White & Case LLP*
Band 4
Chew Andrew Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Davenport Marcus Clayton Utz
Draper Joanne White & Case LLP*
Lester David Clayton Utz

a leader in this field." **Scott McCoy** devotes much of his practice to advising lenders, borrowers and sponsors on the debt financing aspects of PPPs and other infrastructure projects, offering particularly focused expertise where renewable and new energy projects are concerned. **Strengths:** "Scott is brilliant and a delight to work with." "Scott is smart and hard-working." **Rob Watt** is based in Sydney and maintains a diverse financing practice in the energy sector, advising on such matters as LNG and waste-to-energy projects. His wide-ranging experience covers transactions in Europe, the Middle East and the US, as well as in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. **Strengths:** "Rob is super responsive, technically proficient and commercially astute. He provides a standout level of service." **Nick Rudge** focuses on design and construction matters in the infrastructure sphere, often providing support on dispute resolution mandates in the field. **Strengths:** "Nick is a calming influence. He is a very technical lawyer who knows the law inside out."

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler is particularly adept at advising on the construction of commercial, residential, mixed-use and hospitality developments. It manages the entire life-cycle of building and construction agree-

ments. Arnold Bloch Leibler advises clients on a wide range of real estate, finance, insurance and urban infrastructure issues arising from developments, as well as construction disputes. It assists domestic and international property developers, with an especially strong roster of Asian developers and investors. Key clients include Gurner and Beulah International.

Strengths

"Their ability to deal with very complex issues and demanding clients is a real strength."

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler advised Hamton Property Group and HostPlus on their joint venture to redevelop the Moonee Valley Racecourse, known as 'The Valley of Tomorrow'.

Notable practitioners

Kevin Frawley maintains a versatile practice from the Melbourne office, advising both domestic and regional developers on a range of commercial and mixed-use construction projects. **Strengths:** "Kevin is a doyen of construction contracts."

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst is especially highly regarded for its representation of government on significant infrastructure mandates. It advises on all aspects of major infrastructure projects, including structuring and planning, as well as contract negotiations and disputes. The firm offers a complementary construction practice with standalone capabilities, particularly in the field of public transport. Ashurst is also active in project finance matters, mostly representing lenders in the renewable energy sector. Key clients include Sydney Metro, the Department of Defence and the University of Melbourne.

Strengths

"Ashurst is one of the top developmental grounds for young lawyers, and they have excellent bench strength at partner level."

"They provide strength and depth of commercial, strategic and legal advice. They are always responsive and a pleasure to work with."

Work highlights Ashurst continued to advise Transport for NSW on all aspects of the Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade, including the procurement strategy, contract packaging structures, and alternative procurement models and contracting approaches.

Ashurst advised the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads on the AUD7.1 billion Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. This involved the procurement and maintenance of 65 trains, a manufacturing facility, a maintenance depot and a stabling yard.

Notable practitioners

Lee McDonald is a leading, Sydney-based transport infrastructure expert who regularly advises state agencies on significant rail projects. **Georgia Quick** maintains a high reputation as an able litigator who is closely focused on PPP and development-related disputes. **Strengths:** "Georgia is a very good disputes practitioner." **Angus Foley** is widely appreciated for the contribution of banking and financing expertise he makes to the management of large infrastructure projects.

Alex Guy is based in Brisbane and frequently assists on large public infrastructure projects, offering a particularly well-developed capacity

to handle matters for operation and maintenance contractors. **Strengths:** “Alex is absolutely excellent. He is a top-class front-end lawyer, and is very calm and pragmatic. He is always looking for solutions.” Sydney-based **David Mason** advises extensively on acquisition financing mandates and is particularly active in the energy sector, where he often assists on the acquisition of gas and renewables projects. His experience extends beyond the Australian jurisdictions to include matters both in the Asia-Pacific region and Africa. **Grant Rowlands** is a seasoned, Melbourne-based construction lawyer who acts prominently on development projects in the sports, logistics and defence sectors. He frequently advises on construction procurement matters in the Victorian transport infrastructure sector. **Strengths:** “Grant is a great support and resource. He is practical and commercial.” “Grant is an excellent leader.” **David Jardine** is widely acknowledged for his front-end construction expertise and is particularly active in the transport and social infrastructure and PPP spaces. **Gareth Sage** is based in Sydney and maintains a versatile profile at the intersection of construction and projects, being particularly active on construction matters associated with energy and public transport projects.

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie demonstrates sector expertise in transportation, natural resources and social infrastructure, advising on design, construction and maintenance agreements, as well as on procurement strategy, tendering and contract drafting. The firm acts for a wide range of domestic and international clients on front-end transactions and contractor disputes. Its contentious offering includes expertise regarding both litigation and arbitration. The team is highlighted for its expertise in delivering energy-related construction projects, particularly in the renewables space. Key clients include ALDI and mRNA Victoria.

Strengths

“Baker McKenzie have an excellent standard and consistency of advice. They are sophisticated and provide creative solutions to complex issues.”

“Baker McKenzie have plenty of depth across all disciplines.”

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Monno and Costa Asset Management on all aspects of its bid for the commercial, hotel and mixed-use development agreements of the Geelong Convention Centre and Exhibition Centre project.

Notable practitioners

Emanuel Confos has extensive experience advising developers on various D&C and EPC contract matters across the energy and infrastructure space. **Strengths:** “Emanuel is great. He consistently provides guidance, support and thought leadership and more well above the core ‘legal’ advice. His authenticity is delightful.” “Emanuel Confos exemplifies what you look for in the leader of a firm you are working with.” **Leigh Duthie** is based in Brisbane and is particularly well known for his representation of contractors in major domestic and cross-border construction claims. **Alex Hartmann** advises both public authorities and corporations on a comprehensive range of

project delivery issues, from initial contract structuring through to back-end contentious matters. He is based in Sydney, and particularly active on infrastructure PPPs and urban redevelopment projects.

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz maintains a leading reputation in the construction space, as well as for major infrastructure projects. It regularly advises national, state and local government bodies on a wide range of strategic development projects in public transport, water and energy. Clayton Utz offers extensive expertise in rail and road PPPs. It assists clients on the full range of contentious and non-contentious matters relating to construction and infrastructure projects. Key clients include Australian Rail Track Corporation and Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Strengths

“Clayton Utz have a fantastic ability to pull a team together to service complex matters with a team approach. Juniors are confident and strong, and this follows all the way up the chain to the partner level.”

“They have broad experience and expertise in providing advice on handling complex matters.”

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority on the preliminary evaluation, business case and procurement phases of the Cross River Rail project.

Clayton Utz advised the Department of Transport and Main Roads in relation to the procurement of three packages for the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project.

Notable practitioners

Sergio Capelli is a highly experienced, Brisbane-based handler of construction and infrastructure mandates who is particularly well known for his advice on contract packages for rail infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** “Sergio is extremely experienced and well known in the industry. It is a testament to Sergio’s capability as a leader and manager that a strong core team has worked together for a long time.”

Dale Brackin is based in Brisbane and is highly regarded in the construction disputes sphere, being particularly well known for his handling of high-value international arbitrations. **Strengths:** “Dale is regarded as one of the pre-eminent practitioners in Queensland. He is technically very strong.”

Frank Bannon is known both for his capacity to advise on high-profile front-end mandates in sectors such as public transport and telecommunications, and as an accomplished construction disputes specialist. **Strengths:** “Frank is a skilled and experienced disputes lawyer.”

Joanna Pugsley is based in Melbourne and has considerable experience in the procurement, transactional and contractual aspects of major transport and social infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** “Joanna is a very experienced construction and projects adviser.”

Graham Read is acknowledged for his solid reputation in the front-end construction space, where he frequently assists state authorities and other government bodies on strategic questions.

Marcus Davenport is based in Melbourne and is well known for his work in the PPP and project finance space. **David Lester** is based in Brisbane and regularly acts for the Queensland authorities

across a wide range of key transportation projects. **Strengths:** “David provides exceptional service, quickly grasps issues to provide advice and is highly responsive.”

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance has a solid team that is well regarded for its work in project finance, particularly on renewable energy matters. It has a strong practice acting for lenders on large-scale projects in Australia and across the Asia-Pacific region. The team is also able to advise borrowers on the financings of power infrastructure projects and offers ready access to further expertise across its international network. Key clients include Webuild and Morrison & Co.

Notable practitioners

Richard Gordon is based in Sydney and is highly regarded for his project finance expertise, advising lenders and borrowers alike on complex infrastructure or mining-related transactions. **Strengths:** “Richard is one of Australia’s top financing lawyers. He is very organised and easy to deal with.” “Richard is an excellent lawyer. He is incredibly knowledgeable, calm under pressure and personable. His advice is balanced.”

Clyde & Co

What the team is known for Clyde & Co is acknowledged for its solid handling of large-scale disputes and international arbitrations. It further assists clients on non-contentious matters, advising contractors on infrastructure projects. Its clients include major engineering and construction companies operating in the oil and gas, renewables and infrastructure sectors. Based in Perth, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, the team readily collaborates with the firm’s global network on significant cross-border mandates. Key clients include John Holland and CIMIC.

Strengths

“Clyde & Co are flexible and practical.”

“They have sound ability and are diligent.”

Work highlights Clyde & Co defended CPB Contractors in Supreme Court of Western Australia proceedings brought by a supplier, Kousa International. These proceedings related to the supply of wind turbines for the Mumbida Wind Farm project.

Notable practitioners

Beth Cubitt is based in Perth and regularly represents contractors in high-value construction disputes, including both domestic litigation and international arbitration mandates. **Strengths:** “Beth is a highly skilled individual.” “Beth is extremely professional and leads a very capable team.”

Colin Biggers & Paisley

What the team is known for Colin Biggers & Paisley has a respected team that offers deep capabilities covering both contentious and non-contentious construction matters. It has notable experience advising contractors, construction companies and authorities on disputes arising from various infrastructure mandates, including transport and energy projects, as well as from property developments. The firm also fields expertise on front-end issues, including the preparation and negotiation of tender documen-

tation and construction and consultancy agreements. Key clients include Tzannes and Gekko Systems.

Strengths

“Colin Biggers & Paisley provide thorough and clear advice.”

“They are always prompt and available. They are worth every cent.”

Work highlights Colin Biggers & Paisley advised Hassell Group on the project contract documentation relating to the Western Sydney Airport part of the wider Sydney Metro Project.

Notable practitioners

Julian Mellick is based in Sydney and acts across a comprehensive range of both front-end and back-end construction issues for a comparably varied clientele, which includes both public and private sector players. He also offers experience of both superior court litigation and arbitration and of advising on projects across the Asia-Pacific region. **Strengths:** *“Julian is a fantastic lawyer.”*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth is renowned for advising on the full range of construction matters, including contract development and contentious issues. It demonstrates skills in handling high-value infrastructure and redevelopment projects across the transport, energy and healthcare sectors. The team can cover the life-cycle of a project from the bidding and procurement stages to risk assessment and planning approvals. Corrs Chambers Westgarth maintains a strong reputation for representing both state governments and commercial contractors in large-scale disputes, including arbitrations. Key clients include CIMIC, Victorian Government and John Holland.

Strengths

“Corrs Chambers Westgarth are adept at finding solutions.”

“They have subject matter experts across many different topics which can be leveraged when required.”

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised the State of Queensland’s Department of Transport & Main Roads on the procurement of Stage 3 of the Gold Coast Light Rail PPP project. Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised Transgrid on all aspects of the AUD5 billion Humelink project.

Notable practitioners

John Walter is based in Melbourne and is an eminent authority in the Victorian infrastructure field who continues to be consulted by public authorities on strategic projects. **Chris Ryder** operates across an impressive range of construction-related questions – including FPSO, EPC, EP&PM and D&C issues – from the Perth office, and is particularly active on large-scale projects in such key areas as energy and transportation. **Strengths:** *“Chris remains one of the best lawyers in Australia for construction dispute resolution. He is very thorough and takes the time to explain full details very well. He is extremely responsive.”* *“Chris is the best at complex legal questions in both front end and disputes. His calm and sage advice is always on point and well received.”* **Andrew Stephenson** is highly regarded for his work in high-stakes construction disputes, particularly those relating to

contractual or subcontractor claims. **Strengths:**

“Andrew is wonderful.” **Rod Dann** is acknowledged for his versatile contentious practice encompassing a variety of construction issues, including industrial expansion and urban redevelopment matters, and rich in experience of matters arising from projects in the oil, gas and mining sectors. He is based in Brisbane. **Strengths:** *“Rod Dann is an excellent technical lawyer and litigation specialist.”*

Ben Davidson is a versatile, Melbourne-based practitioner assisting clients from a range of sectors on all stages of construction projects. He handles both contentious and non-contentious matters and also offers valuable experience of involvement in regulatory investigations and Royal Commissions. **Adam Stapledon** is based in Sydney and regularly assists banks and various lending groups on finance matters pertaining to PPPs in the transportation and natural resources spaces. He also advises borrowers and lenders in the energy sector. **Strengths:** *“Adam is an excellent, level-headed lawyer focused on finding the best outcomes for all involved.”* *“Adam provides a high level of service and sophistication.”* **Andrew Chew** advises across a broad range of front-end construction and infrastructure issues, bringing to his work particularly extensive experience in the handling of major hospital, property and transportation developments and the valuable advantage of being himself a qualified engineer.

Anthony Arrow operates out of the Melbourne office, advising a diverse roster of domestic companies and global corporations on their energy, industrial and residential development projects.

Strengths: *“Anthony Arrow is great to work with. He is extremely knowledgeable and has a commercial approach to legal issues. He has a great rapport with his clients.”* *“Anthony is an excellent lawyer who is extremely commercial and strategic.”* **Airlie Fox** works frequently on key transport and social infrastructure projects. She is based in Sydney.

Strengths: *“Airlie is a very well-respected lawyer. It should be noted that she continues to develop talent within her team who provide quality advice.”*

“She is commercially astute and hard-working.” *“Airlie is responsive and knowledgeable.”*

Matthew Muir is a Brisbane-based lawyer who frequently works on construction and infrastructure transactions and disputes for clients from the energy and transportation sectors. **Strengths:** *“Matthew Muir is very commercial and has an exceptional ability to find innovative solutions to dispute resolution.”*

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for The DLA Piper team is a popular choice among construction and engineering companies and public authorities in relation to transportation, energy and resources, sports and recreation infrastructure construction and redevelopment programmes. It handles the full scope of construction-related contracts and has noted experience with complex litigation and arbitration. The firm is also active on property developments in the residential, utilities and retail sectors. Key clients include Downer Utilities Australia and Hyundai.

Strengths

“DLA Piper are prompt and thorough in subject assessments and views.”

“They have a highly competent team. They are very experienced and offer pragmatic solutions.”

Work highlights DLA Piper acted for the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) on all aspects of the redevelopment of the WACA ground.

Notable practitioners

John Gallagher (see p.232) is a Melbourne-based front-end practitioner who works for both public and private sector clients advising on the whole process from bidding, constructing strategy, procurement, construction to operation. **Strengths:** *“John has immense experience in the complicated PPP area.”*

Gadens

What the team is known for The team at Gadens is regularly engaged for front-end urban construction advice. It covers all aspects of development projects, including real estate matters, finance and design and construction agreements. Gadens frequently assists on high-value residential developments. The team is also active across the retail, hospitality, healthcare and education sectors. Key clients include Football Victoria and South East Water.

Strengths

“Gadens have a very experienced team who always provide advice with quick turnaround.”

“Gadens’ level of service and responsiveness is a 10 out of 10.”

Work highlights Gadens continued to represent the interests of the City of Gold Coast on all stages of the AUD1.2 billion Gold Coast Light Rail Project.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Middleton advises on some of Melbourne’s major commercial and mixed-use developments, including healthcare and residential projects, and handles both contentious and non-contentious assignments.

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin is a prominent project finance practice that frequently represents banks, sponsors and borrowers in relation to substantial financings and refinancings of infrastructure projects in a variety of sectors, including aviation, education, water services and healthcare. The team is particularly active on the financing of renewable energy, mining and natural resources projects. It handles PPPs and advises on projects involving the privatisation of assets. Key clients include MIRA and Alinta Energy.

Strengths

“Gilbert + Tobin’s lawyers are well versed, and offer good market intelligence.”

“They have an excellent understanding of the business drivers, opportunities and risks.”

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin represented MP Water, jointly owned by Veolia Water Australia and Infrastructure Capital Group, in relation to its project for the build and operation of a water treatment plant at the Springvale Mine in New South Wales.

Notable practitioners

Peter Doyle commands great market respect for his long experience in the project finance space.

Based in Sydney, he has advised on the financing of major projects in a variety of sectors, including the energy and resources, social infrastructure and transportation spheres. **Strengths:** “Peter has a great depth of legal knowledge across multiple areas. He is a first-class lawyer.” “He is a doyen in the market.” “Peter is highly regarded in the project finance world.” **John Schembri** maintains a strong, Sydney-based practice, largely focused on assisting lenders and borrowers on sizeable energy and transport infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** “John is an outstanding lawyer with tons of experience in different situations.” “John has a very strong reputation. He is very good at getting deals done. The advice given is in the best interest of the lenders but is also designed to get solutions, and that is very useful.” **Simon Lynch** maintains a broad banking and finance practice from the Melbourne office and offers proven project finance experience, particularly where wind and solar energy projects are concerned. His expertise extends notably to the management of transactions with significant cross-border aspects. **Strengths:** “Simon is different because he carries so much weight in Australia and regionally. His ability to delineate the issue and resolve it is incredibly valuable.” “Simon is excellent. He and his team are hard-working, diligent and responsive. Simon is well connected and knowledgeable.”

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox is engaged by both government authorities and private organisations and is known for its front-end construction advice. It has strengths in advising on construction in the energy and resources space. Key clients include Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning and Compass Housing Group.

Strengths

“Hall & Wilcox are efficient and knowledgeable. They have a very good service ethic.” “Hall & Wilcox have a high-quality team and leadership. They have a highly integrated team, and they are very client-focused and responsive.”

Work highlights Hall & Wilcox advised the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning on the AUD2 billion loan and grant Solar Homes Program.

Notable practitioners

John O’Kane is a key practice contact.

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills has a highly regarded team that handles projects in the transportation, energy and social infrastructure arenas and offers significant experience in respect of all aspects of projects, including PPPs, and financing. It handles front-end and contentious construction matters, fielding expertise in the tendering process, procurement, design, construction and subcontracting matters. The firm advises borrowers, lenders and sponsors on the financing of a variety of infrastructure projects, including road, rail and energy projects. Its clients include large contractors, major banks, government bodies and other industry participants, some noted examples being the NSW Government and Acciona Energy.

Strengths

“HSF have great industry knowledge, depth of commercial understanding and awareness of what is driving a transaction.”

“They have a very skilled team that are very coordinated when presented with complex tasks.”

Work highlights HSF continued to act as OZ Minerals’ strategic legal adviser across all aspects of the West Musgrave Project, including in connection with the processing plant and power package. HSF advised Transport for NSW in relation to the procurement of work on the Great Western Highway Upgrade Program.

Notable practitioners

Erin Wakelin is based in Sydney and frequently advises on the finance aspects of projects concerning significant public transport and social infrastructure developments. **Strengths:** “Erin is amazing. She is an incredible lawyer – practical, commercial and down-to-earth.” “She is very efficient, and she has a great team around her.” **Gerard Pike** assists financiers, lenders and bidders on finance matters, often acting on those pertaining to renewable energy projects. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** “Gerard Pike is very good at project finance.” “He has solid corporate and project finance experience.” **Andrew Griffiths** manages a large share of the firm’s project assignments from the Sydney office, regularly assisting both contractors and public authorities with regard to projects in the transport space. **Strengths:** “Andrew is excellent to work with. He communicates well at all levels and branches of a client organisation, and has a deep knowledge of the contract models within the construction sector.” **Geoff Hansen** acts across a range of back-end construction issues, mostly within the transport infrastructure space. He is based in Melbourne.

HFW

What the team is known for HFW is particularly well regarded for its back-end practice and regularly handles engineering disputes in the energy and transport sectors. It has notable experience acting for contractors across the Asia-Pacific region. Key clients include Alstom Transport Australia and Mammoet.

Strengths

“HFW are very responsive and provide sound advice.”

“HFW have the depth of experience in their partners to handle complex and sophisticated matters with the appropriate support from very competent associates.”

Work highlights HFW acted for TT-Line in relation to contracts for the procurement of the upgrades to the Geelong Port and associated infrastructure at Devonport.

Notable practitioners

Head of the department Alex McKellar is a key practice contact.

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth Lawyers offers comprehensive expertise to major contractors, developers and government departments on front-end and contentious construction matters, including arbitrations. It advises on the construction of social infrastructure, commercial

properties and transport projects, as well as property developments and projects in the energy and renewables sector. The firm is active across the full range of construction matters, including the negotiation and establishment of D&C, EPC and O&M contracts.

Notable practitioners

Marko Misko is based in Melbourne and is acknowledged for his extensive experience in the development of infrastructure projects across a variety of sectors, including the energy and resources, residential and social spheres. He commands a particularly high level of recognition for his impressive body of defence work. **Paul Deschamps** regularly acts for contractors on large-scale infrastructure projects, covering a comprehensive range of both front-end and back-end construction issues.

Jackson McDonald

What the team is known for Jackson McDonald has a strong, Perth-based practice that is noted for its expertise in complex construction disputes, arbitrations and adjudications arising from a wide range of projects. The firm is in demand for its abilities in procurement, D&C contracts and project bids. Jackson McDonald is engaged in construction projects involving social housing and other residential and hospitality venues. Clients range from major energy and mining companies to international developers and contractors. Key clients include Perkins Builders, Housing Authority and Mercedes Group.

Strengths

“Jackson McDonald have good stable teams. They are always responsive, and provide great advice.”

“Jackson McDonald are experts in the construction field.”

Work highlights Jackson McDonald acted for Edith Cowan University in the preparation and negotiation of all construction contracts relating to the construction of the new City Campus project in Perth city centre.

Notable practitioners

Isla McRobbie is noted as a front-end construction specialist with experience of advising both private and public sector clients on procurement and complex contractual issues. **Strengths:** “Isla’s speciality is in construction, and her insights are valuable.” “She is an outstanding lawyer.” “Isla is totally great in all areas. She is a five-star performer.”

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery offers both front-end and back-end services from its offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth. Its work ranges across manufacturing construction, government infrastructure and area renewal. Notable clients include Microsoft, a2 Milk and WSP Australia.

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery advised Arafura Resources in relation to the development of the AUD1.6 billion Nolans Rare Earth project, which will encompass a mine, process plant and related infrastructure.

Notable practitioners

Perth-based partner Will Coulthard is a key practice contact.

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day is able to leverage its international network to handle significant national and cross-border construction mandates from its offices in Sydney, Brisbane and Perth. It has a notable reputation for handling high-profile disputes, representing clients in arbitrations and litigation proceedings, as well as in adjudications. Jones Day is active on matters involving the implementation of energy and infrastructure projects as well as residential and industrial developments. Key clients include DRA Global and Kongsberg Maritime.

Strengths

"Jones Day ensure that adequate resources are committed for the efficient conduct of proceedings."

"The firm have a sound range of appropriate skills, and there is strong focus on achieving good commercial outcomes for clients."

Work highlights Jones Day acted for Kongsberg Maritime in relation to a dispute arising out of ten supply contracts with Keppel Fels relating to drilling equipment.

Notable practitioners

John Cooper is based in Brisbane and regularly acts on sizeable construction disputes. **Strengths:** *"John Cooper is an outstanding construction lawyer and litigator." "John is one of the finest all-round solicitors, in terms of knowledge, experience and ability to deal with clients. He has a remarkable capacity to be on top of legal proceedings." "John Cooper is a great team leader, is someone who ensures harmony within work groups and is a very good manager of large litigation."*

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons' market-leading group is able to support large projects from inception and financing to delivery. The team is particularly notable for its project finance practice serving a client roster of construction consortiums, banks, sponsors and borrowers. It is also instructed on headline transport, energy and sports infrastructure programmes. King & Wood Mallesons demonstrates further capability in advising on construction disputes and complex contractor arbitration. Key clients include Infrastructure NSW, Lendlease and Thiess.

Strengths

"KWM have an excellent knowledge of market positions, and a good depth of team and experience. They have good coverage and depth in front and back-end construction and infrastructure advisory in key jurisdictions nationally."

"The KWM construction, infrastructure and project finance team continues to showcase exceptional depth and breadth of talent and experience across their partner and lawyer levels."

Work highlights KWM advised Laing O'Rourke in relation to its bid as design and construction subcontractor to Alstom on the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program.

KWM advised Lightsource BP, the largest solar developer and owner in Australia, on its Wellington North and Wunghnu Solar Farms projects.

Notable practitioners

Peter Pether maintains a renowned disputes

practice from the Sydney office, handling major construction cases before the Supreme Courts of various states, as well as international arbitration proceedings. **Strengths:** *"Peter is really smart and has got the right balance to cut through issues. He understands and finds solutions." "Peter is one of the top two in the country for construction."*

Scott Budd is highly sought after for his advice, both on the development of large-scale construction projects, and on high-stakes disputes arising from such projects. **Strengths:** *"Scott is extremely knowledgeable. He is very easy to get along with, and is very approachable." "He has great experience, and his efficiency and communication style is excellent."*

Jeff Clark is based in Melbourne and advises widely on financing and refinancing mandates pertaining to PPPs and projects in the industrial and social infrastructure spaces, as well as in the renewable energy sector.

Joanne Crew is based in Melbourne and acts for financiers and investors on projects and PPP bids in a variety of sectors, including those of urban development and energy.

Hamish Macpherson is a Sydney-based lawyer who has handled significant contentious issues arising from projects in the transportation, energy and mining sectors.

Strengths: *"Hamish and his team consistently deliver exceptional client service and sound legal advice. He remains impressive."*

Chris Mitchell acts extensively on major infrastructure projects in the freight and public transportation sector from the Sydney office and is particularly valued for his expertise in front-end construction issues and understanding of government operations.

Strengths: *"Chris Mitchell is technically excellent but is also very strategic."*

Claire Rogers is based in Sydney and recognised for her project finance practice, which is largely focused on major projects in the social infrastructure and energy sectors.

Strengths: *"Claire is exceptional – she is very client-focused and has a great service mindset." "Claire is engaged, pragmatic, and very strong at leading commercial negotiations."*

Mark Upfold advises widely on project finance matters and transactions concerning the development and operation of strategic infrastructure. He is based in Sydney.

Strengths: *"Mark is an experienced and strong performer."*

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates is well known for its presence in the energy and renewables sector and particularly for advising on the construction of wind farm projects. It is also active on matters involving infrastructure projects, such as rail system upgrades and student accommodation. The team advises on the full range of construction documentation, including EPC, D&C and O&M arrangements. In addition, it provides further expertise regarding construction disputes, representing both project owners and contractors. Key clients include CPB Contractors and Honeywell.

Strengths

"They always have solutions to the problems presented and the necessary resources to provide advice in a timely manner."

"K&L Gates have a good understanding of complex PPP frameworks. They try to explain the risk and

the likely best acceptable position from a client perspective."

Work highlights K&L Gates continued to advise DMS Maritime on various stages of the design and Australian build of a fleet of new amphibious vehicles for the Australian Army.

Notable practitioners

Simon Ashworth is based in Sydney and offers extensive experience of advising on construction PPP bids across diverse government-led infrastructure projects.

Strengths: *"Simon is very personable to work with and provides a good level of customer service." "Simon gives prompt and well thought-out advice on and attention to complex documents and issues relevant to construction contractors. He is a charismatic and caring person."*

Sandra Steele handles a wide range of disputes arising from the construction of energy, recreation, healthcare and transportation infrastructure, acting both on litigated matters and those resolved by alternative dispute resolution proceedings, bringing to the table her experience as an accredited adjudicator.

Based in Sydney, she also advises on contract drafting and negotiation issues.

Strengths: *"Sandra is a great professional with a strong background and experience in construction legal matters and dispute resolution procedures. Her level of service and sophistication is spectacular." "Sandra is an industry-leading lawyer. She is a safe set of hands and provides pragmatic, commercial and timely advice."*

Maddocks

What the team is known for Maddocks' highly regarded construction group frequently attracts mandates from the transportation, residential, and mining and natural resources sectors and serves a diverse clientele of contractors, state government and regulatory bodies. The firm regularly advises on the establishment of D&C arrangements and is adept at representing building groups as well as public authorities in complex contractor disputes arising out of infrastructure projects. Key clients include PCL Constructors Pacific Rim and Lendlease Construction Southern.

Strengths

"They understand what is happening in the market and can tailor advice accordingly." "Maddocks' advice is always sound and well researched."

"The team are very good at articulating complex issues in a simple language and providing clear advice to enable the client to make a well-informed decision moving forward."

Work highlights Maddocks advised Acciona Construction Australia on the Northern Package of the North East Link Project.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Pitney is based in Melbourne and regularly advises clients on PPP delivery issues and contractual arrangements underpinning significant energy and construction projects.

Strengths: *"Andrew is an impressive operator who takes time to understand the client and anticipates arising issues or needs."*

Andrew Chapman regularly assists government bodies with the contractual aspects and delivery of strategic infrastructure projects. He is based in Sydney.

Strengths: *"Andrew Chapman is good to work*

with. He is responsive, has good judgement and is friendly.” **Mathew Stulic** maintains a busy contentious practice from the Sydney office, acting on construction disputes for contractors, principals, owners and state governments. His contentious expertise covers a comprehensive range of disciplines, including, in addition to litigation, domestic and international arbitration, mediation, adjudication and expert determination. **Paul Woods** is an experienced, Melbourne-based litigator who acts for both government bodies and contractors in construction disputes. **Strengths:** “Paul is quite skilled, practical and commercial.” “Paul is professional, aware of sensitivities and acts on time.”

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson is in demand with public authorities, international corporations and contractors for a wide range of front-end and back-end construction matters, including high-profile litigation. It regularly advises on project delivery, design and construction agreements, procurement and consultant arrangements. The team has significant experience with public transport and mining projects in addition to aquaculture and water supply projects. It is also active on matters relating to energy projects, including those in the renewables space. The department is able to offer interdisciplinary advice for international clients involved in local projects. Key clients include NSW Land and Housing Corporation and UGL Engineering.

Strengths

“McCullough Robertson are very responsive. They provide high-quality, cost-effective strategic disputes advice.”

“McCullough Robertson have the ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters. They provide excellent client service and have excellent bench strength and depth.”

Work highlights McCullough Robertson advised AW Holding, a Chinese private property development company, in connection with all stages of the AUD2 billion Jewel development on the Gold Coast.

Notable practitioners

Matt Bradbury is a seasoned, Brisbane-based construction litigator with superior court experience extending across several Australasian jurisdictions.

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for Mills Oakley is regularly instructed on front-end construction matters as well as related disputes from its offices in Sydney and Brisbane. It offers expertise in urban redevelopment and property developments for residential, retail, hospitality and healthcare purposes, as well as infrastructure matters in the transport sphere. The team regularly advises property developers, contractors and other stakeholders on the negotiation of construction contracts. Key clients include Woolworths, Mulpha Australia and Mirvac.

Strengths

“Mills Oakley have a very resourceful team with the ability to provide expert advice on various areas. They are timely and have a very experienced team providing consistent service.”

“Mills Oakley are very strong in construction matters.”

Work highlights Mills Oakley advised Mirvac on the drafting and negotiation of construction delivery documentation for multiple projects connected with its major commercial building asset at 22–55 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Notable practitioners

Scott Laycock is a versatile, Sydney-based practitioner who advises on a variety of practice area issues, including complex construction disputes, construction contracts and new development projects. He acts for a similarly diverse clientele, embracing consultants, contractors, developers, institutions and public bodies. **Strengths:** “Scott provides sound advice on all matters.”

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison has a top-tier construction team that regularly assists government bodies and developers on high-profile front-end and back-end mandates. The team advises on social housing programmes, novel construction loans, major infrastructure redevelopments and PPP projects. It also handles disputes relating to various aspects of infrastructure projects execution. The firm fields the resources to support infrastructure projects in the rail, aviation, energy, healthcare and education areas. MinterEllison is rated as one of Australia’s leading advisers to public sector entities. Key clients include CPB Contractors and Rail Projects Victoria.

Strengths

“MinterEllison have very good breadth of experience with a strong core delivery team.”

“MinterEllison have an experienced team and are a safe pair of hands.”

Work highlights MinterEllison advised on the third and final package for the Sydney Metro – Western Sydney Airport line.

MinterEllison advised the Victorian Government on the design and implementation of the second Victorian Renewable Energy Target programme.

Notable practitioners

Stewart Nankervis enjoys a stellar reputation for his work on behalf of both major developers and public authorities on strategic infrastructure PPPs in such sectors as transport and education. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** “Stewart is a leading projects adviser.” **Elizabeth McKechnie** is based in Sydney and regularly advises developers on bids and acquisitions, implementation and development management agreements relating to urban infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** “Elizabeth is excellent to deal with. She is very experienced, has a wonderful attention to detail, and does not lose sight of the big picture. Her problem-solving skills and collaborative approach are key strengths.” **Peter Wood** acts on complex construction disputes, representing builders and contractors in class actions and other high-profile proceedings arising out of PPPs and other infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** “Peter Wood is exceptionally good.” “He is a very good disputes practitioner.” **Peter Block** maintains a diverse infrastructure practice and offers particularly extensive experience in the stewardship of large public transport, hospital and prison projects. **Strengths:** “Peter is a versatile operator who is

very astute commercially.” “Peter is very reliable in a crisis.” **Andrew Orford** leads the Australian construction disputes team with a strong focus on transport infrastructure and energy projects. **Strengths:** “Andrew Orford is exceptionally good.”

MolinoCahill Lawyers

What the team is known for MolinoCahill Lawyers is a well-respected construction boutique based in Melbourne. It provides clients with advice on the drafting and negotiation of construction contracts, including D&C, EPC and O&M contracts, among others. The firm fields further expertise with regard to contentious matters, being able to assist on construction litigation and arbitrations.

Notable practitioners

Meghan Cahill advises on both front-end and back-end issues at all stages of the construction project life-cycle, and is particularly well regarded for her work in the PPP space. **Tony Molino** acts for a wide-ranging clientele which includes contractors, developers and owners and extends across both front and back-end issues. He offers particularly extensive experience of energy and resource projects.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright represents construction contractors as well as government entities in the design, construction and operational aspects of major transportation projects, including roads, railways and ports. It also focuses on a wide range of EPC matters in the renewable energy sector. The team covers complex disputes and has won appointments from public authorities and contractors alike. Norton Rose Fulbright fields project finance expertise, representing lenders and sponsors with regard to large projects in the energy, land and air transport sectors. Key clients include CWP Renewables, AirTrunk and Investa.

Strengths

“Norton Rose Fulbright have a very large team which also brings a depth of expertise. They have lots of junior talent rising through the ranks, and the service levels are good.”

“Norton Rose Fulbright provide the knowledge, expertise and the resources to handle complex and sophisticated matters. Their service exceeds expectations.”

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised a consortium led by CWP Global and Intercontinental Energy on the AUD100 billion project to build the Western Green Energy Hub.

Norton Rose Fulbright advised V5 Pitt Street Trust on all aspects of the construction contract for the redevelopment of the City Tattersalls Club.

Notable practitioners

Kevin Arkwright regularly advises bidders and government clients on complex construction and engineering matters associated with strategic infrastructure projects. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** “Kevin’s timely advice has proven to be accurate and well considered.” **Ren Niemann** is based in Brisbane and regularly advises public authorities and other parties on major strategic infrastructure construction projects, both in Queensland and further afield. **Strengths:** “Ren provides an exceptional level of service. He has a

pragmatic and commercial approach, and a sophisticated understanding of needs of the government sector." **Alex Whiteside** represents both public authorities and contractors in disputes arising from major infrastructure and urban development projects. **Strengths:** "Alex handles litigation well. He is very mindful of what impact a litigation can have on an organisation, and he will always find a very reasonable compromise." **Glen Warwick** is an adept defender of contractors involved in construction disputes stemming from significant energy and transport infrastructure projects. Based in Sydney, he offers experience acquired in Australian, Asia-Pacific and Middle Eastern contexts and also handles matters pertaining to contractual law in his field. **Strengths:** "Glen is a highly competent practitioner. He has a good way with clients, and he is deeply knowledgeable about construction law." "Glen is very user-friendly, available, and practical in his knowledge."

Pinsent Masons LLP

What the team is known for Pinsent Masons maintains a well-respected presence in the construction arena. Its team advises major contractors and developers on various matters pertaining to infrastructure projects, including procurement and both contentious and non-contentious matters arising out of design and construction contracts. The department is active on mandates in the public transport, energy and water sectors. Key clients include Webuild and Ventia.

Strengths

"Pinsent Masons have excellent construction depth, especially in Melbourne. They are very knowledgeable and are experts in their field."

"Pinsent Masons are very responsive, available and conscious of deadlines. They are able to focus on key issues in a complex matter and assist with strategy and response to claims."

Work highlights Pinsent Masons continued to act for Goldwind, one of the world's largest wind turbine manufacturers and renewable energy companies, in connection with the construction of the Clarke Creek Wind Farm in Queensland.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Croagh is based in Melbourne and regularly represents contractors and subcontractors from various sectors in high-value litigation and international arbitration proceedings. **Mark Waddell** maintains a strong, Sydney-based practice handling construction contract matters. He focuses on D&C, O&M and EPC-related advice for major developers and contractors. **Strengths:** "Mark is a big thinker." **Robert Buchanan** operates a versatile practice from the Sydney office, frequently representing contractors in construction disputes, while also advising on project delivery and risk management questions. **Strengths:** "Rob is a first-class sounding board on all commercial strategies." **James Morgan-Payler** regularly advises developers and contractors on major PPPs and infrastructure projects, offering particularly focused expertise on procurement models and frequently acting, during the delivery phase, to head off potentially contentious issues. **Strengths:** "James is the definition of a trusted adviser. He is an immediate go-to when new issues arise and also provides guidance on longer-term

strategic initiatives." "He has a clear understanding of the touch points requiring attention for any given transaction." **Greg Campbell** is a respected, Melbourne-based front-end construction adviser who often assists contractors and subcontractors on PPPs.

Squire Patton Boggs

What the team is known for Squire Patton Boggs offers construction expertise from its offices located in Darwin, Perth and Sydney. It is noted for its work on large construction disputes, notably including international arbitrations, often concerning energy and resources projects. The firm also fields front-end expertise for residential developments. Its clients include construction and engineering companies, contractors, property groups and government bodies. Key clients include Pilot Energy and Talison Lithium.

Strengths

"Squire Patton Boggs are a responsive and nimble team."

"The firm provide timely service and have good client focus. They have a very capable team and provide very practical advice."

Work highlights Squire Patton Boggs advised Talison Lithium on its lithium mine and processing operation at Greenbushes in the south of Western Australia. This included advising on the planning, delivery method and procurement strategy, as well as drafting and negotiating the construction, mining services and related project documents.

Notable practitioners

Gregory Steinepreis advises contractors and international consortiums on both contentious and non-contentious aspects of large public transportation and urban redevelopment projects. He is widely regarded as one of Western Australia's standout construction practitioners.

Strengths: "Gregory has very good soft skills. He is approachable and down-to-earth." "Gregory is a market leader in Perth." **Cris Cureton** is an experienced, Sydney-based practitioner who frequently acts for large construction companies on international disputes and project finance matters.

Thomson Geer

What the team is known for Thomson Geer has an established practice that provides front-end construction expertise, particularly in the energy and transport infrastructure areas. It acts for a client roster of construction and engineering contractors, as well as government authorities. It has a strong focus on assisting clients on tenders and the negotiation of D&C and EPC contracts. It also advises in relation to disputes arising from substantial construction projects. Key clients include Acciona Construction Australia, Bouygues Construction and Gamuda Australia.

Strengths

"Thomson Geer are capable of managing multiple consultant disciplines. They are across the detail to properly respond to queries and provide strategic direction."

"Thomson Geer have shown a great resilience and ability to work under pressure."

Work highlights Thomson Geer continued to advise St George Community Housing on its proposed bid, in consortium with Lendlease Develop-

ment, on the Waterloo Renewal Project, which is a social infrastructure development.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Kelly maintains a versatile contentious practice from the Brisbane office of Thomson Geer, handling claims pertaining to delays and variations in construction or to design and operational issues in infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** "Andrew is a trusted adviser who is practical, solutions-oriented, helpful and responsive."

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case's highly respected project finance and infrastructure team focuses on servicing the legal needs of major stakeholders on large infrastructure projects. The firm's clients include project financiers, sponsors and government bodies. It is active on matters relating to healthcare and public transport infrastructure and is often instructed to assist in the financing of offshore wind farms. Key clients include HyperOne and Rail Projects Victoria.

Strengths

"White & Case have very competent and strong legal advisers. They have a good depth of team across the areas they operate in."

"They provide an excellent and responsive service. They have expertise and deep industry knowledge."

Work highlights White & Case continued to advise the Suburban Rail Loop Authority on the procurement and delivery of the AUD50 billion Suburban Rail Loop.

White & Case advised TagEnergy on the development and project financing of Stage 1 of the AUD2 billion Golden Plains Wind Farm in Rokewood in Victoria.

Notable practitioners

Brendan Quinn is widely acknowledged as a leading project finance lawyer, particularly where renewable energy-related developments are concerned, and is also noted for his handling of matters with cross-jurisdictional aspects. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** "Brendan is a standout project finance practitioner." **Joel Rennie** maintains a strong and versatile finance practice from the Sydney office, often advising lenders and borrowers active in the renewable energy sphere. **Strengths:** "Joel Rennie is really good from a lender side." "Joel is very commercial, pragmatic and sensible."

Andrew Clark (see p.231) is based in Melbourne and advises clients across a range of sizeable transport, energy and industrial infrastructure projects. **Josh Sgro** advises on PPPs and strategic infrastructure projects across a range of sectors, including public transport, healthcare and education. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** "Josh Sgro is a considered and experienced adviser."

Alan Rosengarten (see p.235) maintains an established practice in the transport infrastructure sphere from the Melbourne office, frequently advising on road projects. **Strengths:** "Alan Rosengarten has a very deep understanding of the industry. He is a trusted adviser."

Joanne Draper (see p.232) is based in Melbourne and regularly advises clients involved in transport or health-related infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** "Joanne is top tier - she is great." **Brad Strahorn** maintains a robust and well-regarded contentious practice from the Sydney office, handling high-

value construction disputes, including arbitrations, arising from the energy and resources and transportation sectors. **Strengths:** “Brad is good and responsive.” “Brad is an impressive solicitor. He is across the details while also building a great team.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Paul Riethmuller of Riethmuller Legal in West Perth brings over three decades’ experience of front-end construction work to the table. He is particularly well regarded in the market for the drafting and negotiation of construction contracts for urban, transport and energy projects.

Corporate/M&A

Corporate/M&A	Corporate/M&A	Corporate/M&A
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople	
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Halstead Rod Clayton Utz
Allens	Besson Garry Ashurst	Minns Stephen King & Wood Mallesons
Gilbert + Tobin	Elliott John Norton Rose Fulbright	
Herbert Smith Freehills	Leading Individuals	
King & Wood Mallesons	Band 1	Band 4
Band 2	Alexander Guy Allens	Algar Jonathan Clayton Utz
Ashurst	Condoleon Costas Gilbert + Tobin	Blackshaw Jeremy MinterEllison
Clayton Utz	Cook Peter Gilbert + Tobin	Blane Christopher Allens
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Damian Tony Herbert Smith Freehills	Boulougouris Con MinterEllison
Band 3	Friedlander David King & Wood Mallesons	Brewster John Ashurst
Allen & Overy LLP	Furphy Baden Herbert Smith Freehills	Harris Anton Ashurst
Arnold Bloch Leibler	Levy Rodd Herbert Smith Freehills	Lumsden Andrew Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Baker McKenzie	Maslen-Stannage Rebecca Herbert Smith Freehills	McLaughlin Benjamin T Baker McKenzie
Johnson Winter Slattery	Pathak Neil Ashurst	Pocock Derek Baker McKenzie
MinterEllison	Stone Philippa Herbert Smith Freehills	Reichel Damian Johnson Winter Slattery
Band 4	Story Tom Allens	Rozsa James Johnson Winter Slattery
DLA Piper Australia	Band 2	Ryan David DLA Piper Australia *
Jones Day	Breden Philip Ashurst	Sayer Tim Talbot Sayer
Norton Rose Fulbright	Cugati Vijay Allens	Solakovski Jackie Lander & Rogers
Band 5	Mak Sandy Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Stanbridge Mark Ashurst
Clifford Chance	Moriarty Rory Clayton Utz	Symons Tony Mills Oakley
Maddocks	Stirling Peter King & Wood Mallesons	Talbot Oliver Talbot Sayer
Mills Oakley	Watts Jason King & Wood Mallesons	Walker Andrew Clayton Utz
Band 6	Band 3	Wenig Jonathan Arnold Bloch Leibler
Dentons	Bassil Rachael Gilbert + Tobin	Band 5
Hamilton Locke	Brown Kylie Allens	Bromwich Marshall Norton Rose Fulbright
Lander & Rogers	Charlston Nicola King & Wood Mallesons	Clee David Clifford Chance
McCullough Robertson	Crean Mark Jones Day	Clyne Shaun MinterEllison
Squire Patton Boggs	Davies Roger King & Wood Mallesons	Evans-Cullen Karen Gilbert + Tobin
Talbot Sayer	Golding Greg Ashurst	Fleer Christine Arnold Bloch Leibler
Thomson Geer	Kenavan Aaron Allen & Overy LLP *	Gordon Tim Gilbert + Tobin
* Indicates individual with profile.	Kriedemann Richard Allens	Jamshidi Kam Herbert Smith Freehills
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Leibler Jeremy Arnold Bloch Leibler	Koch Grant DLA Piper Australia *
	Lustig Richard Baker McKenzie	Smith Adrian Talbot Sayer
	Oude-Vrielink Bart MinterEllison	Smooker Ron Maddocks
	Parshall Michael Allen & Overy LLP *	Up-and-coming individuals
	Paynter Meredith King & Wood Mallesons	Foreman Adam Corrs Chambers Westgarth
	Rich Andrew Herbert Smith Freehills	van Grieken Jason Arnold Bloch Leibler
	Sample Craig Gilbert + Tobin	

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy maintains a well-established practice with a talent for handling complex cross-border transactions, integrating domestic expertise with both a substantial regional presence and the wider global network. The firm acts regularly for renowned multinationals and leading domestic players on multi-jurisdictional transactions and investments, as well as for inbound investors into Australasia,

particularly from Asia. It maintains a particularly high profile in the energy and resources, financial services and infrastructure spheres. Key clients include Citigroup Global Markets, Peninsula Energy and Dexus.

Strengths

“Allen & Overy always apply a commercial lens and

their partners are sensational.”

“The team is well resourced and able to call on relevant expertise within the firm as required. It is always responsive and focused on timely delivery.”

“They are really versatile and I like that flexibility.”

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised the Australian copper producer Sandfire Resources in

Private Equity	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Allens	
Gilbert + Tobin	
King & Wood Mallesons	
Band 2	
Clayton Utz	
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	
Herbert Smith Freehills	
Band 3	
Ashurst	
Clifford Chance	
Johnson Winter Slattery	
Band 4	
Allen & Overy LLP	
DLA Piper Australia	
MinterEllison	
Band 5	
Baker McKenzie	
Hamilton Locke	
Maddocks	
Norton Rose Fulbright	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Cook Peter	Gilbert + Tobin
McNamara Mark	King & Wood Mallesons
Story Tom	Allens
Band 2	
Ananda Niro	Clayton Utz
Bassil Rachael	Gilbert + Tobin
Furphy Baden	Herbert Smith Freehills
Hazard Damien	Herbert Smith Freehills
Rozsa James	Johnson Winter Slattery
Band 3	
Azzam Raji	Herbert Smith Freehills
Casali Ricky	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Elser Alex	King & Wood Mallesons
Horan Lee	King & Wood Mallesons
Koch Grant	DLA Piper Australia*
Mak Sandy	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Sauer Glen	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Stanbridge Mark	Ashurst
Band 4	
Altiparmak Emin	Allens*
Currell Mark	Clifford Chance
Dullard Stuart	Ashurst
Josselsohn David	Gilbert + Tobin
Malinas Mark	Allens
Narushima Hiroshi	Gilbert + Tobin
Palmer Jamie	Allen & Overy LLP*
Rattley Kounny	Allens
Stammers David	Addisons (ORL) ◇
Williamson-Noble John	Gilbert + Tobin
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

transactions for clients from a number of sectors, notably including those of energy and financial services. He is based in Allen & Overy's Sydney office. **Strengths:** "Michael Parshall is one of the leading M&A lawyers in Australia." **Jamie Palmer** (see p.234) focuses on private equity transactions, overseeing both acquisitions and investments, and often assisting clients on cross-border deals.

Allens

What the team is known for Allens offers a richly resourced and versatile group, handling some of Australia's highest-value and most significant cross-border and global public M&A transactions for a blue-chip, international clientele. The firm also acts for prominent private equity houses across the full spectrum of transactional issues and is able to draw on talent in capital markets, banking, funds and tax departments to provide a comprehensive offering, covering the full private equity life-cycle. It is active across a diverse range of industry sectors, including large-scale infrastructure and telecommunications, and is especially prominent on major takeovers and privatisations. Through its collaboration with its global alliance partner Linklaters, the firm offers fully integrated services across Asia and Australasia to advise on highly sophisticated, multi-jurisdictional transactions. Notable clients include Sydney Airport, Morrison & Co and Blackstone.

Strengths

"We are very happy with their performance and feel comfortable and confident in the advice we receive."

"The Allens team is first class. They are highly professional with significant capacity and a deep pool of subject matter experts to cover all required aspects of a transaction."

"They are highly responsive and very commercial, with the right level of reactivity depending on the situation."

Work highlights Allens advised AusNet on its acquisition by a consortium led by Brookfield Asset Management, with a deal value of around AUD10.2 billion.

Notable practitioners

Guy Alexander operates from Allens' Sydney office and frequently assists clients on multibillion-dollar public M&A transactions. **Strengths:** "We received highly competent commercial and legal advice from him during an acquisition process." **Tom Story** maintains a market-leading profile in both the public M&A and private equity areas, advising some of the largest multinational private equity houses and investors. He is based in Sydney and is head of Allens' corporate practice and co-head of the private equity team. **Strengths:** "Tom is highly respected by the private equity community in Australia – very experienced, good judgement and highly commercial." "Tom is a highly sophisticated, calculated and experienced lawyer who approaches complex situations with a level of calmness that instils confidence in his clients. He's one of our first picks." "He is a high-quality lawyer who is extremely easy to work with and is commercial in his approach." **Vijay Cugati** maintains a versatile and varied corporate practice from the Sydney office, offering over two decades' experience

in the management of a comprehensive range of deal types, including public takeovers, carve-out transactions, schemes of arrangement and private acquisitions and disposals. **Strengths:** "Vijay is an incredibly smart, commercial and efficient lawyer who consistently impresses us." **Kylie Brown** is a well-regarded partner in the M&A space whose Sydney-based practice is oriented towards the media and infrastructure industries, where she regularly acts on substantial transactions. **Strengths:** "She provides great client service and commercial acumen." **Richard Kriedemann** offers an impressive breadth of expertise in the M&A space, including public takeovers, joint ventures and share acquisitions and disposals, and is also notable for his experience assisting on matters relating to Papua New Guinea from his base in Sydney. **Emin Altiparmak** (see p.230) is a Melbourne-based private equity specialist who frequently supports private equity firms with substantial acquisitions, disposals and takeovers.

Strengths: "What I like about him is his interpersonal skills with various parties – a good facilitator."

Christopher Blane is based in Sydney and is active on some of Allens' most prominent private and public M&A deals and schemes of arrangement. **Strengths:** "Chris provides wonderful service and understands our business intimately. He is always helpful and eager to assist us in solving problems and achieving a successful outcome."

Mark Malinas acts principally on private equity transactions from the Melbourne office and is frequently instructed by prominent private equity outfits. **Strengths:** "Mark is very positive, works very hard and provides top-notch advice." **Kounny Rattley** practises principally in the private equity space, offering experience of work for both global and domestic private equity houses from her base in Allens' Sydney office. **Strengths:** "I have had very good experiences with Kounny. She provides high-quality, sensible advice and is effective in seeking a path through more challenging issues." "She is an excellent practitioner who knows how to get deals done."

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler provides a versatile offering, attracting both corporate public and individual private entrepreneurs and professional services firms. The team possesses a broad range of sector expertise and is particularly active in the technology, healthcare and retail areas. It is noted for its tight focus on client care issues and tendency to establish long-standing relationships with its clients. In addition, it offers counsel on such cutting-edge practice area issues as shareholder activism and proxy advisers. Key clients include Cromwell Property, Netflix and Zip Co.

Strengths

"They are extremely responsive and hard-working." "We have utilised the services of several members of their team, and they are universally excellent regardless of seniority."

"They have strong commercial awareness through their active role in market deals."

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler acted for carsales.com in relation to the acquisition of 51% of Trader Interactive for AUD1.17 billion.

relation to its acquisition of the Spanish mining company Minas de Aguas Teñidas from Trafigura and Mubadala, a UAE-based investment firm, for AUD2.572 billion.

Notable practitioners

Aaron Kenavan (see p.233), based in Sydney, brings over 20 years' experience in the international M&A space to advise both on major transactions and on broader corporate issues. **Michael Parshall** (see p.234) handles significant M&A

Notable practitioners

Jeremy Leibler offers extensive corporate experience incorporating particularly well-developed expertise in such areas as takeovers (including takeover defence), shareholder activism and the representation of private entrepreneurs. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** *“Jeremy is an outstanding legal and commercial leader.”* **Jonathan Wenig** is based in Melbourne and acts for both public and private businesses operating across a wide range of sectors, including agriculture, financial services and technology. **Strengths:** *“He is extremely capable with exceptional legal skills, but also very commercial, very responsive and approachable.”* **Christine Fleer** frequently assists clients on corporate transactions and is particularly noted for her work acting for prominent players in the banking and financial services sectors. **Strengths:** *“Christine’s ability to advise at pace and drive excellence from the team around constantly impresses. She has an ability to cut through complex matters to execute measured and commercial advice.”* **Jason van Grieken** is based in Arnold Bloch Leibler’s Melbourne office and assists clients from a range of industries, including financial services and pharmaceuticals. **Strengths:** *“His service levels are exceptional. He is always available at the drop of a hat. Jason is considered and sophisticated in his work, which continually impresses us. He has robust commercial acumen and can identify potential future events and navigate them from a legal sense effortlessly.”* *“Jason is fantastic – very personable, knowledgeable, with a very good response time. His advice is easily digestible, succinct and to the point.”*

Ashurst

What the team is known for The Ashurst corporate and M&A team represents the Australian arm of a global corporate practice that is respected for its proven track record in the handling of large-scale transactions for household-name multinationals. The team regularly advises leading private equity houses and financial institutions across a range of issues from initial investments to exits. It is prized for its innovative transaction structures, in-depth knowledge of key industrial and business sectors, and a comprehensive international and regional service which includes a noted focus on China and Japan-related work. Key clients include ANZ, Brookfield Infrastructure and Macquarie Capital.

Strengths

“The Ashurst team is able to handle complex issues and focus on key areas for investors.”

“Ashurst involves many lawyers with appropriate levels of experience in our transactions, and we consider that they have a strong roster of capabilities.”

Work highlights Ashurst provided counsel to Consolidated Press Holdings, the largest shareholder in Crown Resorts, in the matter of Blackstone’s AUD8.9 billion acquisition of Crown Resorts.

Notable practitioners

Garry Besson is a hugely respected, Sydney-based senior adviser who continues to provide insights drawn from his years of experience in the corporate space to clients engaged in high-profile transactions and reorganisations.

Neil Pathak heads Ashurst’s Australian corporate and M&A offering from the firm’s Melbourne office and is an experienced handler of multi-billion-dollar takeovers and other acquisitions.

Strengths: *“He is insightful and practical; a true adviser and counsellor.”* *“Neil is a leader of M&A in Australia. He is very practical and gives solid commercial legal advice.”* **Philip Breden** regularly advises on multibillion-dollar transactions for major ASX-listed and international clients across a variety of industries, including the construction, energy and manufacturing spheres. He is based in Ashurst’s Sydney office. **Strengths:** *“Phil is a fantastic lawyer who we trust with our most complicated projects.”* **Greg Golding**, based in Sydney, offers long experience of involvement in some of Australia’s most noteworthy transactions, maintaining a specialisation in the oversight of listed company takeovers. **John Brewster** is co-head of Ashurst’s Australian corporate/M&A team and is well-versed in advising on major public M&A matters and private equity transactions, as well as corporate reorganisations. **Strengths:** *“He is very accommodating and eager to assist, often going above and beyond the call of duty.”* **Stuart Dullard** demonstrates a strong track record of advising private equity clients on venture capital investments, evidenced by his role as head of the Ashurst venture capital practice from his base in Sydney. **Strengths:** *“He is super clear and very straightforward, direct to the point and knows our landscape very well.”* **Anton Harris** maintains a busy M&A practice across an impressive range of business sectors, acting recently for players from sectors as diverse as those of finance, healthcare, integrated services and retail. He is co-head of the Ashurst corporate/M&A group in Australia. **Strengths:** *“He provides outstanding advice, service and responsiveness, and is a great person to work with.”* *“Anton is very pragmatic, and so he is very helpful in terms of suggestions without pushing things too much. I find him very easy to deal with.”* *“Anton has a great feel for the key commercial points in a transaction, providing a high-level strategic view of things.”* **Mark Stanbridge** is based in Sydney and operates across the corporate and M&A spectrum, devoting a significant part of his practice to private equity work, acting frequently both for leading players in this sector and for household-name companies and financial services providers. **Strengths:** *“Mark Stanbridge is an impressive lawyer with an incredible breadth of experience.”*

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie fields an enviable cross-border capability, frequently attracting blue-chip multinationals in addition to leading Australian public and private sector entities. The team is proficient at providing strategic advice on both the buy and sell sides of cross-border M&A transactions. It provides an integrated multidisciplinary service with noted proficiency in the energy, technology and healthcare sectors, and is regularly praised for its attention to customer service. It frequently acts for state-based pension funds and traditional private equity firms on Asia-wide and US deals as well as on inbound investments. Notable clients include

Norwest Venture Partners, Seven Global Investments and Emerson Electric.

Strengths

“I was very impressed by Baker McKenzie’s technical knowledge and advice, and their ability to articulate complex legal or structural problems in a clear and efficient manner.”

“The team is highly responsive and has expertise relating to complex global carve-outs with respect to both substance and process. They have substantive expertise relating to key legal issues and, just as importantly, create an efficient process that makes it feel like we are dealing with one integrated firm across jurisdictions.”

“Baker McKenzie involves its specialist expertise as required to ensure we have the right and appropriate advice for each problem we seek to solve.”

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Finite Group on its sale to Randstad.

Notable practitioners

Richard Lustig heads the Baker McKenzie M&A team from the Melbourne office, taking personal charge of many key mandates and bringing to his work especially noted experience in the handling of cross-border transactions. **Strengths:** *“We are very happy with his timely, sound advice and responsiveness.”* *“Richard was very accessible and positioned himself well to turn around matters within very short time frames.”* **Benjamin McLaughlin** is based in Sydney and advises across a comprehensive range of corporate issues, embracing not only key transactional mandates but also regulatory and corporate governance questions. His work often focuses on the intersection of healthcare and technology. **Strengths:** *“He runs an efficient and service-oriented operation across a demanding and highly complex transaction. It has been a pleasure to work with him.”* **Derek Pocock** acts extensively on corporate transactions in the energy and resources and technology spaces. He is based in Brisbane. **Strengths:** *“Derek brings a pragmatic and commercial approach to his work, supported by his strong technical skills.”*

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz maintains an exceptional offering of skills across Australia and is well equipped due to its close relationships with international firms to represent offshore clients on inbound mandates. The firm is prominent in the energy and resources and financial services sectors and widely acknowledged for its excellent handling of interactions with state and Commonwealth government agencies. It is also strong on private equity matters and able to draw on capabilities in related areas such as capital markets, investment funds and tax to provide a comprehensive offering for private equity firms. The firm is additionally noted for its ability to provide the fullest suite of supporting disciplines, particularly where assistance with the navigation of the regulatory environment is concerned. It is proficient on both the bidder and target sides of public M&A transactions as well as global joint ventures. Prominent clients include Brookfield Corporation, Olympus Corporation and Senex Energy.

Strengths

“Clayton Utz will always return the call and be thoughtful in their critique or analysis of issues.”

"They apply excellent commercial judgement, identify key issues and provide good suggestions on how to navigate them."

"They have top-quality senior partners who are very hands-on and take leadership and accountability."

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised Kirkland Lake Gold on its merger of equals with Agnico Eagle Mines.

Notable practitioners

Rod Halstead has advised leading companies on a comprehensive range of corporate transaction types for over 30 years and continues to provide strategic insights acquired during this period to several of Clayton Utz's current clients. He is based in Sydney. **Niro Ananda**, based in Sydney, acts for domestic and international private equity clients across the full range of private equity acquisitions and divestments. **Strengths:** *"Niro is very actively engaged with us, always extremely responsive, sometimes even to unreasonable time frames, and is good at problem-solving."* *"Niro is our preferred legal counsel for the majority of our transactions due to his high quality of advice and strong commercial judgement."* **Rory Moriarty** is the Sydney-based head of Clayton Utz's combined corporate, M&A and capital markets practice. He stands out for his extensive experience of a variety of domestic and cross-border transaction types and is also well equipped to advise authoritatively on their regulatory implications. **Strengths:** *"Rory Moriarty is very calm, a highly commercial M&A lawyer, and is able to defuse most situations."*

Jonathan Algar, who is based in Sydney, advises ASX-listed and international organisations on a variety of transactions, including mergers and acquisitions and IPOs, and also draws on over 20 years' experience in the corporate space to advise across a broad range of strategic issues. **Strengths:** *"Jonathan has looked after numerous matters and is completely professional, providing great comfort that the transaction will be in the best hands."* **Andrew Walker** has practised in the corporate space for nearly 30 years and is a well-regarded figure in the Melbourne market who often advises in relation to substantial corporate acquisitions, takeovers and divestments. He counts both leading Australian companies and major international corporates among his clients. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is a superb adviser, balanced and experienced, highly accessible and always looking for solutions to move matters forward."* *"He combines technical excellence with market savvy and strives to be fully up to date with developments. His particular strength is knowing how regulators will be likely to think and react."*

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for The Clifford Chance team forms the Australian arm of a worldwide network, experienced in the management of high-value, high-profile mandates for market-leading multinationals. It possesses strong expertise in foreign investment regulations for inbound investors and those operating in the global energy and resources sector. The team is further noted for its ability to integrate competition and foreign investment regulatory-related advice into its transactional support service where required. It advises on both public M&A and private equity

transactions, and counts prominent private equity firms among its clients. Recent clients include AC Newco, MotorOne and Partners Group.

Strengths

"They are very practical and commercially minded." *"They know how to handle the unexpected and are solution-oriented."*

"It is an experienced, commercial, solution-oriented, approachable and responsive team. I am happy and comfortable with the service they provide."

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised Viva Energy on its proposed acquisition of the retail convenience business of Coles Express.

Notable practitioners

Mark Currell brings clients over 20 years' experience advising on private equity transactions from his base in the Clifford Chance Sydney office. **Strengths:** *"Mark is a very good practitioner, a quality operator."* **David Cleo** has earned a strong reputation for his expertise in acquisition and takeover work for domestic companies and in handling inbound investments from large international clients. He is based in Clifford Chance's Sydney office. **Strengths:** *"David is very good, very capable."*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth offers an independent practice with a high cross-border capability, frequently selected to represent multinational clients in significant transactions, especially inbound foreign investments, and particularly well equipped to tackle China-related mandates. The team acts for domestic and international private equity firms and investee companies on complex transactions and exits. It is noted for its familiarity with such heavily regulated sectors as mining, life sciences and TMT and is prominently active in the hostile takeover sphere and in the representation of alternative capital providers. Key clients include Mercury Capital, Hancock Energy and One Rail Australia.

Strengths

"All turnarounds are extremely fast, and all the work is attended to by senior partners directly."

"Not only is the team extremely personable, but the attention to detail, commerciality and understanding of our own internal approvals and processes is what sets the team apart from other firms."

"Corrs Chambers Westgarth is my go-to firm for complex M&A matters because they have experience across a broad range of deal types and situations, which they can leverage in providing prompt, considered advice."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised Telus International on its proposed unsolicited AUD1.2 billion takeover bid for Appen.

Notable practitioners

Sandy Mak combines high-level M&A and corporate expertise with an active, Sydney-based practice advising major private equity firms and portfolio companies. **Strengths:** *"Sandy Mak heads the team globally, works with us on an as-needed basis and is highly experienced. She has a strong understanding of cross-border work."* *"Sandy ensures she shares in her client's commercial vision and enhances it in the context of*

their sophistication and awareness. She leads by example with an excellent level of service from her team." **Ricky Casali** advises major private equity firms and their portfolio companies on significant transactions and is well regarded by market sources as a notable figure in this area. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"I have worked with Ricky and keep going back for the responsiveness, outstanding service and how he represents us with counterparties."* *"He is a very strong operator. I really enjoy working with Ricky. He is very commercial and always heavily involved in all aspects of the project."* **Glen Sauer** acts from the Sydney office on behalf of a variety of domestic and international private equity, venture capital and other investors on transactions across an equally diverse range of business and industry sectors. **Strengths:** *"He is the best M&A lawyer I work with."* **Andrew Lumsden** acts from the Sydney office on significant corporate transactions for a varied domestic and international clientele, offering notable experience of cross-border transactions and of those involving energy and resources, infrastructure and media. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is very astute, commercial and pragmatic. I would highly recommend him to my contacts."* *"He is very good, very commercial and clever."* **Adam Foreman** is based in Sydney and offers expertise in M&A transactions for companies across the energy, resources, and TMT sectors, as well as for domestic and international private equity funds. **Strengths:** *"Adam Foreman knows the market extremely well, is really hard-working and very responsive, and he thinks outside of the box to provide solutions."* *"Adam has extensive public company M&A and media industry experience. He is an exceptional problem solver in complex situations. His advice is straightforward, balanced and considered. He is discreet and trustworthy."*

Dentons

What the team is known for This team is the Australian arm of Dentons' worldwide corporate practice, combining a significant national and regional presence with an ability to coordinate transactions across multiple jurisdictions. The team is highly experienced in the handling of deals in the health, life sciences, and energy and resources sectors, and is particularly well placed to advise on matters involving Papua New Guinea. Key clients include Ardonagh Group, PerkinElmer and Montem Resources.

Strengths

"Dentons has a collaborative and proactive approach. They really partner with us and brainstorm effectively, while ensuring the work remains on track and deadlines are met."

"I know I can always get access to the specialist I need by simply calling my relationship partner."

"They have a good understanding of our situations." **Work highlights** Dentons acted for ATS Corporation on the AUD27 million acquisition of the ZI-Argus business.

Notable practitioners

Melbourne-based practice head John Mollard is a key contact.

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper maintains a respected practice that is well placed to advise an international clientele on prominent, multi-jurisdictional matters. The team is valued for its depth of resources and for its venture capital expertise, particularly within the technology sector and disruptive industries. It acts for an impressive list of prominent private equity firms and other private investors, as well as major corporate clients. Notable clients include BlackRock Financial Management, Leidos and Aspen Technology.

Strengths

"They have a strong commercial acumen and, in addition to helping us focus on the key issues, are able to offer guidance and support during negotiations."

"They anticipate the client's need and have ready responses before we even have questions."

"They are able to pull partners and resources across various DLA offices and various functions, bring their collective knowledge and strength together and still have a single convenient point of contact for the client. Their collaboration in the background was seamless." **Work highlights** DLA Piper advised the ASX-listed technology company Nearmap on its AUD1.05 billion acquisition by US private equity firm Thoma Bravo.

Notable practitioners

David Ryan (see p.235) practises from the Sydney office, where he acts on public M&A for a prestigious clientele, augmenting this work with advice on ECM transactions, reconstructions and recapitalisations. **Strengths:** *"His strength lies in his significant amount of experience, particularly in the M&A process for public companies in the Australian market."* **David is a tremendously commercial, very level-headed adviser.** **Grant Koch** (see p.233) offers over 20 years' experience in the corporate space, with a noted emphasis on the representation of leading private equity players, both domestically and in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"Grant is a top-notch lawyer by every measure: strong legal adviser, strong business acumen, good at explaining complex matters to clients, good mastery of details, responsive, timely, and willing to work all hours, take proactive actions and go beyond the call of duty to move the transaction forward."* *"He is personable and experienced, offering valuable input."*

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin provides a greatly respected national offering that is noted for combining a breadth of capability with lean, efficient staffing and the ready provision of expertise precisely suited to the matter in hand. The firm handles many of the most complex and significant M&A and takeover deals and is acclaimed for combining pragmatism with a flair for novel solutions and providing a consistent and dedicated service. It is also in high demand by some of the most prominent domestic and international private equity players across the full investment fund life-cycle. Key clients include Afterpay, Atlas Arteria and TPG Capital.

Strengths

"They are incredibly responsive to attend to our

needs and deliverables and very committed to our objectives and goals."

"My impression is that they are excellent to work with and responsive, and offer deep bench strength, breadth and commerciality."

"Their advice is always practical, calm, thoughtful and based on a thorough grasp of the issues in play."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin advised UniSuper on its participation in the AUD24 billion acquisition of Sydney Airport by Sydney Aviation Alliance.

Notable practitioners

Costas Condoleon co-heads the Gilbert + Tobin corporate and M&A team and, much admired for his specialised expertise in M&A, also advises on securities law and corporate governance issues from the Sydney office. **Strengths:** *"Costas is very impressive, very user-friendly, really good at navigating complex matters."* *He is a good lawyer, very easy to work with, very good at getting the transaction outcome you want. He is one of the top M&A lawyers in Sydney."* **Peter Cook** is a highly regarded adviser on the most sophisticated transactions in both the public M&A and private equity spheres. Interviewees regularly testify to his commercial vision and strategic insight. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"A doyen of the sector, his judgement and experience are unparalleled. He is the one you want to navigate through hard decisions."* **Rachael Bassil** commands a high level of recognition for her busy, Sydney-based private equity practice. She counts leading private equity firms, banks and listed companies among her clientele. **Strengths:** *"With a perfect level of service, she is one of best lawyers I've had experience with."*

"She takes a very experienced, commercial and effective approach and is well liked by the counterparties, not just by us as the client." **Craig Semple** is based in Melbourne and advises across a wide range of corporate issues, including not only large-scale acquisitions, mergers and takeovers, but also securities law and governance issues. **Strengths:** *"He is a very good practitioner, very good to deal with and very capable."* **David Josselson** is a Sydney-based private equity specialist, particularly well known for his work on behalf of Quadrant Private Equity. **Strengths:** *"He is highly responsive, commercially aware and very easy to work with."* **Hiroshi Narushima** is a private equity specialist who is based in Gilbert + Tobin's Sydney office. He is regularly engaged by a host of private equity firms to handle significant investments and divestments. **Strengths:** *"Hiroshi is an outstanding lawyer. He is open to working in a way that suits the client."* *"His strength is both solving the matter and managing the team to deal with the complex broader deal."*

John Williamson-Noble operates from the Sydney office, regularly assisting major private equity houses with a variety of substantial transactions, including leveraged buyouts and venture capital deals. **Karen Evans-Cullen**, based in Sydney, frequently advises on high-value acquisitions and takeovers across a range of sectors. She is praised by clients for her legal expertise, as well as team and stakeholder management skills. **Strengths:** *"Karen can explain complex issues in a calm and considered way using plain English, drawing on relevant and applicable past experiences and sharing them as part of her overall*

advice." **Tim Gordon** is a partner in the Gilbert + Tobin Sydney office whose clientele includes ASX-listed companies and offshore private equity fund managers. He is noted for handling transactions with an ESG element. **Strengths:** *"He continues to provide first-class advice on challenging matters and has an ability to deliver consistent results."* *"Tim is a class act – pragmatic, commercial and thoughtful."*

Hamilton Locke

What the team is known for Hamilton Locke operates principally from Sydney, with additional offices in Melbourne and Brisbane. It acts across a comprehensive range of corporate life-cycle transaction types, representing buyers, sellers, investors and advisers, and maintaining a varied domestic and international clientele, including individual entrepreneurs, growth companies and well-established businesses, as well as private equity firms. The team regularly integrates its advice with that of the firm's finance team and is able to offer advice and representation on foreign investment questions and Takeovers Panel proceedings. Noted clients include Barrick Gold, Marlin Equity Partners and Sichuan Road and Bridge Group.

Strengths

"They have outstanding advice, service and responsiveness."

"The M&A team has the experience and understanding of the local market and M&A norms that we need."

"The team provides exceptional client service, being incredibly detailed and accurate on technical advice."

Work highlights Hamilton Locke advised Danny Lessem, the founder of ELMO Software, on the AUD486 million acquisition of ELMO by K1 Investment Management.

Notable practitioners

Sydney-based managing partner Nick Humphrey is a key practice contact.

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for The standout Herbert Smith Freehills practice is renowned for its consistent involvement in many of the most prominent and challenging transactions. The team frequently acts on both major public M&A and private equity transactions and is able to apply debt and capital markets expertise when required. It is noted for its immense depth of resources and longstanding relationships with a variety of top-flight multinationals, and is especially valued for its ability to provide substantial, multi-jurisdictional support at both the regional and global levels. The firm is trusted to coordinate multibillion-dollar divestment and merger deals for a varied roster of financial, mining, IT and health-care services clients. Key clients include National Australia Bank, Alliance Airlines and AGL Energy.

Strengths

"This team is exceptional, and I have experienced first hand their professional, pragmatic, commercial and strategic approach. Their team operates like clockwork, with every base covered, and they anticipate every twist and turn before they even arise."

"They have vast experience and expertise across the whole range of areas we need."

"Herbert Smith Freehills has some very strong M&A partners who are responsive, highly intelligent and hard-working, and all of the work they produce is of a high quality."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised BHP on its merger with Woodside Petroleum, creating an oil company with an estimated market capital of USD30 billion.

Notable practitioners

Tony Damian practises out of the Sydney office, where he regularly advises on technically sophisticated public takeovers, mergers and schemes of arrangement, transaction types upon which he is also a noted published authority. **Baden Furphy** handles public M&A and private equity mandates with equal readiness from the Melbourne office and is frequently engaged to assist clients on matters relating to demergers, buy-backs and hostile takeovers. **Strengths:** *"He is very pragmatic and experienced."* **Rodd Levy** advises on substantial M&A transactions, takeover defence and corporate governance issues from the Herbert Smith Freehills Melbourne office. **Strengths:** *"It's been great to have someone with his experience and gravitas being able to give advice to the board as well as thinking commercially and being a great advocate for the internal legal team and working with us legally."* *"He is an outstanding practitioner."*

Rebecca Maslen-Stannage is the firm's chair and senior partner, and she offers an impressive track record in the representation of prominent domestic and multinational clients in some of Australia's highest-profile mergers and takeovers. **Strengths:** *"In my opinion, Rebecca Maslen-Stannage is a top corporate lawyer in Australia, because she works on all the major takeovers and is brilliant."*

Philippa Stone commands the highest respect among both clients and other sources in this space, not only for handling public M&A deals as effectively as the equity capital markets transactions for which she is especially renowned, but also in the spheres of negotiated deals, privatisations and corporate reconstructions. **Strengths:** *"Philippa is the most capable, experienced, well-recognised capital markets lawyer in the country, but she's also an extremely accomplished M&A lawyer – undoubtedly a contender for a lead M&A lawyer as well."*

Damien Hazard is noted for his work assisting private equity clients on both acquisitions and divestments, offering a noted specialisation in private treaty transactions. He is based in Sydney and co-heads the Australian private equity team. **Raji Azzam** co-heads the private equity team from the Melbourne office and is widely acknowledged as a prominent and effective practitioner in the space, attracting particular acclaim for his relationships with major private equity firms. **Andrew Rich** handles both public and private M&A mandates in, among other spheres, the consumer products, energy and TMT sectors, and offers noted experience of cross-border transactions. He is based in Herbert Smith Freehills' Sydney office. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is a very sophisticated lawyer in his field. He is very composed in a challenging and time-pressured environment."* **Kam Jamshidi** earns a ranking as a fast-rising partner who is skilled in private equity transactions and public M&A, including

schemes of arrangement. He is based in Herbert Smith Freehills' Melbourne location. **Strengths:** *"He's been completely available, no matter what time it has been, no matter what question or issue it has been."*

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery presents a versatile, independent offering, sought out both by leading Australian corporates and by foreign-based multinationals engaged in Australian transactions. It is notably active on public M&A, private equity and venture capital transactions and is especially prized for its commitment to hands-on partner involvement, high standards of service and long-term client relationships. The firm is highly active in the energy and resources, financial services, healthcare and infrastructure spheres, and is also a regular recipient of inbound referrals. Notable clients include Perenti, Qantas and Azelis.

Strengths

"They are extremely capable of handling complex and sophisticated matters."

"I have never had an issue with Johnson Winter Slattery's service levels or responsiveness. They certainly go above and beyond in that regard."

"They have definitely schooled themselves in what our competition does in the marketplace."

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery advised Magnetic Rail Group on its AUD888 million acquisition of the East Coast Rail business from Aurizon.

Notable practitioners

Damian Reichel offers over 20 years' experience in the space and is particularly practised in the handling of public company transactions and of restructuring and corporate governance issues. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"He explains both the commercial and legal aspects of the matter, providing information to help you make the right decision."* *"Damian Reichel has a wealth of expertise in dealing with ASX-listed companies."*

James Rozsa is based in the Sydney office and assists both private equity sponsors and major corporate clients with domestic and cross-border M&A deals, investments and equity markets transactions. **Strengths:** *"James Rozsa is very commercial, abreast of market practice and very thorough."* *"He's a great person to work with."*

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day's well-regarded Australian arm of its global M&A practice is acknowledged for its profile in the domestic market and prized by clients for access to the firm's international resources. It is notably active on transactions in the energy and natural resources, financial services and technology sectors, and frequently recommended for deals involving US-based participants. It leverages the firm's substantial international footprint to offer cross-border M&A expertise. Key clients include Mirae Asset Global Investments, UPL and Westpac Banking Corporation.

Strengths

"They are always efficient with responses, with relevant skills sets in different subject matters available."

"We were very happy with their ability to pre-empt and accurately service client needs and solve problems."

"They are exceptional at handling complex issues that inevitably arise. They are proactive and commercially focused and always find a way to solve the problem while often under extremely difficult deadlines."

Work highlights Jones Day advised Cardinal Health in the acquisition of smart prescription platform ScalaMed.

Notable practitioners

Mark Crean leads Jones Day's Australian M&A practice from the Sydney office, acting personally on a variety of transactions, including for clients in the technology and financial services sectors, as well as for real estate funds. **Strengths:** *"He provided good, pragmatic, and commercial advice across all the issues that we needed to consider for particular transactions."*

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons acts for a substantial proportion of Australia's leading ASX-listed companies and major international players on commercially significant transactions. Asia-headquartered and substantially focused on the region, it offers a particularly powerful capability for China-related transactions as well as for broader global deals. The team regularly acts on complex sponsor-led private equity transactions and has a wealth of experience on the full investment life-cycle, including acquisition finance, securities, tax and funds. Its versatile range embraces strengths in the energy, resources and financial services spaces and in the agribusiness, healthcare and infrastructure sectors. Notable clients include Westpac, Beach Energy and Louis Dreyfus.

Strengths

"Their partners show a good understanding of the portfolio companies we acquire and the potential issues we may face during the life of our investments."

"It is a highly detailed and structured team with a very strong capability to handle complex matters."

"They showed strong responsiveness and worked around the clock to support the deal."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons advised Newmont on its acquisition of Newcrest Mining by scheme of arrangement.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Minns, based in Melbourne, assists clients on a broad range of mandates including both public M&A transactions and general corporate and board-related advice. **David Friedlander** is a leading Sydney-based corporate practitioner who advises clients across a broad range of mandates including takeover bids, securities offerings and shareholder activism issues. **Strengths:** *"David is a giant of the profession – the best lawyer in Australia. He is highly commercial and user-friendly."*

Mark McNamara leads the private equity team from the Sydney office and acts personally for a prestigious roster of private equity clients on a variety of M&A transactions, including both leveraged and managed buyouts. **Strengths:** *"He is an absolute rock star, bringing his vast experience to every transaction and helping move deals across*

the finish line with his commercial awareness and strong negotiation skills." "He is an exceptionally detailed and commercial operator with a great commercial acumen and a highly experienced team." "Mark McNamara is well regarded across the market, which gives his perspectives and input a very strong weight, which can sometimes be the tipping point of a negotiation." **Peter Stirling** advises extensively on both transactional and corporate governance mandates and frequently assists clients from the energy, natural resources and financial services sectors. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** "He is easy to deal with and has strong technical expertise." **Jason Watts** offers a wealth of market experience, embracing, among other matters, public M&A, takeovers and corporate governance issues. He is based in King & Wood Mallesons' Sydney office. **Strengths:** "Jason Watts is an exceptionally good M&A lawyer – very responsive, measured, calm and adept at finding solutions rather than problems. He knows how to drive a deal forward." **Nicola Charlston** is held in high esteem for her work on various M&A transactions, as well as corporate governance and restructuring advice. She regularly acts on healthcare sector deals. **Strengths:** "Nicola is an excellent lawyer. She is very commercial, easy to get along with and produces high-quality work." "Nicola Charlston is very commercial and a practical lawyer who is always available to assist." **Roger Davies** is based in Perth and is highly experienced in the handling of significant domestic and cross-jurisdictional M&A transactions, particularly those involving major players in Australia's resources sector. **Strengths:** "You can always count on Roger for exceptional service and sound, pragmatic legal advice." **Alex Elser**, based in Sydney, acts regularly on significant transactions for many of the most prominent Australian and international private equity houses. **Strengths:** "Alex is high calibre and technically exceptional." **Lee Horan** is a leading member of the King & Wood Mallesons private equity team in Sydney and offers over 20 years' experience of acting in the space for leading national and international private equity houses. **Strengths:** "He is a very well-respected senior partner who can be relied upon to provide a nuanced and different voice to the usual M&A discussions on transactions." "Lee has the ability to cut through all the information, identify the key risks and provide solutions to manage those risks." "Lee Horan is a senior M&A partner who is highly commercial and energetic, and is capable of driving outcomes even in very tense situations." **Meredith Paynter** is based in Sydney and maintains, in addition to a broad range of corporate and M&A capabilities, a close focus on transactions in the food and agribusiness sectors, including takeovers, joint venture investments and schemes of arrangement. **Strengths:** "I was very impressed with Meredith's advice and leadership throughout the transaction."

Lander & Rogers

What the team is known for Lander & Rogers maintains a respected mid-sized practice, offering good coverage of the East Coast market, and is especially noted for its representation of clients operating in the energy and resources, financial

services, insurance and real estate sectors. The team handles the full spectrum of corporate matters including divestments, restructures, contractual, governance and compliance. Praised for its work on behalf of smaller domestic enterprises, it is also a popular, independent choice for, among other inbound clients, American, Chinese and Japanese investors. Key clients include Fujitsu Australia, Reece Group and Armstrong Flooring.

Strengths

"The depth and breadth of the team worked well for us, with referrals to other teams as needed to support our transaction. Every lawyer we interacted with was an expert in their space and made it easy to get the advice and guidance required."

"Lander & Rogers has a comprehensive understanding of M&A and corporate matters, providing pragmatic commercial advice in a timely manner."

"The firm acts on a timely basis and is available at all times to resolve any matters of urgency."

Work highlights Lander & Rogers advised the shareholders of Everyday Independence on the sale of their business to APM through a competitive auction process.

Notable practitioners

Jackie Solakovski heads the Lander & Rogers corporate team from the Melbourne office and regularly takes the lead on key mandates, bringing to the task thorough familiarity with shareholder and joint venture agreements and corporate governance issues as well as with M&A transactions. **Strengths:** "Jackie is fantastic to work with in our transaction. She is commercially astute and easy to work with." "Jackie Solakovski is the lead partner. She is very enjoyable, excellent to work with and maintains a calm demeanour even during stressful times."

Maddocks

What the team is known for Maddocks stands out for its mid-market focus, ready access to partners and close attention to client service, and adept handling of technically complex matters. Its comprehensive sector coverage includes prominent activity in the agriculture, healthcare and retail sectors and is backed by the ability to advise on related commercial and taxation issues. The team offers niche expertise in the representation of the founders of companies looking to sell off all or a majority stake to private equity sponsors. It is active advising listed companies on multi-jurisdictional acquisitions and also represents notable private equity outfits in acquisitions and disposals. Key clients include Quadrant Private Equity, Sigma Healthcare and Solar Choice.

Strengths

"The Maddocks team provides outstanding service and a client-first approach, being very responsive and accommodating to evolving deal timelines and pressures."

"They are highly responsive and always provide clear responses which are easily understood and followed. The instructions provided are easily translatable into work streams for clients."

"We value innovative structures and solutions especially in deadlock situations to get a transaction over the line and Maddocks has consistently performed in this regard."

Work highlights Maddocks acted as legal counsel

for the online shopping platform MyDeal on the acquisition of the majority of its issued shares by Woolworths Group, with a total transaction value of AUD243 million.

Notable practitioners

Ron Smooker is an experienced adviser on sophisticated structuring mandates and M&A, joint venture and financing transactions. He advises both ASX-listed and unlisted clients, operating across a variety of industries. He is based in Melbourne.

Strengths: "Ron has been an excellent adviser."

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson commands widespread approval for its excellent handling of small to mid-cap transactions in the Queensland market, often assisted by its expertise in the energy and resources and agribusiness sectors. The team is noted for its well-established relationships with clients operating in the coal mining, oil and gas, TMT and life sciences spheres. It is a popular, independent choice for an international clientele and referrals from overseas firms. Key clients include Malabar Resources, HRL Holdings and Radiopharm Therapeutics.

Strengths

"They value the client relationship. They build rapport and from there the exchange of information is easy."

"The team is highly responsive and deep enough to cover significant transactions."

"McCullough Robertson are very experienced and take a commercial approach to transactions."

Work highlights McCullough Robertson acted for Hough Consolidated on its AUD56 million acquisition of COVID-19 rapid antigen test manufacturer Ellume.

Notable practitioners

Damien Clarke and Ben Wood are key contacts at the firm.

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for Mills Oakley has a respected team in Melbourne, bolstered by its merger with Clarendon Lawyers. The team is focused on mid-market transactions and operating across a broad range of sectors, including the digital, health and technology spheres. It is frequently engaged by clients to advise on corporate acquisitions, mergers, investments and sales. Key clients include Oscars Group, Australian Pacific Coal and Auctus Investment Group.

Strengths

"The team provides our business and board with high-quality advice. They understand our business and have demonstrated their ability to assist us through a range of complex matters."

"Estimates were provided for each component, and any changes were discussed and agreed upon before any additional work was undertaken. Updates were provided frequently. The shareholders and management were highly impressed with this aspect of Mills Oakley."

Work highlights Mills Oakley served as legal counsel to the owners of Acknowledge Education on its sale to UP Education.

Notable practitioners

Tony Symons has over 20 years' experience in

the corporate space, including frequent involvement on cross-border matters, and frequently advises clients on the seller side of transactions.

Strengths: *“Tony is an extremely knowledgeable and competent person to work with.” “Tony’s legal prowess combined with his commercial acumen and stakeholder management enables him to deliver outstanding service.”*

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison offers impressive Australasian coverage, bolstered by offices in China, Mongolia and London, facilitating the support of cross-jurisdictional transactions. It is active on both public takeovers and privatisations and noted for its adept handling of energy and resources, financial services, and technology and telecommunications mandates. The team advises a significant number of domestic and regional private equity firms on substantial transactions. It is further noted for close attention to client objectives, including assistance in the identification of transactional risk and the development of negotiation strategies. Notable clients include Dai-ichi Life, Slater & Gordon and Liberty Hall Capital Partners.

Strengths

“The team displayed not only legal acumen, but commercial awareness and skilled stakeholder management. This is definitely a multiskilled offering, which is solution-oriented rather than black letter law-constrained.”

“The responsiveness from the bench was timely and on point, and issues that arose were anticipated in advance, which meant that they were handled effectively.”

“No concerns ever arose about additional members of the team not being up to the level needed. The partner leading our transactions always involved the level of skill and sophistication needed.”

Work highlights MinterEllison acted for AMP on the sale of its Global Equities and Fixed Income business to Macquarie Asset Management.

Notable practitioners

Bart Oude-Vrielink is a well-regarded figure in the Melbourne market, noted not only for assisting clients with significant corporate transactions but also for advising on the attendant regulatory issues. **Strengths:** *“When I ask Bart a complicated question, he will come back with the right answer.”* **Jeremy Blackshaw** acts on public and private M&A transactions in the consumer brand, financial services, healthcare and other sectors, offering particularly noteworthy expertise where the representation of foreign clients is concerned. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** *“He is very calm, does not get flustered at all, and he knows what the client is looking for – we don’t want to discuss legal details; we want to know what we should do – and that is his strength.” “He has been fabulous. He is very responsive, remains very calm and pragmatic.”* **Con Boulougouris** is based in Sydney and offers an impressively varied body of public and private M&A experience, covering such diverse sectors as those of agribusiness and food, engineering, and gaming and leisure. **Strengths:** *“Con has vast experience and is highly technical and commercial in his advice.” “Con has the ability to see the bigger picture, always understands the*

relevant macro environment at hand and never fails to deliver practical solutions to the most complex legal matters.” **Shaun Clyne** is noted for his long experience of acting for domestic and international clients across a comprehensive range of transaction types, as well as his knowledge of the takeover space, enhanced by numerous appearances in Takeovers Panel proceedings. **Strengths:** *“Quite simply, he is a pleasure to deal with and you know his advice will always be excellent, commercial and solution-seeking.” “Shaun was decisive and knowledgeable when it came to crunch matters. His key strength was a clear articulation of risk in key decisions that needed to be made quickly, and good advice on how to move forward.”*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for As part of a global practice, the Norton Rose Fulbright team offers a correspondingly high capability for cross-jurisdictional mandates. The team assists clients on substantial transactions and is particularly noted for expertise in the energy and resources, health and pharmaceutical, technology and infrastructure sectors. It also demonstrates experience in private equity matters, with extensive expertise acting for foreign private equity funds on inbound investments and domestic funds on exits through IPOs. Notable clients include Sandvik, GPT Group and Tokyo Gas.

Strengths

“They have the ability to propose innovative solutions in a complex environment.”

“The team is available around the clock.”

“They are able to balance commerciality with legal risk, and accommodate multiple jurisdictions and products to deliver a good outcome.”

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright represented US-based private investment firm 777 Partners on its partnership and investment of 19.9% in the Australian A-League soccer team Melbourne Victory FC.

Notable practitioners

John Elliott is a senior adviser at Norton Rose Fulbright’s Sydney office who is known for his three decades of experience handling high-value mergers and acquisitions for prominent international clients. He also offers expertise in the handling of private treaty transactions, schemes of arrangement, spin-offs, and takeover bids and defences. **Marshall Bromwich** is based in Norton Rose Fulbright’s Brisbane office and head of its consumer markets team. He is a respected M&A lawyer with a particular strength transactions involving franchise networks.

Squire Patton Boggs

What the team is known for The Australian arm of Squire Patton Boggs’ global practice offers expertise in acquisitions, takeovers and sales for companies and high net worth individuals, catering to Australian and US clients, as well as international clients from the UK, Japan and other jurisdictions. Their client base spans sectors including technology, energy and natural resources and manufacturing, notable clients including Theiss, Sezzle and Live Nation.

Strengths

“They have great legal knowledge and the ability to

be able to see around corners for scenarios that we hadn’t considered but were critical.”

“I find that they are very responsive, and it was easy to contact associates and partners. In M&A transactions, when things come unexpectedly or are urgent, I know they can come and support us.”

Work highlights Squire Patton Boggs advised special purpose acquisition company Metals Acquisition Corporation in relation to its acquisition of the CSA Copper Mine for a total consideration of USD1.1 billion.

Notable practitioners

Perth-based practice head Tony Chong is a key contact.

Talbot Sayer

What the team is known for Talbot Sayer is a popular boutique with offices in Brisbane and Sydney, offering wide-ranging experience and a noted focus on significant M&A transactions. The team is valued by clients for its proven expertise and prominent activity on transactions in the IT sector. Key clients include Kelsian Group, Roc Capital and PeopleIN.

Strengths

“Talbot Sayer brings a commercial focus to their dealings, and always has the clients’ commercial objectives in mind when providing their advice.”

“They are very good at providing sound and commercial legal advice.”

“They are always available on the phone or email when needed, which is great in a crisis.”

“It is a very experienced and switched on team delivering to a high standard.”

Work highlights Talbot Sayer advised Potentia Capital on its part cash, part scrip acquisition of 100% of the shares in Rex Labs Holdings.

Notable practitioners

Tim Sayer offers a wealth of experience assisting clients on a variety of corporate transactions, including not only mergers and acquisitions but also ECM transactions, and additionally advises on directors’ duties and governance questions.

Strengths: *“Tim is a first-class operator, very commercial and easy to deal with.”* **Oliver Talbot** regularly advises on both public and private M&A and corporate governance matters, acting on transactions across a wide range of sectors, including agribusiness, retail and resources. **Strengths:**

“Oliver is an talented lawyer with outstanding commercial acumen.” “He is a highly commercial lawyer with a sharp mind and excellent problem-solving skills.” **Adrian Smith** offers over 20 years’ experience in the corporate space, acquired both in Australia and in London and incorporating both transactional and corporate governance expertise, often leveraged on behalf of clients from the financial services or technological sectors. **Strengths:** *“He is good, and easy to deal with.”*

Thomson Geer

What the team is known for Thomson Geer provides pan-Australian coverage from offices in five cities and a high level of hands-on partner involvement in domestic and cross-border transactions, winning praise for its supportive engagement with clients and commitment to cost-competitive staffing. It acts for a wide range of clients from large multinational corporations to family-owned

businesses and is particularly noted for its representation of startups in the new technology sphere, while also prominently acting for clients in the energy, resources and healthcare sectors. Noted clients include Genesis Minerals, DHL Supply Chain and Incannex Healthcare.

Strengths

"They don't get bogged down in just the legal side of the matter; they understand there is a broader commercial setting and they work within that to achieve the outcome the client wants."

"We have always received excellent responsiveness and quick turnaround across quite a diverse range of questions and issues raised with their team."

"Their bench is deep with talent, and they never leave you feeling neglected."

Work highlights Thomson Geer advised MACA, a mining, infrastructure, and construction services company, on its AUD350 million takeover by Thiess.

Notable practitioners

Sydney-based partner Dan Kramer is a key con-

Other Ranked Lawyers

David Stammers of Addisons is noted for his wealth of experience acting for major private equity outfits on the full range of transactions, including acquisitions, investments and divestments. He is based in Sydney.

AUSTRALIA: An Introduction to Dispute Resolution

Contributed by Banton Group

2023 was a busy year for dispute resolution lawyers with important developments in a variety of fields. Legal technology, artificial intelligence and machine learning have made profound advances in the past 12 months, and it will be interesting to see how they are deployed by Australian dispute resolution lawyers in their work going forward.

Notable recent developments in dispute resolution are included in the following headings.

Cryptocurrency and Blockchain

The collapse of FTX and Sam Bankman Fried's criminal trial in the United States dominated international business headlines throughout 2023. Although there was limited activity in the Australian courts directly flowing from FTX's collapse, the sheer scale of the downfall is demonstrated by the fact that, according to reports, administrators for the Australian FTX entities, on behalf of 30,000 Australian investors, hope to claw back as much as USD240 million from the global FTX insolvency process.

The Australian government is undertaking a consultation process with industry to develop specific cryptocurrency laws. In the meantime, certain existing regimes may be applicable: (i) the consumer law (which, inter alia, requires persons in trade or commerce not to engage in misleading or deceptive conduct) and unfair contract terms regime under the Australian Consumer Law, set out in Schedule 2 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (Cth); (ii) the financial services regime under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001; and (iii) the credit activities and services regime under the National Credit Consumer Protection Act 2009 (Cth) in respect of cryptocurrency lending activities.

It is no surprise, then, that cryptocurrencies have been the subject of regulatory and consumer action, including for example in the case of the "Qoin" cryptocurrency. In that case, proceedings have been commenced against certain parties involved in the issuance the Qoin token, the provider of Qoin wallets and the exchange platform on which the Qoin tokens could be traded. In

particular, parallel proceedings have been commenced on behalf of purchasers of the Qoin cryptocurrency (Private Enforcement Proceedings) and by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) (Regulatory Proceedings).

Certain respondents sought to stay the Private Enforcement Proceedings until the determination of the Regulatory Proceedings, arguing that the respondents should not be required to defend two similar proceedings. In *Its Eco Pty Ltd v BPS Financial Limited (No 2)* [2023] FCA 110, the court made the point that the stay of the private enforcement proceedings would present a grave interference with the prima facie entitlement of the applicants to have their case proceed in the ordinary way. There is no entitlement as of right for a respondent to have civil proceedings stayed merely because there are concurrent proceedings seeking the imposition of a criminal penalty, nor, it must follow, a civil penalty. Further, it is preferable to deal with issues arising from concurrent proceedings through appropriate case management, rather than the more drastic remedy of a stay.

Public Nuisance Claims Against Government and Public Bodies in Respect of Major Projects

Major projects can, and some might say inevitably, lead to significant disputes between the contracting parties. Given the massive amount and scale of infrastructure and other projects in the past decade, this work continues to keep Australian dispute resolution lawyers busy.

But it is not only parties to the contracts who may bring claims against those involved in major construction projects. In *Hunt Leather Pty Ltd v Transport for NSW* [2023] NSWSC 840, claims were brought against the New South Wales Government in respect of the Sydney Light Rail Project. The plaintiffs were among thousands who suffered due to the disturbance caused by construction noise, dust, vibrations, heavy machinery and hoardings, which was unnecessarily prolonged due to planning failures by the government.

The court found that the government was responsible for the harm suffered by the lead plaintiffs because through the planning of the project it “created the state of affairs which led to the extended period of interference in circumstances in which the harm was foreseeable and, indeed, predictable”. Justice Cavanagh’s decision also confirmed that, whilst the completed light rail has a public benefit, the mere fact that something has a public benefit does not allow the government to “override the rights and interest of ordinary members of the community”.

Arbitration

Australia is often referred to as a pro-arbitration jurisdiction. Two recent cases illustrate the Australian courts’ pro-arbitration approach.

First, *King River Digital Assets Opportunities SPC v Salerno* [2023] NSWSC 510 concerned the rare instance of an application by a non-party to an arbitration agreement for a stay of court proceedings based on an arbitration agreement entered into by other parties. King River had commenced court proceedings against Mr Salerno for accessorial liability for misleading and deceptive conduct engaged in by Trigon. Mr Salerno was a director of Trigon. Trigon and King River were parties to an agreement containing an arbitration clause. Mr Salerno’s application for a stay in favour of arbitration was successful. Mr Salerno’s defence was that Trigon did not engage in misleading and deceptive conduct and that, accordingly, he had no accessorial liability. Accordingly, despite him not directly being a party to agreement, Mr Salerno was entitled to a stay of the proceedings.

Second, in *Mansfield (Liquidator) v Fortrust International Pty Ltd*, in the matter of *Palladium Investments International Pty*

Ltd (in liq) [2023] FCA 350, the court held that when arbitration claims “have been vested in or are exercisable” by the party to the arbitration agreement, a liquidator can bring the claims by way of arbitration. However, disputes concerning undervalued transactions and transfers to defeat creditors, which arise under insolvency legislation, were not arbitrable.

Insolvency Litigation: the High Court of Australia Confirms the Abolition of the Peak Indebtedness Rule for Unfair Preferences

In *Bryant v Badenoch Integrated Logging Pty Ltd* [2023] HCA 2, the High Court of Australia confirmed that the peak indebtedness rule may not be used when assessing the quantum of an unfair preference claim arising from a continuing business relationship. The practical consequence of this decision is that liquidators may have a harder time pursuing unfair preference claims against trade creditors in the future.

Privilege

The precise scope of privilege is a perennial topic that keeps litigators and their clients occupied. For example, in *Robertson v Singtel Optus Pty Ltd* [2023] FCA 1392 the Federal Court ruled that a forensic investigation report prepared by Deloitte for Optus investigating a large data breach was not subject to legal advice or litigation privilege. This decision underscored the critical importance of the dominant purpose test in determining legal advice or litigation privilege. The court examined Optus’ public announcements and considered that, in light of those public statements about the purpose of the report, it was not prepared for the dominant purpose of obtaining legal advice or litigation. Optus has appealed the decision.

Dispute Resolution

Dispute Resolution	Dispute Resolution	Dispute Resolution
Leading Firms	Leading Individuals	Leading Individuals
Band 1	Band 1	Lynch Crispian <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Allens	Betts Jason <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>	McGuinness Reaymond <i>Webb Henderson</i>
Herbert Smith Freehills	Zwier Leon <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>	Milner Jonathan <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>
King & Wood Mallesons	Band 2	Reid Kim <i>Allens</i>
Band 2	Carter Andrew <i>Ashurst</i>	Russo Rocco <i>Cooper Grace Ward*</i>
Arnold Bloch Leibler	Grave Damian <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>	Salgo Andrew <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Ashurst	Harris Richard <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>	Shepherd Michael <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Clayton Utz	Mavrakis Nicholas <i>Ashurst</i>	Warner Juliana <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Platford Colleen <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>	Whiting Janet <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Gilbert + Tobin	Thompson Belinda <i>Allens</i>	Whittaker James <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
MinterEllison	Wilks Mark <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>	Wolff Alex <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Band 3	Band 3	Band 5
Allen & Overy LLP	Emmerig John <i>Jones Day</i>	Bajaj Gitanjali <i>DLA Piper Australia*</i>
Baker McKenzie	Hastings Luke <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>	Bolster Ian <i>Ashurst</i>
Clifford Chance	John Rani <i>Ashurst</i>	Bonner Grant <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Johnson Winter Slattery	McInnes Ross <i>Clayton Utz</i>	Chung Leon <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Jones Day	Mitchell John <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>	Cooper Nick <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP	Morris Alexander <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>	Costello Emma <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Band 4	Newbold Beverley <i>MinterEllison</i>	Dowd Graydon <i>Hall & Wilcox*</i>
DLA Piper Australia	Pagent Chris <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>	Eastwood Andrew <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Norton Rose Fulbright	Pavlakis John <i>Ashurst</i>	Gatto Domenic <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Band 5	Pearsall Angela <i>Clifford Chance</i>	Gentilli Neil <i>Jackson McDonald</i>
Cooper Grace Ward	Reidy Paul <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>	Hanson Cameron <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Hall & Wilcox	Saville Moira <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>	Howard Kathryn <i>Hall & Wilcox*</i>
Jackson McDonald	Sutherland Kirsty <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>	Humble Guy <i>McCullough Robertson</i>
McCullough Robertson	van Brakel Mark <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>	Lim Wen-Ts'ai <i>Ashurst</i>
Band 6	Band 4	McKimmie Dylan <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Colin Biggers & Paisley	Banton Amanda <i>Banton Group</i>	Merrick Kathy <i>Gadens</i>
Dentons	Chapple Mark <i>Baker McKenzie</i>	Munstermann Jason <i>McCullough Robertson</i>
Gadens	Christopher Andrew <i>Webb Henderson</i>	Stephens Malcolm <i>Allens</i>
K&L Gates	Dalzell John <i>Dentons</i>	Sutherland Anna <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Maddocks	Deleuil Beau <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP</i>	Ward Glen <i>MinterEllison</i>
Piper Alderman	Drinnan Ross <i>Allens</i>	Webster Tim <i>K&L Gates</i>
Webb Henderson	Ford Susanna <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>	Wright Lisa <i>Dentons</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.	Fox Michelle <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP</i>	Up-and-coming individuals
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Freeman Ross <i>MinterEllison</i>	Dreyer Frances <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Giles Rebekah <i>Company (Giles) (ORL) ◇</i>	Hilton Elyse <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>
	Johnson Simon <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>	Jenaway David <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
	Johnston Robert <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>	Sara Holly <i>Jones Day</i>
	Loveday Colin <i>Clayton Utz</i>	Sasson Elan <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP</i>

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for The Allen & Overy team represents the Australian arm of a renowned international disputes practice focused on superior court litigation, international arbitration and contentious regulatory issues. The team is regularly instructed by blue-chip players in the energy and resources and financial services industries, and is acknowledged as a go-to practice for bet-the-company matters. The team is further singled out for global reach, consistent excellence at all levels of the well-integrated team and particular strength in the handling of energy and resources-related disputes in Western Australia, notably including those subject to arbitration. It is additionally active on white-collar issues and the representation of individual executives. Key clients include Greensill Capital, Eni and Reed Industrial Minerals.

Strengths

"The Allen & Overy team is aware of modern client expectations in large-scale litigation and regularly meets and exceeds those expectations."

"They have exemplary lawyers in leadership positions and are supported by a strong core of senior and junior lawyers."

"They clearly have the expertise and have been able to manage the proceedings efficiently and effectively."

Work highlights A&O acted as defence counsel for the lender group in proceedings brought by the liquidator of the bankrupted company NewSat regarding the lender group's withdrawal of funding.

Notable practitioners

Mark van Brakel (see p.236) leads the Allen & Overy disputes team from the Perth office, often acting on disputes which arise from Western Australia's energy and resources sector and dividing his time between the conduct of litigated and arbitrated matters, many of which have cross-border dimensions. **Strengths:** "He is very strong in the area and has good client communication skills to boot." "Mark van Brakel is an exceptional lawyer. He has a very strong reputation as one of the leading litigators." **Michael Shepherd** (see

p.235) offers wide-ranging dispute resolution expertise embracing, among others, the financial services, infrastructure and resources sectors and often applied in the management of regulatory or class action mandates. Based in Sydney, he is noted by clients for his extensive experience of handling both complex and cross-jurisdictional mandates. **Strengths:** "Michael is an outstanding litigator, who is extremely friendly to deal with, strategic and insightful." **David Jenaway** (see p.233) focuses principally on disputes in the energy and resources and construction spheres, being both an accomplished litigator and increasingly involved in arbitration mandates. He is based in Perth. **Strengths:** "He is really good - commercial, practical and responsive."

Allens

What the team is known for Allens maintains a substantial bench, backed, through the Linklaters alliance, by a global cross-border capability. The team is especially known for its representation of blue-chip financial services, resources and

Dispute Resolution: Arbitration
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Lincoln Bronwyn Thomson Geer (ORL) ◇
Luttrell Sam Clifford Chance
Paffey Josh Corrs Chambers Westgarth
van Brakel Mark Allen & Overy LLP*
Band 2
Bajaj Gitanjali DLA Piper Australia*
Delaney Jo HFW (ORL) ◇
Kangeson Gowri DLA Piper Australia*
Up-and-coming individuals
Jenaway David Allen & Overy LLP*
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Dispute Resolution: Class Action (Plaintiff)
Leading Firms
Band 1
Maurice Blackburn
Band 2
Phi Finney McDonald
Slater and Gordon Lawyers
Band 3
Banton Group
Johnson Winter Slattery
Piper Alderman
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

hi-tech industry multinationals, and government clients, and is prominent on significant international arbitration and class action mandates. The team is especially active advising on inquiries and investigations initiated by Australia's regulatory authorities, particularly those involving alleged misconduct in the financial services and energy sectors, and is increasingly prominent in resources sector disputes with environmental or climate change-related aspects. Key clients include Santos, Crown Resorts and Westpac.

Strengths

"The Allens team is adept at getting across large and complex matters at speed. They are hyper-responsive and always meet deadlines, even under extreme time constraints."

"The team at Allens was balanced, commercial and logical, and brought calm and well-considered advice and options to our organisation."

"They distinguish themselves by having a really talented pool of incredibly smart and commercial lawyers. I think that is what makes people go back to them again and again."

Work highlights Allens acted on behalf of Santos in proceedings concerning the judicial review of the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority's decision to accept Santos' Drilling and Completions Environment Plan, which allows the drilling of gas wells as part of the Barossa Project in the Timor Sea.

Notable practitioners

Belinda Thompson is a seasoned handler of class action defences and securities litigation and particularly familiar with product liability issues and matters arising in the financial services space. She is based in the Allens Melbourne office. **Strengths:** *"Belinda is very reliable and presents well to senior executives."* **Ross Drinnan** is a respected, Sydney-based practitioner who specialises in class action defence and high-stakes reputational and regulatory litigation, acting frequently for leading financial services providers. His work includes advising on issues which potentially expose clients to criminal prosecution instigated by regulatory bodies, and on product liability and professional negligence matters.

Strengths: *"He is a pragmatic and well-organised commercial lawyer with a vast depth of experience and is well skilled in navigating significant cases of repute for his clients."* **Kim Reid** is rated for both general dispute resolution and class action disputes. Based in Sydney, he is highly regarded for

his expertise in contentious regulatory matters, prominently active on banking and financial services-related cases, and regularly advises clients in the resources sector. **Strengths:** *"Kim Reid is a highly skilled litigator who handles highly complex matters with a uniquely commercial lens. He understands the complexity of the client's business and artfully delivers advice in a commercial context."* *"Kim provides a steady and guiding hand, striking the balance between technical legal skills and commercial and strategic advice. He is hyper-responsive, happy to work through challenging problems at a moment's notice and is frank, pragmatic and incisive."* **Malcolm Stephens** offers experience in superior court commercial litigation up to and including High Court level and embracing frequent involvement in class action and financial regulatory cases. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"Malcolm Stephens is calm, understands us very well and has great strategies. I love working with him."*

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler offers a highly regarded, independent practice, long renowned for its representation of high net worth and other prominent individuals and increasingly seen acting for leading corporates, handling matters including high-profile regulatory investigations and prosecutions, and it attracts specific praise for its familiarity with Royal Commission processes. The team is active for both defendants and plaintiffs in class actions and valued by clients for its combination of a boutique-style approach to service with a readiness to engage with large and complex issues, notably including those involving high levels of reputational risk. It is particularly admired for its handling of insolvency-related matters, robust advocacy on behalf of clients and employment of small, carefully selected teams to manage mandates with maximum efficiency. Notable clients include Honda Australia, Star Entertainment Group and Aspen Medical.

Strengths

"Arnold Bloch Leibler were chosen by us because of their keen awareness of the broader political and stakeholder environment."

"Their service levels are very high with an equal importance placed on responsiveness."

"Arnold Bloch Leibler's ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters is excellent. They consistently think outside of the box, attack all potential angles, whilst protecting their clients' position."

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler advised

the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority and Major Road Projects Victoria, on behalf of the State of Victoria, in relation to infrastructure disputes concerning Western Roads Upgrade and West Gate Tunnel projects.

Notable practitioners

Leon Zwier leads the practice from the Melbourne office, acting across the full range of issues handled by the team and regularly taking the helm on key mandates. **Strengths:** *"Leon Zwier was the lead partner and navigated the complexities with his skills and a high level of commercial awareness."* *"Leon is a strategist, well connected, highly experienced and very well regarded, not only by his colleagues and peers but also within the industry as a whole."* **John Mitchell** represents both individual executives and companies in high-stakes cases, including regulatory investigations and class actions. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"He has a good understanding of the issues and a very high level of commercial awareness."* **Susanna Ford's** background as a former official in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department is acknowledged by market sources to give her an uncommon advantage in the disputes space, where she is active across a wide range of investigatory and contentious mandates. **Strengths:** *"She is an excellent litigator, experienced in case preparation for trial and possesses very high-quality commercial acumen."* **Jonathan Milner**, based in Sydney, stands out for his representation of individual businesspeople in a variety of contentious or potentially contentious contexts, including regulatory investigations, class actions and criminal prosecutions. **Strengths:** *"He has sophisticated understanding of the law and commercial matters and always makes highly valuable contributions."* **Elyse Hilton** is based in Arnold Bloch Leibler's Melbourne office. She has experience in handling matters related to Royal Commission processes and frequently provides advice to domestic and international companies in contract disputes, especially those connected to bankruptcy and restructuring. Additionally, she advises individual executives in contentious matters. **Strengths:** *"She is a pleasure to work with - supportive, responsive and available."* *"In addition to be incredibly swiftness on and articulate, Elyse Hilton has an uncanny knack for obtaining from the client and then understanding the commercial facts associated with a dispute."*

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst maintains a deep bench offering leading international corporate and government clients global reach and expertise across key industry sectors, with noted strengths in the handling of construction, energy and resources, and financial services disputes. In addition to having a comprehensive commercial litigation capability, it is active on both domestic and international arbitration, prominent in the class action sphere and in disputes concerning road and rail infrastructure, and sought after to advise on both domestic and international regulatory investigations. Key clients include Rio Tinto, KPMG and McDonald's.

Strengths

"They are very good, responsive and detail-focused."

"Ashurst offers excellent responsiveness and work quality."

"The team has good partner and senior associate depth."

Work highlights Ashurst was appointed by Westpac and two of its subsidiaries in civil penalty proceedings commenced by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission in relation to their failure to properly disclose, and as a result their improper charging of contribution fees.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Carter, based in Sydney, acts extensively on investigatory and contentious regulatory mandates, frequently representing leading banks and other prominent financial services providers.

Strengths: *"Andrew Carter has a practical understanding of rules, strategies and regulatory perspectives and huge attention to detail."* *"Andrew is an outstanding litigator, whose attention to detail is second to none. His strategic insights are always extremely well thought through."*

Nicholas Mavrakis acts prominently for leading players in the financial services and resources spheres on high-profile investigatory and regulatory mandates. He is based in Ashurst's Sydney office.

Strengths: *"Nick was recommended to us and he is exceptional and exceeded those expectations."*

Rani John stands out for combining the regular handling of mandates with investigatory or regulatory aspects with a noted flair for the representation of individual executives. She is based in Sydney.

Strengths: *"Rani John is able to present very well to company boards of directors, explain intricacies of regulatory investigations and prosecutions and manage expectations for potential downside. She is very detail-focused and very experienced."*

"She is dedicated to her job, possesses extensive knowledge of the field and is extremely hard-working. She is experienced, highly responsive and goes above and beyond in her work for us."

John Pavlakis stands out for the versatility of his class action practice, encompassing the representation of both public and private sector clients across an unusually varied range of issues. He is based in Sydney.

Strengths: *"He is an exceedingly experienced partner who continues to come up with critical solutions for litigations."* *"John has been around for quite a while and continues to be very easy to deal with."*

Ian Bolster is based in Sydney and represents domestic and international clients from the financial services and retailer sectors in civil penalty proceedings and class action defence, among other matters.

Strengths: *"Ian is an outstanding litigator who is fully engaged with his matters and delightful to deal with."*

Wen-Ts'ai Lim enjoys widespread market recognition as a highly effective litigator of long standing in the disputes space, where he has practised for over 30 years. He is based in Sydney.

Strengths: *"Wen-Ts'ai Lim is a very experienced legal practitioner in the litigation area."*

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie maintains a well-resourced, highly experienced dispute resolution group, acknowledged for its financial services, restructuring and insolvency, and technology-related expertise. The team attracts attention for its involvement in prominent

class actions and for the representation of individuals or companies facing regulatory inquiry or prosecution, bringing to the latter work valuable experience of having acted both for and against regulatory bodies. It is also active on behalf of both customers and suppliers engaged in disputes arising in the IT and telecommunications sectors and for healthcare and consumer goods sector clients. Especially prized for its membership of a global network, the firm is well placed to handle cross-border litigation, particularly in the construction and resources spheres. Key clients include Mastercard, the Australian Energy Regulator and ALS.

Strengths

"Baker McKenzie exhibits great skill in managing an enormous amount of often complex material and issues, distilling them down to the key or core elements of the case."

"They possess the depth of skills, technical expertise and excellent client-facing and communication skills."

"The disputes resolution team is always responsive, which is crucial in litigation proceedings where deadlines may not be generous nor convenient and where timeliness of advice is usually pivotal."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie represented Mercedes-Benz Australia in defence of Federal Court enforcement proceedings brought by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission concerning the global recall of Takata airbags.

Notable practitioners

Mark Chapple acts chiefly on disputes arising out of commercial arrangements such as joint ventures, complex contracts, and investor and shareholder agreements. He is based in Sydney.

Strengths: *"Mark has provided solid and reliable advice on a range of topics. He responds quickly to meet our timetable. Working with Mark is a good experience."* *"Mark did a tremendous job on a personal level, in leading his team, in selecting and briefing barristers, in the management of materials, framing of arguments and preparation prior to cross-examination."*

Andrew Salgo is based in Sydney and operates a varied and versatile practice, often focused on matters of high reputational significance to the clients concerned.

Strengths: *"He is trusted with our largest litigations and really is able to handle our sophisticated cases."*

Alex Wolff is based in Melbourne and maintains a broad practice which extends across such varied sectors as energy, health, forestry and logistics and within which regulatory matters – particularly those which fall within the ambit of the ACCC – feature particularly prominently.

Strengths: *"Alex is completely dedicated to his clients. He is available for every conference and court hearing. He compiles a team responsive to the needs of the case and ensures he is across every aspect of the matters."*

Banton Group

What the team is known for Banton Group is a Sydney-based law firm with a strong track record of representing plaintiffs in class action disputes. Established in 2020, the firm regularly handles class action disputes related to the financial services sector, with noted experience in financial

products class actions. It is also experienced in handling insolvency disputes.

Strengths

"All their matters are complex legally, technically and strategically. That is their specialty."

"Each team plans well in advance and maps service levels and completion targets to meet stated court orders and desired outcomes."

"They offer prompt and comprehensive service."

Work highlights Banton Group acted for plaintiffs in representative proceedings against the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Commonwealth of Australia concerning alleged mismanagement by the defendants resulting in low water allocations.

Notable practitioners

Amanda Banton of Banton Group is one of the best-known names in the class action space, commanding the widest recognition for her representation of plaintiff groups.

Strengths: *"Amanda is an excellent, sophisticated and engaged partner who always seeks the best outcome for her clients."* *"Amanda Banton does class section litigation really well."*

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for The Clayton Utz disputes practice is a substantial group, acknowledged for the depth and continuity of its team and offering a versatile range of expertise, notably including banking, construction, energy and resources, and public sector representation. It is prominent in the class action defence and regulatory investigation spaces and frequently in receipt of inbound referrals from international firms. The practice is also regularly seen on product liability and consumer remediation scheme mandates. It maintains a high profile where the representation of individual executives in both civil and potentially criminal matters is concerned. Noted clients include Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Apple and Hino Motors.

Strengths

"The litigation team is extremely user-friendly and technically excellent. They are a joy to work with, with a particular focus on client needs."

"They are one of the go-to firms for significant commercial litigation matters and have strong line of sight on the commercial imperatives that underpin such matters."

"The Clayton Utz team is well organised, which includes the regulatory expert relevant to the subject of litigation and talented associate attorneys who can well handle the court proceeding and provide advice to client."

Work highlights Clayton Utz represented individuals from the Bayer Group and Australasian Medical & Scientific in relation to a class action in Australia, which is part of a global product liability claim involving the Essure device, a birth control implant for women.

Notable practitioners

Ross McInnes acts principally on regulatory, enforcement and consumer remediation issues, being best known for his work on financial institutions, though his experience also covers the medical device and pharmaceutical sectors. He is based in Sydney.

Strengths: *"Ross has a deep understanding of what clients do. The closeness*

with which he works with clients is impressive.” “Ross is one of the most capable and hard-working solicitors in Sydney.” **Colin Loveday** is based in Sydney and is noted as a strong practitioner on product liability issues with experience on cases in the medical sector. He is particularly rich in experience of managing class action cases concerning consumer and financial products and the coordination of matters with cross-jurisdictional issues. **Nick Cooper** is head of the Clayton Utz commercial litigation group from his base in Perth. He is recognised for significant experience advising government and public sector clients, in addition to acting for multinational corporates. **Strengths:** “Nick is a trusted pair of hands.”

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance is well regarded for its representation of a blue-chip domestic and international clientele in complex arbitration and litigation mandates, notably including class actions and matters of high reputational significance. The team is frequently engaged for prominent energy and resources, investment treaty arbitration, multiple class action and cross-border regulatory investigation work, and highly prized for its closely integrated global network and swift redeployment of appropriate expertise between offices. It is also significantly active in the handling of cases involving auditing and financial reporting issues. Key clients include EY, Association of German Banks and Airbus.

Strengths

“The team have extensive contractual dispute experience and a clear understanding of how best to position the negotiation points.”

“It’s a strong team with deep experience.”

“They are very confident, friendly and user-friendly.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance defended Deloitte Touché Tohmatsu in a class action brought by shareholders of former ASX-listed engineering company Hastie Group involving claims under the Corporations Act, ASIC Act and Australian Consumer Law.

Notable practitioners

Sam Luttrell is based in Perth and devotes much of his practice to the resolution through arbitration of disputes arising from the natural resources sector, commanding particular respect for his handling of investor-state mandates. **Strengths:** “He is smart and commercial – an excellent lawyer.”

Angela Pearsall co-heads the Clifford Chance disputes team from the Sydney office and stands out for her handling of large-scale commercial litigation in the Australian market, notably including class actions generated by significant insolvency-related disputes. **Strengths:** “She is extremely responsive to clients, hard-working and very client-focused.” “Angela is a good lawyer, good people manager and a good client manager. She is very good to work with.”

Colin Biggers & Paisley

What the team is known for Colin Biggers & Paisley maintains a comprehensive practice with partners based in Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne. The team is active on a range of disputes, investigations and class actions, and is frequently retained by individuals and companies from sec-

tors including healthcare, insurance and construction. It offers experience acting for large, well-known companies on employment disputes, including class actions. Notable clients include Skytraders, Monash IVF and Cester Developments.

Strengths

“They have extensive knowledge and an outstanding ability to handle multiple complex disputes at one time.”

Work highlights Colin Biggers & Paisley represented RCR Tomlinson as defence counsel in three shareholder class actions commenced in the NSW Supreme Court in relation to the AUD1 billion collapse of RCR.

Notable practitioners

Sydney-based practice head Timothy Seton is a key contact.

Cooper Grace Ward

What the team is known for Cooper Grace Ward maintains a respected Brisbane disputes practice, active on behalf of several of Australia’s leading companies across a broad range of disputes, generally involving a significant Queensland connection, though the group is also experienced in the handling of superior court litigation in both New South Wales and Victoria. In addition to mandates affecting major players in the consumer goods, financial services and property industries, the team is increasingly active on behalf of high net worth and other publicly prominent individuals, and often also of their associated family trusts. It is also well known for advising clients on their interaction with official commissions of inquiry. Key clients include Golden Vision Retail, Newclip Technics and Circa Contemporary Circus.

Strengths

“Their work is consistently of the highest quality, and they provide exceptional client-focused service. Further, the firm provides excellent support for counsel and the instructions our barristers receive from the firm are excellent.”

“They have the experience and skills to handle matters of any size or complexity.”

Work highlights Cooper Grace Ward represented Lakeba Group in New South Wales Supreme Court proceedings brought by shareholders.

Notable practitioners

Rocco Russo (see p.235) both leads the Cooper Grace Ward disputes practice and generally takes the lead on key mandates, operating across an impressively varied range of business and industry sectors and dispute types. He is based in Brisbane. **Strengths:** “Rocco is an outstanding litigation lawyer. He heads his highly competent team but remains very hands-on to steer the matter to the client’s satisfaction. He provides clear and sensible advice, which always shows his comprehensive understanding of the facts, the law and the commercial context of any dispute.” “Rocco is a genuine leader of the profession. He has built a high performing team, with very high service standards operating at the highest technical levels.”

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth offers a substantial independent practice that is notably active in the class action and

arbitration spheres and renowned for particularly high levels of client service. It additionally offers respected capabilities in the areas of contentious energy and resources issues, healthcare-related cases and corporate investigations, and is also regularly involved in data security and product liability matters. The team draws praise for its lawyers’ technical abilities and commercial judgement, as well as its commitment to client education through seminars and events. Key clients include Meta, Hancock Prospecting and Google.

Strengths

“When we turn to Corrs Chambers Westgarth for their judgement on our most complex and novel regulatory matters, we know that we’ll consistently receive high-quality advice that is commercial, pragmatic and risk-aware.”

“They have a strong bench across their Australian offices and formidable litigation counsel whose knowledge can be drawn on as required. They are more than capable of handling complex disputes as well as simpler and smaller scale disputes.”

“The team is always widely and pleasantly accessible and sensitive to their clients’ internal timing pressures.”

Work highlights Corrs acted for ME Bank with respect to the prosecution of charges in the Federal Court of Australia under the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001.

Notable practitioners

Josh Paffey is widely considered one of the market’s leading arbitration practitioners and is head of Corrs Chambers Westgarth’s arbitration practice. His global clientele includes major oil and gas producers and ASX-listed clients in the transport sector. **Strengths:** “Josh is an exceptional disputes expert and one that I highly recommend for arbitration matters. He is patient, thorough and detailed, explaining complicated legal elements within the business to non-lawyers very well.” “Josh acts as a collaborative, cost-conscious, technical lawyer who can be relied upon for experienced legal strategy and is a highly valuable member of my legal team when disputes arise.” **Mark Wilks** leads the Corrs Chambers Westgarth commercial litigation team from the Sydney office, bringing to that role extensive experience in the handling of class actions and of disputes arising from the financial services and resources sectors. **Strengths:** “Mark is probably the best litigator I have met. He is outcome-focused, has a very high intellect which he applies at a highly strategic level and with a good commercial understanding. He has developed very strong relationships with senior and junior counsel in Sydney and is personable and considerate.” “Mark is accessible and responsive from all time zones. He is quick to collaborate internally when needed to ensure any corporate legal challenge I face has holistic support from Corrs Chambers Westgarth, while remaining sensitive to my internal time pressures.” **Chris Pagent** heads the Corrs Chambers Westgarth class action practice from the Sydney office and takes the leading role on many of its key mandates, where he acts for an impressive range of leading domestic and international companies. **Strengths:** “Chris provides sophisticated and strategic advice.” “Chris provides a high level of client service and is very approachable. He is able to explain things to broader audiences and is also

very informative about current events in the relevant litigation space.” **Kirsty Sutherland** is a highly respected litigator with over 30 years’ experience in the Perth market, where she is best known for work on behalf of leading domestic and international players in the energy and resources sector.

Simon Johnson acts principally on matters in the financial services and technology spheres, his regular clients including some of the best-known names in the digital sphere. He is based in Sydney.

Strengths: “We continue to be impressed with Simon’s quick summation of relevant issues in play, his engagement style and his empathy towards our internal messaging and decision-making.” **James Whittaker** is an experienced handler of class action and product liability litigation and is also noted for his work on Royal Commissions and other public inquiries. Based in Sydney, he is also increasingly active on matters at the point where media and technological concerns intersect. **Strengths:** “James is very easy to work with.”

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons fields a substantial team with a broad national footprint, backed by the resources of a worldwide litigation network. It is notably active on mandates in the financial services and real estate spheres, on shareholder disputes and insolvency-related litigation, and in class actions. Its regional cross-border capability is particularly strong where dealings between Australia and Papua New Guinea are concerned. Key clients include Logos Property and Westpac.

Strengths

“They are well organised and the staff are well qualified.”

“Dentons bring great comparative insight from experience with other clients in similar industries.”

Work highlights Dentons acted for FDC construction in Supreme Court of New South Wales commercial list proceedings relating to allegations of breach of contract and directors duties as well as issues pertaining to misappropriation of funds.

Notable practitioners

John Dalzell leads the practice from the Sydney office and offers expertise across the dispute resolution spectrum being experienced not only in the handling of litigation in superior New South Wales and Commonwealth courts, but also in the representation of clients before a variety of official tribunals and inquiries. **Strengths:** “John is a very good litigator who provides commercially savvy and strategic advice.” **Lisa Wright** is based in Sydney and brings three decades of experience to her handling of a wide range of commercial litigation mandates, within which Corporations Act-related issues and the representation of individual business executives feature particularly prominently. **Strengths:** “She is a joy to work with, always entirely across the details and the most hard-working solicitor that I have ever encountered.”

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper’s substantial team is highly appreciated for its membership of a global practice with a readily accessible dispute resolution capability in every office and

prominence on regional matters with multi-jurisdictional dimensions. It is active on behalf of leading international corporates in the management of complex contentious issues in the banking, energy and resources, and infrastructure spaces, and significantly developing its profile in the international arbitration, class action and regulatory arenas. Notable clients include Perth Airports, AVZ Minerals and Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission.

Strengths

“The team is very responsive, strategic, pragmatic and proactive.”

“Their work quality is excellent. They are responsive; they understand what the client needs and work on that. They also have good quality junior involvement – both great partners and great senior associates are brought to the team.”

Work highlights DLA Piper defended Domino’s Pizza Enterprises in a class action proceeding filed in the Federal Court of Australia by Australian franchisee employees for alleged underpayment by their franchisee employers.

Notable practitioners

Gowri Kangeson (see p.233) acts on a range of arbitrations across the oil and gas, energy and logistics sectors, advising on ICC, ACICA and domestic arbitrations. She is based in DLA Piper’s Melbourne office. **Strengths:** “She understands complex matters and provides strategic advice.”

Gitanjali Bajaj (see p.230) is based in Sydney and combines an increasingly admired international arbitration practice with a respected domestic litigation offering, disputes arising out of major infrastructural projects often representing a link between the two. **Strengths:** “She is doing international arbitration in high-value markets. She is a star and we come across her in energy, natural resources, decarbonation and infrastructure-related matters.”

Gadens

What the team is known for The Gadens disputes team operates from offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. It offers extensive experience in representing companies and individual executives from the financial services industry. Additionally, it provides expertise in assisting corporate regulators in investigations and in responding to public investigations. The law firm’s frequent clients come from industries including financial services, real estate, agribusiness and manufacturing. Notable clients include the Star Casino, Ball & Doggett and the Australian Securities & Investments Commission.

Strengths

“I consider their team – from associates, senior associates to partners – to be experienced, professional, proactive and able to be really involved in the running of litigation.”

“They are very conscious of service delivery and they respond promptly.”

Work highlights Gadens represented Dairycorp in relation to a dispute that arose between joint venture partners regarding property development in Sydney.

Notable practitioners

Kathy Merrick is based in Gadens’ Sydney office. She is experienced in mandates relating to public

investigations and corporate disputes, with clients from real estate, agribusiness and financial services industries. **Strengths:** “Kathy is very knowledgeable, very smart and very experienced.”

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin maintains a well-resourced, independent practice, acting for an extensive domestic and international clientele, including leading players in the banking, resources and telecommunications industries. It is active on class actions and other multiparty litigation, regulatory investigations and other official inquiries, including the growing number of royal commissions, where it is noted for advising both government bodies and the organisations being examined. The team is regularly visible on restructuring and insolvency-related mandates and those involving alleged breaches of directors’ duties. It is noted for strategic insight and rapid, proactive issue assessment, often enhanced by the labour-saving use of technology. Notable clients include the Nuix, Macquarie Bank Group and SkyCity.

Strengths

“They know how to work with large scale in-house teams and deliver legal services in the way that is needed.”

“They are proactive, sophisticated litigators who give realistic guidance regarding the various potential outcomes from litigation.”

“They are very customer-focused and well resourced to respond.”

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin was engaged to act for Westpac in relation to class action proceedings which arose from proceedings commenced by AUSTRAC against it in the Federal Court.

Notable practitioners

Richard Harris heads the practice from the Sydney office and is personally best known for his representation of leading financial services providers, acting across an impressively broad range of class action, official inquiry and regulatory litigation mandates. **Strengths:** “Richard is strategic, can handle any stakeholder regardless of the circumstances and is great for executive board briefings.” “He is a very much trusted adviser, provides frank advice and will provide a view even if full information is not available.” **Colleen Platford** is based in Sydney, where her complex commercial litigation practice is largely focused on disputes concerning insolvency or trade practices. **Strengths:** “She is responsive, sophisticated and gives very clear advice.” “Colleen is good at the technical legal aspects but also the overall strategy.” **Crispian Lynch** stands out for his expertise in the class action and regulatory spheres and is particularly active on behalf of clients from the financial services sector. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** “Crispian is an outstanding litigator, who is always across the detail, strategic and insightful.” **Janet Whiting** is a highly regarded commercial litigator in the Melbourne disputes space, advising extensively on high-stakes litigation, regulatory issues and matters of major reputational significance to the clients concerned, representing both high-profile companies and individual executives. **Strengths:** “She has done a

very good job with large-scale litigation.”

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox offers a well-resourced disputes practice, maintaining offices in every mainland state or territory and offering comprehensive coverage of litigation, alternative dispute resolution and inquiry-related requirements. In addition to handling complex and high-stakes commercial disputes, it is particularly active on behalf of clients from the construction, real estate and telecommunications sectors, and on insolvency-related matters. It is also experienced in the handling of class action mandates and in the representation of individual executives and entrepreneurs. Notable clients include PwC, Transport for Victoria and the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull AC.

Strengths

“The firm is fully committed and has met all required timelines to date.”

“They were very commercial and willing to align risk with outcomes.”

Work highlights Hall & Wilcox advised Peter Greensill Family Trust in relation to the collapse of Greensill Capital.

Notable practitioners

Graydon Dowd (see p.232) represents clients in a broad range of commercial disputes and has particular experience in contract disputes, inquiries and royal commissions. **Strengths:** *“Graydon was always responsive and there was never a lag in any dealings, negotiations or communications. I felt safe and took great comfort throughout the process, knowing I was in exceptionally professional hands.”* *“Graydon is an astute solicitor and well respected by his peers.”* **Kathryn Howard** (see p.233) is an experienced litigator and has practiced in Tokyo, London and Melbourne. Her clients include individuals and organisations in the infrastructure, manufacturing and pharmaceutical industries. **Strengths:** *“Kathryn is the litigator you want on your side in a dispute. She is strategic, results-driven and technically exceptional. I value Kathryn’s capabilities, responsiveness and understanding of client needs. I can always count on her to drive the best results for us.”* *“Kathryn is an absolute pleasure to work with. I would highly recommend her.”*

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills’ vast practice covers the fullest range of disciplines and is much appreciated by clients for combining great regional depth with an integrated global capability. The firm acts for both foreign and domestic household-name clients on the most complex and high-profile commercial litigation and regulatory investigations and is widely regarded as a market leader in the class action space. It is further noted for the full integration of its arbitration capability with the firm’s international offering in the region and for the increasing use of alternative legal services and legal project management teams to augment and streamline the representation of clients across Australia. It readily draws upon expertise from across the firm to provide crisis management support in emergencies. Key clients include Google, Santos and

Marsh & McLennan.

Strengths

“The team is very approachable and always available.”

“Herbert Smith Freehills has demonstrated impressive skills in handling complex matters with a combination of legal skill and strategy.”

“All team members are technically well skilled.”

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills represented multiple Uber entities in five class-action lawsuits filed by licensed taxi drivers and owners, as well as hire car drivers and owners, across the states of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

Notable practitioners

Jason Betts is widely acknowledged by both clients and fellow lawyers as a leading class action defence lawyer who is noted for strength in shareholder class actions. Sydney-based, he also acts extensively on regulatory investigations and prosecutions. **Strengths:** *“Jason Betts of Herbert Smith Freehills is fantastic.”* *“Jason Betts is the most in-demand litigator in New South Wales. He’s extremely good.”* **Damian Grave** is an experienced adviser with over 25 years’ hands-on experience of commercial litigation. He is particularly respected for his insights into class action defence and third-party litigation funding. **Strengths:** *“I really appreciated Damian’s honest and open communication style. Damian’s leadership from the top ensured that we had open and direct engagement with all members of the team, and that the Herbert Smith Freehills team understood the key drivers for us as client.”* **Luke Hastings** commands widespread recognition in the regulatory litigation space, with a much-prized familiarity with the inside workings of both banks and regulatory authorities informing his strategic insight. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *“Luke Hastings is knowledgeable and a calm and steady influence at Herbert Smith Freehills.”* **Juliana Warner** stands out for her advice to clients in such closely regulated sectors as those of banking and age care. Her litigation experience, extending back over more than 30 years, includes both first instance and appellate work, up to and including High Court level. **Leon Chung** is based in Sydney and offers experience across an impressively broad range of commercial disputes, regulatory proceedings and a variety of alternative dispute resolution processes. His range of experience includes advising on consumer and competition law, as well as on a variety of commercial arbitrations. **Strengths:** *“Leon Chung has a broad and diverse list of clients and has the ability across all his matters.”* *“Leon Cheung is a top litigator. He can bring his ability to bear on a wide variety of matters.”* **Andrew Eastwood** specialises in contentious regulatory issues, particularly those affecting players in the financial services sector. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *“Andrew is an impressive operator with a very solid understanding of financial services law and enforcement behaviour. His ability to simplify an issue and communicate a view is superb.”* **Cameron Hanson** handles both commercial disputes, notably including class actions, and regulatory investigations from the Sydney office, being particularly well known for his work for financial services sector clients and additionally active

in the energy and resources space. **Strengths:** *“Cameron has the outstanding ability to get across details of complicated litigation, does what has to be done and makes good judgement on the conduct of matters.”* *“Cameron Hason is a fantastic litigator.”* **Anna Sutherland** leads the Herbert Smith Freehills Australian dispute resolution team from the Sydney office, uniting this role with that of co-head of the firm’s global disputes teams. She enjoys a high reputation for her combination of assured case management with a strong focus on client care and communication.

Jackson McDonald

What the team is known for The Jackson McDonald disputes team is a core practice of a firm substantially dedicated to contentious issues, maintaining an impressive capability for handling large and complex Western Australia-focused disputes with a high level of direct partner involvement. It is noted for signature strengths in the energy and resources, infrastructure, insurance and tax spaces, extensive trial experience, longstanding relationships with blue-chip resources clients and close involvement with leading regional industry organisations. The team is heavily involved in the development of alternative dispute resolution procedures in Western Australia. Key clients include Maritime Constructions, Racing and Wagering Western Australia and Mercedes Group.

Strengths

“The assistance provided by the partner and other solicitors has been exceptional, and they are across all matters with regard to the issues we have raised with the team at Jackson McDonald.”

Work highlights Jackson McDonald represented Perkins Builders in disputes that arose from the construction of a high-end residential apartment complex in Bunbury, Western Australia.

Notable practitioners

Neil Gentili has practised in litigation for over 40 years and continues to advise across the full commercial disputes spectrum, offering particularly focused expertise in the energy and resources, financial services and insolvency spheres.

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery operates an independent team, offering public and private sector clients nationwide coverage of contentious corporate matters and maintaining a close focus on competition, construction, energy and resources, insolvency and regulatory issues. It is prominent on large-scale class action mandates, particularly those involving third-party funders, acting for both applicants and defendants, and further noted for its handling of matters involving questions of directors’ and officers’ liability. The team is also valued for its ability to draw upon the resources of the wider firm and as an independent choice for inbound referrals. Noted clients include 3M, VicForests and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

Strengths

“The team is very deep and will go above and beyond to understand my business subtleties.”

“The team is smart, hard-working, diligent and strategic.”

"They are always available and responsive."

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery represented Google in a High Court claim concerning search engine results which linked to defamatory material.

Notable practitioners

Paul Reidy co-heads the Johnson Winter Slattery disputes team from the Sydney office, being himself particularly well known for his management of class action mandates and representation of individual executives facing regulatory investigation or prosecution. **Strengths:** *"His advice is just unbelievably good, and he just fights, fights and fights, unbelievably. I could not speak more highly of him."* **Robert Johnston** stands out for his substantial involvement in superior court litigation, much of which is prominent class action work conducted in the Federal Court and New South Wales Supreme Court, his experience in this latter sphere dating back to the very earliest days of the class action regime. **Strengths:** *"He has great ideas and is always across the details."*

Frances Dreyer is based in Johnson Winter Slattery's Sydney office and is regularly mandated on litigation matters of considerable scale, with a particular strength in class action disputes across a range of industry sectors. **Strengths:** *"Frances Dreyer was fantastic. She is a relatively young partner who is highly intelligent, got across very complex evidence and had a fairly exhaustive understanding of the whole case."*

Jones Day

What the team is known for The Jones Day team is the respected Australian arm of a global dispute resolution offering, attracting particular notice for its handling of high-stakes, cross-border disputes for prominent multinationals. It is also noted in the class action defence sphere, on regulatory investigations and inquiries and on disputes concerning energy and resources or major construction projects. The team operates additionally in the insolvency and taxation-related disputes spaces and is regularly active on behalf of individual executives and further noted for its ability to advise on Australian matters affected by the provisions of the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Key clients include Sanofi and Bristol Myers Celgene, Tri-Star Group and Holista Colltech.

Strengths

"The work is always well-researched and executed very diligently. They also did good team work in our large litigation, which required the deployment of resources from various offices, and that was managed very well."

"They are technically excellent with a depth of experience which is demonstrated by a strong ability to work with both the deal teams and the C-suite."

"Their turnaround time is always good."

Work highlights Jones Day represented Tom Albanese, former CEO of Rio Tinto, in a regulatory investigation and subsequent proceeding initiated by the Australian Securities & Investments Commission. This case centered on Rio Tinto's market disclosures concerning the acquisition of a Mozambique coal mine in 2011.

Notable practitioners

John Emmerig is an experienced handler of high-

value, high-profile litigation – including major class actions – for household-name companies and, on regulatory issues, their individual executives. **Strengths:** *"John is a lovely man to deal with, and is extremely experienced in his practice area. His advice is thorough, thought through and very appropriately aimed at the audience he is assisting."* **Holly Sara** is a Sydney-based partner who focuses on contentious work for large multinational companies, notably those from the financial services and pharmaceutical sectors.

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons' comprehensive, deeply resourced offering has niche strengths in such areas as financial services regulation, construction and infrastructure disputes, corporate investigations, Royal Commissions and other official inquiries and public liability issues and incorporates both experienced international arbitration expertise and a strong class action capability. It is also noted for its impressive regional presence and especially high capability for the handling of China-related issues, including the enforcement of contracts and awards. It is regularly sought after as an adviser to public sector clients and maintains a strong focus upon the prevention or out-of-court settlement of disputes wherever consonant with client objectives. Key clients include Westpac, Star Entertainment Group and Suncorp.

Strengths

"They have very strong capabilities, from hands-on partner involvement through to junior lawyers. The team has the resources and raw intellectual power to handle the most complex and time-sensitive matters."

"The depth of talent from partners to juniors is uniformly strong."

"The team has a strong commercial focus, born of a deep understanding of clients' businesses and industries."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons defended Tyro Payments in a class action relating to an EFTPOS (electronic funds transfer at point of sale) terminal outage.

Notable practitioners

Alexander Morris stands out for his mastery of the two often overlapping areas of financial services litigation and class actions and is further noted for his representation of senior executives facing issues of high reputational significance.

Strengths: *"Alexander has a deep understanding of financial services and securities industries and is a lateral thinker with very strong forensic skills."*

"He is a great strategic thinker, always three steps ahead of his opponent." **Maira Saville** is based in Sydney and focuses principally on class actions, acting particularly frequently for clients from the financial services and insurance sectors or on issues of product or professional liability.

Strengths: *"Maira is the consummate litigation professional. She has complete grasp of the matter, always brings insight and forensic wisdom and delivers an outstanding service."* *"She is the best in crisis management."* **Emma Costello** is respected for advising on significant class action disputes, as well as assisting with Royal Commission matters. She is based in King & Wood Mallesons' Bris-

bane office. **Domenic Gatto** is a well-regarded, Melbourne-based litigator with a strong focus on high-stakes disputes arising from the resources and financial services sectors, including class action disputes. He also acts on ACCC investigations. **Strengths:** *"Domenic Gatto is our go-to for litigation."*

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates' disputes team is the Australian arm of a global practice and operates from offices on the East Coast and in Perth. It is experienced in both litigation and a variety of alternative dispute resolution disciplines and acknowledged for its expanding sector coverage, good regional connections and mid-market appeal. Well equipped to handle large, complex, cross-jurisdictional disputes, the team is notably active on mandates generated by the rise of shareholder activism in Australia and similarly prominent in the consumer class action space. It is also well placed to advise in connection with ASIC investigations, Royal Commissions and other regulatory inquiries. Notable clients include Cricket Australia, Dyldam Developments and Honda Australia.

Strengths

"Their responsiveness was impeccable – we were able to all swiftly arrange an initial call, followed by a very timely briefing with the team. I was incredibly impressed with how fast the team mobilised and provided their advice."

Work highlights K&L Gates advised Cricket Australia in its long-running dispute with the Seven Network regarding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the performance of the parties' Media Rights Agreement.

Notable practitioners

Tim Webster is both head of the firm's Australian litigation practice and co-head of its global disputes offering, and plays leading roles on high-profile contentious mandates of all kinds.

Strengths: *"He really got our issues, dealt with the proceedings with guile and got us where we needed to be."* *"Tim is an astute and pragmatic lawyer."*

Maddocks

What the team is known for The Maddocks dispute resolution team is a compact group, with representatives in the Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra offices and a wide-ranging contentious capability embracing such areas as corporate, contractual and property disputes, consumer and defamation issues, regulatory investigations and public inquiries. The team regularly partners with litigators from other Maddocks practice groups where appropriate and is particularly well known for its representation of government and other public sector bodies. Notable clients include Airservices Australia, WorkSafe Victoria and Macquarie Telecom.

Strengths

"Maddocks has a very experienced team with a broad range of skills which enables them to be commercially astute; I rate their commercial awareness as 'high!'"

Work highlights Maddocks provided defence for the City of Greater Dandenong in the Supreme Court of Victoria against a claim of misfeasance in

public office commenced against both it and the State of Victoria.

Notable practitioners

Norman Lucas and Gina Wilson, practice heads based in Sydney and Melbourne respectively, are key contacts.

Maurice Blackburn

What the team is known for Consistently acknowledged as the nation's pre-eminent plaintiff practice, Maurice Blackburn operates from 33 offices across mainland Australia. Specialising in the representation of businesses and individuals in class actions, it has featured prominently in disputes arising in the automotive, financial services, human rights, medical and resources sectors.

Strengths

"Maurice Blackburn is the clear leader of plaintiff class section."

"The opponent we respect more than other opponents."

Notable practitioners

Melbourne-based CEO Jacob Varghese is a key contact.

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson fields a respected Brisbane-headquartered disputes practice, offering coverage of contentious issues across Australia's East Coast. The team is traditionally renowned for its handling of energy and resources and IT matters and is also prominently active on agriculture and transport-related issues and in the representation of government clients at state and Commonwealth level. It also advises on interactions with regulatory bodies such as ASIC and the ACCC. It is often instructed by international law firms on matters with significant Australian aspects and has significantly developed its arbitration capability through the creation of an international arbitration group. Key clients include the Department of Defense, Elution Metals and Ampol.

Strengths

"They provided balanced and accurate advice."

Work highlights McCullough Robertson represented Metro Environmental Logistics in Supreme Court of New South Wales proceedings against the Port Authority of New South Wales.

Notable practitioners

Guy Humble leads the McCullough Robertson dispute resolution team from the Brisbane office, maintaining a versatile personal practice which includes noted expertise concerning regulatory inquiries, securities-related issues and professional negligence litigation. **Jason Munstermann** is based in Sydney and maintains a wide-ranging practice which includes work on behalf of both household-name corporates and state and Commonwealth government departments and agencies, and which often sees him acting at the helm of key practice mandates.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison maintains a large disputes practice with a broad national and international footprint, a substantial cross-jurisdictional offering for the Asia-Pacific region and a depth of resources to cover all major

business sectors. Its signature strengths include the handling of shareholder class actions, regulatory investigations and prosecutions, and disputes relating to infrastructure for an impressive range of corporate and government clients. The team is frequently seen on high-profile financial services-related disputes and on matters subject to domestic or international arbitration. Notable clients include Insignia Financial, Rio Tinto and Australian Securities and Investment Commission.

Strengths

"They are incredibly responsive, especially as we work through much different time zones."

"They know our industry better than anyone, and it's not even close. So much of the value that MinterEllison provides comes from their awareness of the industry and their ability to steer us in the right direction."

Work highlights MinterEllison acted on behalf of Qantas Airways in a case brought before the Western Australian Supreme Court, wherein Perth Airport filed a claim for outstanding aeronautical charges.

Notable practitioners

Beverley Newbold handles high-profile matters in the class action and regulatory spheres from MinterEllison's Sydney office, often acting on behalf of some of Australia's household-name companies—or their individual executives—on both domestic and cross-border mandates. **Strengths:** *"Beverley is a trusted adviser for difficult issues."*

Ross Freeman is based in Melbourne and brings more than a quarter of a century's experience to a variety of dispute mandate types, in which class actions, regulatory investigations and alleged instances of market misconduct feature particularly prominently. **Glen Ward** is experienced in representing prominent companies in class action defence and settlement work. He also assists companies and business owners in contract disputes. **Strengths:** *"Glen is down to earth, easy to talk to and quick to respond."* *"Glen Ward works extraordinarily hard, producing timely advice and is very, very commercial."*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright offers a notably deep bench and a global cross-border capability, attracting blue-chip domestic and international clients. Its strengths include the representation of energy and resources companies, healthcare companies and financial services providers, and the handling of strategic disputes, including class actions and regulatory and other official investigations. The team is frequently instructed by such regulatory bodies as ASIC and the ACCC, and thus able to acquire a useful understanding of the workings of those organisations and their priorities. It maintains a noted profile in the international arbitration sphere and is expanding its offering where contentious international trade issues are concerned. Key clients include Chevron, Priceline and Citibank.

Strengths

"They are great at following up and offering assistance to ensure the conclusion of the matter."

"They have lots of experience across the team and, with their full-service offering, we are always able

to be connected to the right experts to deal with a variety of different disputes."

"The Norton Rose Fulbright dispute team takes the time to get to know and understand our business. This allows them to provide practical and effective legal advice as they understand our company inside-out."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright represented KPMG, the receivers and managers of the Dick Smith group, in the long-running litigation following the collapse of Dick Smith in 2016.

Notable practitioners

Grant Bonner is particularly well known for his Corporations Act expertise, and his clientele includes several significant names from the energy and resources and financial services sectors. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"Grant is a very strong technician for restructuring, funds and commercial litigation."* **Dylan McKimmie** handles disputes and regulatory investigations from Norton Rose Fulbright's Brisbane and Perth offices. He possesses particular expertise in advising clients from the energy and natural resources sector. **Strengths:** *"Dylan is exceptional in terms of providing commercial advice, understanding business and understanding that everyone is trying to look for ways to reduce exposure to risks."*

Phi Finney McDonald

What the team is known for Phi Finney McDonald is a specialist class action boutique, largely dedicated to the representation of shareholder plaintiffs, operating from offices in Melbourne and Sydney and noted for the extensive experience in the field of its three founding principals and for maintaining excellent relations with leading third-party funders. It is particularly well regarded for its handling of securities class actions, including those involving allegations of security-related fraud, and is additionally active on consumer claim, product liability and public interest matters.

Strengths

"They are extremely knowledgeable, willing to engage with clients when required and provide great communication on cases they are undertaking, which is extremely helpful for our clients."

"They have great understanding of current market issues, legislative changes and are always willing to share their knowledge with our clients."

"The team is always very quick to respond to any questions that we have."

Work highlights Phi Finney McDonald co-led a shareholder class action against BHP for alleged disclosure violations and misleading conduct causing shareholder losses.

Notable practitioners

Ben Phi, Tim Finney and Odette McDonald are the firm's founding directors and key contacts.

Piper Alderman

What the team is known for The Piper Alderman disputes practice focuses significantly on the class action sphere, collaborating regularly with prominent third-party funders to represent plaintiff shareholders or consumers in cases arising from a variety of business and industry sectors. It also acts on other funded litigation mandates, including matters in the areas of construction,

insolvency, intellectual property and treaty enforcement. The team is particularly noted for its handling of audit and insolvency-related cases. Clients include Maxi EFX Global and Stillwater Pastoral.

Strengths

"Our questions are dealt with swiftly and efficiently."

"The litigation team was able to cope with a lengthy, high-pressure trial with multiple research issues being conducted at the one time, while simultaneously dealing with contested litigation."

Work highlights Piper Alderman acted on behalf of six trade credit financiers in insurance claims involving 37 trade credit transactions against Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance.

Piper Alderman defended Zoetis Australia in a class action in the Federal Court of Australia brought by the owners of horses administered Zoetis' Hendra virus vaccine.

Notable practitioners

Martin del Gallego is the practice head based in Sydney and is the key contact as well.

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan combines a boutique Australian offering with full connection to a global practice specialising in the resolution of high-end, complex disputes. It maintains its own advocacy capability and is well known for the defence of corporations and their directors and officers in such areas as contractual disputes and product liability, and acknowledged as a significant player in the class action space, where distinct defendant and plaintiff-side representation is available. It is also noted for its handling of disputes, in the energy and resources sector. Key clients include SoftBank Vision Funds and Grocon.

Strengths

"They have put together an amazing team and know how to outsource the correct professionals required."

"The team has an exceptional level of service and is extremely responsive."

Work highlights Quinn Emanuel represented Greensill Bank and its Insolvency Administrator, Dr Michael Frege, in pursuing claims against the bank's insurers under trade credit insurance policies.

Quinn Emanuel filed class action proceedings on behalf of Victorian businesses against the State

of Victoria in relation to alleged failures of the Victorian hotel quarantine programme.

Notable practitioners

Beau Deleuil is based in Sydney and acts extensively on matters arising from the banking and energy and resources sectors and on competition and regulatory issues. He also advises on questions of risk and insolvency matters. **Strengths:** *"We have found Beau to be very knowledgeable."*

Michelle Fox co-heads the practice from the Sydney office, bringing to her role extensive international experience which equips her particularly well to handle cross-jurisdictional mandates. Her diverse practice has encompassed class action defence and class action plaintiff representation, as well as trade mark enforcement. **Strengths:** *"Michelle is very competent, very firm and a direct and formidable person to have on your side."* **Elan**

Sasson is based in Sydney and offers expertise in corporate disputes and white-collar investigations. He is praised by clients for his strategic thinking and commercial acumen. **Strengths:** *"Elan is an exceptional and commercially pragmatic litigator who is a pleasure to work with."*

Slater and Gordon Lawyers

What the team is known for Slater and Gordon Lawyers specialises in the handling of class actions and compensation claims for both group and individual litigants. The firm operates from over 60 Australian offices and is active on prominent shareholder and financial services matters as well as immigration detention cases.

Notable practitioners

The firm's class action team is headed by Melbourne-based Ben Hardwick.

Webb Henderson

What the team is known for Webb Henderson's Sydney-based, boutique-style practice tackles an impressive range of high-stakes mandates, often at state Supreme, Federal or High Court level, through the use of small, senior partner-led teams. The team is especially active on matters involving securities, insolvency or product liability issues, and experienced in the management of class actions. It is widely acknowledged for well-developed expertise – acquired representing both public and private sector players – in the regulatory sphere, and further noted for its frequent representation of individual executives in both insolvency-related and criminal proceedings in superior state and Commonwealth courts.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Christopher co-heads the practice and is particularly well known for his work on regulatory matters, where he frequently acts both for and against the ACCC. He is also active across a range of contractual, intellectual property and trade secrets disputes. **Reaymond McGuinness** co-heads the team and offers over three decades of experience in the handling of commercial disputes, including class actions, and contractual and securities-related disputes, commanding particular respect for his representation of individual executives in insolvency-related and regulatory cases. **Strengths:** *"He is a very good operator."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Jo Delaney of HFW focuses principally on cross-border disputes and offers over 20 years' experience of counsel work in the arbitration field, including familiarity with leading regional and global arbitral regimes.

Rebekah Giles of Company (Giles) maintains her own boutique practice, focused on the representation of companies, individual executives or other prominent public figures involved in particularly sensitive matters, or in those with a high degree of reputational risk.

Strengths:

"I cannot recommend Rebekah enough. She is professional, knowledgeable, well connected and has excellent commercial judgement and interpersonal skills."

"Rebekah is what I would like to call a 'human' lawyer. She has demonstrated over the years great care for my matters and for myself as an individual, rather than just as a case or client."

Bronwyn Lincoln of Thomson Geer has a busy arbitration practice extending across such varied sectors as consumer goods, pharmaceuticals and resources. Her experience extends not only to the roles of both counsel and arbitrator, but also to the enforcement of arbitral awards. She is based in Melbourne.

Strengths:

"Bronwyn is very knowledgeable in her field, with a great capacity to analyse complex litigation. She is very disciplined and focused on achieving results."

AUSTRALIA: An Introduction to Shipping: The Bar

An Outline of Australian Shipping Law

Background

Much of the Australian economy depends on sea trade. The Australian mining and resources sector, an essential part of the Australian economy, is almost entirely reliant on export by sea. Indeed, 99% of Australian exports are transported by sea. More than 12,000 vessels are entered on Australian shipping registers and approximately 6,000 foreign-registered vessels arrive at Australian ports each year. Australian maritime and shipping law is consequently both well developed and essential to the Australian economy.

Key Legislation in Australia

The Australian Commonwealth Government, as well as the governments of the various states and territories of Australia, have the power to make laws in relation to shipping. However, noting Australia's federal system, the important caveat is that, by virtue of Australia's Constitution, the Commonwealth legislation will take precedence in the event of any inconsistency between Commonwealth and State or Territory legislation.

The following are the most important pieces of Commonwealth legislation:

- Navigation Act 2012;
- Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1991;
- Australian Maritime Safety Authority Act 1990;
- Admiralty Act 1988; and
- Shipping Registration Act 1981.

Important statutes from the states and territories include:

- Marine Act 1981 (NT);
- Maritime Services Act 1935 (NSW);
- Marine Safety Act 1998 (Qld);
- Harbours and Navigation Act 1993 (SA);
- Marine and Safety Authority Act 1997 (Tas);
- Marine Safety Act 2010 (Vic); and
- Western Australian Marine Act 1982 (WA).

Basic Introduction to Australian Shipping Law

Definitions, registration and ownership

To attract the effect of the shipping or maritime legislation, the statutory definition of "ship" or "vessel" must first be satisfied. A broad definition of "ship" or "vessel" is given under most of the Commonwealth legislation. For example, under Section 14(1) of the Navigation Act 2012 (Cth) a "vessel" is any kind of vessel used in navigation by water however propelled or moved. Be that as it may, naval vessels are expressly excluded from this definition by virtue of Section 10.

Registration of title is not required for ownership of an Australian ship or a share thereof. However, legislation does govern transferring or transmitting ownership of ships. The Shipping Registration Act 1981 (Cth) represents the principal legislation in this area, stipulating conditions and requirements for registration. A guide to assist in this registration process can be found on the Australian Maritime Safety Authority website, and accessed here: <https://www.amsa.gov.au/vessels-operators/ship-registration#collapseArea209>.

Choice of Law and Jurisdiction

Parties to shipping or maritime contracts involving Australia should pay particular attention to choice of law and choice of jurisdiction issues. Because of Australia's federal system, contractual clauses purporting to confer jurisdiction on "Australian Courts" will generally be invalid. So too will choice of law clauses that reference "the laws of Australia". Rather, such clauses should specify a particular Australian jurisdiction – for example "the laws of Victoria" and the "Courts of Victoria" for effective choice of law and effective choice of jurisdiction clauses respectively. That said, as *CMA CGM SA v The Ship "Chou Shan"* (2014) 311 ALR 234 confirmed, jurisdiction, once established, will generally be exercised by Australian courts, absent the defendant persuading the relevant Australian court that it is a clearly inappropriate forum for the proceeding. If there are any substantial geographical connections to the relevant forum, Australian courts are inclined to choose to exercise their discretion and hear the matter, almost without exception.

Further note should be made of an aforementioned important piece of Australian shipping legislation – the Carriage of Goods by Sea Act 1991 (Cth) – and its effect on choice of law and jurisdiction agreements. Australian law shall apply to any contract for the export of goods from within Australia to any place outside of Australia, and will do so with mandatory force (Section 11 Carriage of Goods by Sea Act). Any clause purportedly to the contrary is ineffective. Interestingly, the reverse does not apply: cargo contracts whose destination is Australia are not mandatorily subject to Australian law by virtue of Section 11 of that Act. Similarly, and somewhat counterintuitively, shipping contracts involving moving cargo from one Australian port to another Australian port will not have Australian law apply mandatorily.

Safety Regulation

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is the chief regulator of marine safety in Australia. Its functions include combating pollution in the marine environment, providing a search and rescue service and providing services upon request to the maritime industry, both commercial and governmental. It has the power to issue maritime orders in the furtherance of its functions, which include safety regulations and which are capable of being the subject of judicial or merits review by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

At a high level, safety regulation in Australia mirrors the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974. These regulations manifest in either the Navigation Act 2012 (Cth) or alternatively the Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Laws Act 2012 (Cth). Determining which of these two Acts shall apply to a particular vessel turns on the definitions of "regulated Australian vessel" and "foreign vessel" under the Navigation Act.

Emerging Issues for Australian Shipping Law

Important cases in 2023

There have been five important cases in Australia in 2023.

Poralu Marine Australia Pty Ltd v MV Dijksgracht [2023] FCAFC 147 concerned whether contract was concluded by way of fixture recap email and turned on the construction of recap emails where recap provided that terms were otherwise as per carrier's standard form booking note and bill of lading including rider clauses

but with English law and London arbitration. The question as to whether the parties intended further terms to be agreed and whether contract was concluded by later return of completed booking note.

Delta Corp Ship Management DMCCO v The Ship “Caledonian Sky” [2023] FCA 1058 concerned the release of a vessel under arrest in the face of caveats against release previously filed. The question was whether release should be delayed to protect interest of caveator and the answer was release of vessel.

GeelongPort Pty Limited v The Ship “Voyager P” [2023] FCA 918 concerned an application for judicial sale of ship pendente lite and to move ship under arrest where a ship was abandoned.

Bank of New Zealand (Security Trustee) v The vessel MY “Island Escape” (No 3) [2023] FCA 541 concerned an action in rem under Section 16 of the Admiralty Act 1988 (Cth) being a claim relating to mortgage of a ship and interest in respect of it under Sections 4(2)(a)(iii) and (d) of the Act, where no appearance was

filed by the ship or the relevant person. The application was for summary judgment at an ex parte hearing. Issues of choice of law and whether there was a reasonable possibility of defence to claim and the application for determination of priorities arose.

Brontes Security LLC v “Lihir Chief” (formerly “Charlie B”) (No 2) [2023] FCA 515 concerned an application by non-party to restrain party’s solicitors from acting and to set aside earlier orders releasing the party from implied undertaking not to disclose information or documents produced under compulsion in the course of arrest proceedings where the party making application did not produce documents subject of order releasing undertaking and where the proceeding was at an end.

Sealanes (1985) Pty Ltd v Vessel MY “Island Escape” [2023] FCA 414 concerned in rem proceedings against defendant ship for a general maritime claim arising from the supply of goods or materials to the ship for its operation or maintenance under a demise charterer and where no appearance was entered.

Dispute Resolution The Bar

Dispute Resolution: The Bar
Leading Sets
Band 1
Banco Chambers
List A Barristers
List G Barristers
Band 2
Dever's List
Eleven Wentworth
Level Twenty Seven Chambers
New Chambers
Nigel Bowen Chambers
Sixth Floor Selborne/Wentworth Chambers
Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne Chambers
5 Wentworth Chambers
Band 3
12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers
Fifth Floor St James' Hall Chambers
Foley's List
Francis Burt Chambers
Greens List Barristers
Greenway Chambers
Level 17 Chambers
North Quarter Lane Chambers
Quayside Chambers
6 St James' Hall
7 Wentworth Selborne
Sixth Floor Windeyer Chambers
Young's List
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Banco Chambers

Banco Chambers is one of Sydney's younger commercial sets, established in 2005, and is noted for having attracted some of Australia's leading junior barristers, in addition to a core of established and respected silks. A recent relocation allowed it to expand its complement to a total of roughly 60 barristers. The chambers are especially well resourced when it comes to providing advice or advocacy on competition, equity or public law issues, it is also home to barristers with significant expertise in the areas of construction, defamation and insolvency. A significant proportion of set members possess appellate experience or have acted as arbitration counsel or arbitrators in both domestic and international cases. Interviewees testify extensively, both to the set's widely perceived pre-eminence in the Sydney market and to its possession of a clear collective identity; one observes: "If you had to pick a chambers set in Sydney, Banco are the list you go to: high-quality and responsive." Another describes Banco Chambers as "highly sophisticated," adding that it "operates in a very modern, progressive and commercial way." Clerk Jeh Coutinho is a key contact for all enquiries.

SILKS

Justin Gleeson SC wins plaudits for the breadth of his practice, not only for high-profile commercial work, where he is often instructed on appel-

Dispute Resolution: The Bar
Leading Silks
Star individuals
Gleeson Justin <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Hutley Noel <i>Fifth Floor St James' Hall Chambers</i>
Myers Allan <i>List A Barristers</i>
Sheahan John <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Walker Bret <i>Fifth Floor St James' Hall Chambers</i>
Young Neil <i>List A Barristers</i>
Band 1
Bannon Anthony <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne</i>
Brereton Peter <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Darke Matthew <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne</i>
Doyle Shane <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Finch Steven <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne Chambers</i>
Harris Wendy A <i>List A Barristers</i>
Higgins Ruth <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Band 2
Caleo Christopher <i>Dever's List</i>
Clothier Damian <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Crutchfield Philip <i>Dever's List</i>
Dick Robert <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Karkar John <i>Svenson Barristers (ORL) ◇</i>
McHugh Richard <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Owens Nicholas <i>Fifth Floor St James' Hall Chambers</i>
Band 3
Borsky Michael <i>List A Barristers</i>
Cahill Patricia <i>Francis Burt Chambers</i>
Collins Elizabeth <i>Sixth Floor Selborne/Wentworth</i>
Collins Matthew <i>List A Barristers</i>
Dharmananda Brahma <i>Quayside Chambers</i>
Dharmananda Kanaga <i>Quayside Chambers</i>
Kelly Liam <i>Gerard Brennan Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Lockhart James <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne</i>
McLure David <i>New Chambers</i>

late cases, but also in the spheres of insolvency, employment and international arbitration.

Strengths:

"When Justin is briefed on matters he brings a lot of energy and dynamism to the case and lots of good ideas. He will always come at things in a way that adds a lot to the case."

John Sheahan KC is widely praised for his handling of high-risk commercial matters in general, and also for restructuring and insolvency mandates specifically. He is regularly recognised for his excellent advocacy skills and is considered to be as impressive in the boardroom as in court.

Strengths:

"John Shehan is very experienced, very good at managing clients to focus on the right things to win the case. He is very sought after and deservedly so."

"He is widely regarded as a leading silk in New South Wales and nationally."

Peter Brereton SC maintains a highly versatile and varied practice, covering the fullest range of first-instance and appellate cases, undertaken for some of Australia's highest-profile companies and embracing a noted competition law capability.

Strengths:

"Peter Brereton is one of the best at the Sydney Bar in complex competition and consumer cases. He is understated but with very effective advocacy, and is very client-friendly and easy to work

Moore Cameron <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Pomeranke Adam <i>Level 17 Chambers</i>
Solomon Philip <i>Dever's List</i>
Williams Justin <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Band 4
Assaf Farid <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Couper Simon <i>North Quarter Lane Chambers*</i>
Craig Robert G. <i>Dever's List</i>
De Young Nicholas <i>List G Barristers</i>
Foley Kathleen <i>Dever's List</i>
Free Stephen <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Giles Jeremy <i>7 Wentworth Selborne</i>
Heath Robert <i>Young's List*</i>
Hodge Michael <i>New Chambers</i>
Hoffmann Mark <i>Bar Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Hogan-Doran Dominique <i>5 Wentworth Chambers</i>
Mirzabegian Sera <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Morgan Kate <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne Chambers</i>
Pike Ian <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Redwood Jonathon <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Rich Garry <i>Fifth Floor St James' Hall Chambers</i>
Sharp Naomi <i>Sixth Floor Selborne/Wentworth Chambers</i>
Slattery Jeremy <i>List G Barristers</i>
Stoljar Jeremy <i>Eight Selborne (ORL) ◇</i>
Sulan David R. <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Taylor Julie <i>Francis Burt Chambers</i>
Withers Christopher <i>Banco Chambers</i>
New Silks
Bender Nicholas <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Hutton James <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Roughley Fiona <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Yezerki Robert <i>Banco Chambers</i>

with."

Kristen Deards SC is active across a broad range of tax matters, including income tax, CGT and GST-related issues, appearing for both taxpayers and the taxation authorities in cases considered by tribunals up to and including High Court level.

Strengths:

"Kristen has a very good practice."

Ruth Higgins SC is widely acknowledged for complex commercial matters, in addition to being long established as a barrister of choice in the competition sphere. In addition, she is known for her prominence in the insolvency field and her appearances in major inquiries and class actions.

Strengths:

"Ruth Higgins is very much top-league at this moment."

"She is great with clients, great to deal with, a great advocate and great on strategy."

Tim Breakspear SC is well reputed when it comes to construction matters. He is particularly accomplished in his handling of disputes generated by major energy, resources or infrastructure projects, or those involving a heavy engineering component. He is also developing a notable profile on the regional international arbitration scene.

Strengths:

"Tim Breakspear for construction and infrastructure work has already made a name for himself. He is one of the best barristers in that specialisa-

Dispute Resolution: The Bar
Leading Juniors
Star individuals
Wood Peter <i>Fifth Floor Selborne (ORL)</i> ◇
Band 1
Shearer Alan <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Band 2
Bathurst Emma <i>Fifth Floor St James' Hall Chambers</i>
Lindeman Kate <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Munro Amy <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Tame Sonia <i>New Chambers</i>
Webster Stewart <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Band 3
Barry Tom <i>Young's List</i> *
Hartford Davis Sebastian <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Holmes Patrick <i>Alinea Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
Kennedy Jesse <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Loxley Kane <i>List G Barristers</i>
May Michael <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Mereine Justin <i>Foley's List</i>
van Proctor Caryn <i>List A Barristers</i>
Wong Derek <i>Alinea Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

tion at the Sydney Bar.”

“He is excellent in construction.”

Robert Dick SC handles a broad range of high-profile, complex commercial litigation mandates in which financial services, regulatory and insolvency issues, or matters subject to major public inquiries, feature prominently.

Strengths:

“Robert Dick is amazing. He is affordable, approachable and gives you his time.”

“He is well regarded as a general commercial silk.”

Richard McHugh SC is well regarded for his versatile practice that incorporates noteworthy experience in the construction, insolvency and regulatory spaces.

Strengths:

“Richard McHugh has a clear idea of how to run a case and a very good style. He is a great presenter in court and simple in the way he approaches cases, making cases attractive to judges.”

“He is a Renaissance man that can turn his hand to almost anything: from large construction arbitrations to High Court appellate matters concerning very complex areas of law to defamation jury trials.”

Vanessa Whittaker SC has maintained a strong focus on insolvency issues since her days as a solicitor, and it continues to form a substantial part of a practice which also embraces the often related areas of bankruptcy, insurance law and professional liability.

Strengths:

“Vanessa is fantastic, a great and genuine player and expert.”

“She is great to work with and has a great brain.”

Cameron Moore SC consistently attracts praise for complex competition matters and is a noted class action specialist. He is particularly singled out in the competition arena for having acted on both the prosecution and defence sides.

Strengths:

“Cameron Moore is excellent, very vigorous and

Construction & Infrastructure: The Bar
Leading Silks
Band 1
Dempsey Mark <i>7 Wentworth Selborne</i>
Doyle Shane <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Gleeson Jeffrey J <i>List A Barristers</i>
Miller Duncan <i>7 Wentworth Selborne</i>
Band 2
Beacham Gareth <i>Callinan Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
Breakspear Tim <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Hicks Francis <i>Greenway Chambers</i>
Hooper Scott <i>Level 17 Chambers</i>
Hopkins Nicholas <i>List A Barristers</i>
O'Shea Patrick <i>North Quarter Lane Chambers</i> *
Pane Nicholas <i>List A Barristers</i>
Roberts Ian <i>Greenway Chambers</i>
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Baartz John <i>Alfred Lutwyche Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
Simpson Nuala <i>7 Wentworth Selborne</i>
Trim Michael <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Band 2
Christie Michael <i>Sixth Floor Selborne/Wentworth</i>
Schneider Claire <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Shipway Lucas <i>Greenway Chambers</i>
Wright Julie <i>Greenway Chambers</i>

does a lot of competition law and patent litigation.”

“He is amazing and our go-to for complex competition cases.”

Farid Assaf SC maintains a strong focus on corporate affairs, including questions of directors' duties and other regulatory matters and insolvency issues.

Strengths:

“Farid's written work in the area is exceptional in terms of books and journal articles. He is a leading practitioner.”

“He is good in commercial work.”

Jonathon Redwood SC has over 20 years of experience advising on complex commercial and class action disputes. He is particularly singled out for his impressive international arbitration practice.

David Sulan SC is active across a broad commercial spectrum, appearing particularly frequently in insolvency-related cases or those involving allegations of various forms of financial misconduct.

Strengths:

“David Sulan is really good value.”

“David has a very calm, understated and effective approach. His judgement on strategic matters is insightful, courageous and impressive.”

Christopher Withers SC is particularly noted for his familiarity with financial services, insolvency and regulatory matters and, increasingly, as an advocate on behalf of plaintiffs in prominent class actions.

Strengths:

“He is thorough, detail-focused, hard-working and easy to work with.”

“He is very good and very active.”

Nicholas Bender SC is recognised for his handling of high-value commercial, corporate and insolvency matters.

Strengths:

“He is very quick on the uptake, very smart and good on the law. He has good technical skills and

Employment: The Bar
Leading Silks
Band 1
Borenstein Herman <i>List A Barristers</i>
Bourke Justin <i>List G Barristers</i>
Doyle Rachel <i>List G Barristers</i>
Eastman Kate <i>New Chambers</i>
Neil Ian <i>6 St James' Hall</i>
Parry Frank <i>Aickin Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
Wood Stuart <i>Aickin Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
Band 2
Chin David <i>5 Wentworth Chambers</i>
Dalton Richard <i>Dever's List</i>
Felman Marc <i>List A Barristers</i>
Murdoch Christopher <i>Level 8 Inns of Court (ORL)</i> ◇
O'Grady Chris <i>Holmes List (ORL)</i> ◇
O'Grady Paul <i>List G Barristers</i>
New Silks
Darams Jamie <i>Greenway Chambers</i>
Follett Matthew J <i>Dever's List</i>
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Davern Rebecca <i>List G Barristers</i>
Seck Michael <i>6 St James' Hall</i>
Band 2
Avallone Brendan <i>List G Barristers</i>
Bulut Vanja <i>12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers</i>
Burmeister Nico <i>List G Barristers</i>
Fuller Dan <i>5 Wentworth Chambers</i> *
Howard Leigh <i>List G Barristers</i>
Mahendra Dilan <i>Quay Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇
Pollock Andrew <i>List G Barristers</i>
Rauf Bilal <i>State Chambers (ORL)</i> ◇

is a capable advocate.”

“Nick is great.”

Declan Roche SC is recognised for his track record acting on prominent competition disputes.

Strengths:

“Declan has a great intellect and range in the matters he can turn his hand to. He has a very calm and pragmatic approach to working through problems and is very hard-working.”

“Declan is excellent, user-friendly and on top of the issues.”

Fiona Roughley SC is active in an impressive variety of fields, including those of construction, insolvency and public inquiries and investigations, and is further noted for her increasing prominence in the class action space.

Strengths:

“Fiona Roughley is client-friendly, very accessible and a pleasure to work with. Always thoroughly prepared, she works extremely hard and has a lot of intellectual horsepower.”

“She is excellent.”

Robert Yezerski SC maintains a broad commercial practice within which competition and consumer law issues feature particularly prominently, and also offers notable experience in the handling of class actions and criminal cartel cases.

Strengths:

“Rob is a rock star. He is whip-smart and very thoughtful, commercial in approach and very accessible for such a busy counsel.”

“He is an excellent barrister.”

JUNIORS

Kate Lindeman offers extensive experience of

Competition/Antitrust: The Bar
Leading Silks
Band 1
Higgins Ruth <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Moore Cameron <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Band 2
Borsky Michael <i>List A Barristers</i>
Brereton Peter <i>Banco Chambers</i>
De Young Nicholas <i>List G Barristers</i>
Hodge Michael <i>New Chambers</i>
Hutley Noel <i>Fifth Floor St James' Hall Chambers</i>
New Silks
Roche Declan <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Yezerski Robert <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Bannan Conor <i>12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers</i>
Muhlebach Alice <i>List A Barristers</i>
* <i>Indicates individual with profile.</i>
◇ (ORL) = <i>Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

litigation throughout the New South Wales court system and in both the Federal and High Courts, her range covering both commercial and public law matters. She has a notable track record of appearing in high-profile cases.

Strengths:

“Kate Lindeman is very good.”

Sebastian Hartford Davis operates across a broad range of commercial, corporate and equity issues, offering experience of litigation at all levels of the New South Wales court system as well as in the High and Federal Courts.

Strengths:

“Sebastian is fantastic. Very clever, hard-working, highly strategic and a great sense of humour in the trenches.”

“He is excellent, user-friendly, happy to engage the clients and very responsive.”

List A Barristers

List A Barristers is a leading Melbourne list, run from offices in Owen Dixon Chambers, and is highlighted for taking on hardcore, high-level commercial litigation, being regularly reported by interviewees to be one of the most prestigious lists in Victoria. This judgement is supported by the list’s standout position in these rankings. Its more than 150 members, who advise and advocate on issues arising in Australian and many foreign jurisdictions, include two stars of the Victorian Bar and many other highly regarded advocates offering cutting-edge expertise in, among others, the competition, construction, employment, insolvency, intellectual property and tax arenas. Deputy clerk Caroline Kaskani is a key contact.

SILKS

Allan Myers KC continues to be identified as one of the most respected practitioners at the Victorian Bar in general and as one of Australia’s pre-eminent appellate silks in particular, with sources emphasising his commercial astuteness and the weight his submissions carry with the Bench. In addition to his appearances on high-profile, high-stakes domestic litigation mandates, he is gaining increasing prominence on the international arbitration scene.

Restructuring/Insolvency: The Bar
Leading Silks
Band 1
Crutchfield Philip <i>Dever's List</i>
Doyle Shane <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Hutley Noel <i>Fifth Floor St James' Hall Chambers</i>
Maiden Stewart J <i>List G Barristers*</i>
McQuade Paul <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Sheahan John <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Band 2
Austin Hamish <i>List G Barristers</i>
Bell Adam <i>New Chambers</i>
Bigos Oren <i>List A Barristers</i>
Fary Peter <i>Foley's List</i>
Higgins Ruth <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Izzo Michael <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Sulan David R. <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Whittaker Vanessa <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Williams Justin <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
New Silks
Möller Carl <i>List A Barristers</i>
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Beechey Emma <i>New Chambers</i>
Band 2
Zambelli Raini <i>List A Barristers</i>

Strengths:

“Allan Myers is exceptional.”

“He is good to work with.”

Neil Young KC has long been regarded as one of Australia’s leading corporate silks, with expertise and experience spanning the widest range of practice areas, being particularly noted where corporations law, trade practices and taxation issues and matters before the Courts of Appeal are concerned.

Strengths:

“Neil is excellent.”

“He is a leading silk.”

Herman Borenstein KC offers long-established expertise covering the full spectrum of Australian employment, industrial relations and discrimination law, and is an experienced handler of cases at Federal and High Court level. He also practises in the areas of constitutional law and human rights, and offers experience of interaction with government inquiries and Royal Commissions.

Strengths:

“He is fantastic on the employee side.”

John de Wijn KC maintains a highly specialised, revenue-focused practice, covering both Federal and state taxes, stamp duty and superannuation, and conducted on behalf of both the ATO and prominent private sector clients.

Strengths:

“He is really good and is one of the leading lawyers in the market.”

Jeffrey Gleeson KC commands immense respect in the construction law field. He is also active in insurance and sports law and, in addition to his litigation work, he is an accomplished arbitration counsel and arbitrator.

Wendy Harris KC is particularly well known for her handling of matters in the banking and finance and insurance spheres, her prominence in the securities class action space, and an increasingly busy appellate practice.

Strengths:

Intellectual Property: The Bar
Leading Silks
Band 1
Bannon Anthony <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne</i>
Caine Bruce <i>List G Barristers</i>
Cordiner Tom <i>List G Barristers</i>
Dimitriadis Christian <i>Nigel Bowen Chambers</i>
Heerey Ed <i>Nigel Bowen Chambers</i>
Hennessy John <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne</i>
Howard Katrina <i>Ninth Floor Selborne Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Murray Neil <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne Chambers</i>
Shavin David <i>Dever's List</i>
Band 2
Bevan Hamish <i>Nigel Bowen Chambers</i>
Cobden Richard <i>Nigel Bowen Chambers</i>
Cochrane Cynthia <i>Level 22 Chambers (ORL) ◇*</i>
Flynn Patrick <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Fox Andrew <i>5 Wentworth Chambers</i>
Goddard Sophie <i>Nigel Bowen Chambers</i>
Golvan Colin <i>List G Barristers</i>
Lang Angus <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne Chambers</i>
Ryan Adrian <i>Patterson's List (ORL) ◇</i>
New Silks
Beaumont Justine <i>Nigel Bowen Chambers</i>
Cooke Julian <i>5 Wentworth Chambers</i>
Merrick Luke <i>List G Barristers</i>
Smith Craig <i>List G Barristers</i>
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Arcus Phoebe <i>5 Wentworth Chambers</i>
Cunliffe Clare <i>List G Barristers</i>
Larish David <i>5 Wentworth Chambers</i>
Mee Ben <i>5 Wentworth Chambers</i>
St John Frances <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne</i>
Band 2
Beattie Kate <i>List G Barristers</i>
Creighton-Selvay Peter <i>List G Barristers</i>
Evetts Megan <i>Nigel Bowen Chambers</i>
Fitzpatrick Benjamin <i>List G Barristers</i>
Fleming Marcus <i>List G Barristers</i>
Ross Shauna <i>Nigel Bowen Chambers</i>
Thomas Laura <i>Nigel Bowen Chambers</i>
Band 3
Clark Rob <i>5 Wentworth Chambers</i>

“Wendy Harris is an outstanding coverage silk.”

“She is a well-regarded commercial silk.”

Jennifer Batrouney KC has practised at the Bar for some 30 years, accumulating in that time experience across the full spectrum of tax work and focusing particularly strongly on income tax, GST and superannuation issues. She is active on behalf of both corporate and public sector bodies – the latter at both state and Commonwealth levels – and she also specialises in advising charitable bodies on their own taxation concerns.

Oren Bigos KC is acknowledged for his expertise in insolvency law, and his high level of activity in that sphere is coupled with considerable academic distinction. He is experienced in handling matters arising from some of Australia’s largest corporate collapses, and he often appears in state Supreme, Federal and High Court proceedings.

Strengths:

“Oren is a genuine insolvency expert who knows the area well.”

“He is an incredible technical lawyer.”

Marc Felman KC maintains a specialisation in

Shipping: The Bar
Leading Silks
Band 1
Cox Edward <i>Greenway Chambers</i>
Harvey Matthew <i>List G Barristers</i>
Nell Gregory <i>New Chambers</i>
Band 2
Austin Hamish <i>List G Barristers</i>
Hogan-Doran Justin <i>7 Wentworth Selborne</i>
Scott KC Martin <i>List G Barristers</i>
Street Charles <i>Fourth Floor Selborne Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
New Silks
Gleeson Catherine <i>New Chambers</i>
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Kennedy Jesse <i>Eleven Wentworth</i>
Band 2
Nolan Bridie <i>12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers</i>
Rares Quintin <i>7 Wentworth Selborne</i>
* <i>Indicates individual with profile.</i>
◇ (ORL) = <i>Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

employment, industrial relations and discrimination law which he developed during his days as a solicitor, and applies his expertise on behalf of employers, employees and a variety of state and Commonwealth government bodies. He offers particularly extensive experience in the handling of employment or industrial relations issues arising in the construction sphere.

Strengths:

"Marc is our go-to silk in Melbourne. He is fantastic."

Nicholas Hopkins KC maintains a broad commercial practice within which construction matters feature with significant frequency for sources to identify him as one of the leading practitioners in that space at the Victorian Bar. He offers extensive state and Commonwealth superior court experience and is also a noted arbitration counsel and arbitrator.

Strengths:

"Nick Hopkins would be for me one of the stand-outs of the Victorian Bar in the construction and infrastructure space. Good strategies, clients like him and he is great to have on the team."

Daniel McInerney KC is a highly respected tax specialist with a high profile on the Victorian legal scene. He has been dedicated to taxation issues in both the public and private sectors throughout his career, and he advises on the full range of both Commonwealth and state taxes and offers particularly noted expertise in complex structuring, transfer pricing and Part IVA issues.

Terry Murphy KC acts on behalf of both taxpayers and tax authorities, bringing more than 30 years' experience to his work.

Nicholas Pane KC focuses principally on construction law issues. He is particularly experienced in the handling of disputes arising from energy and resources or transport infrastructure projects and thoroughly conversant with a variety of alternative dispute resolution methods, including international arbitration.

Michael Borsky KC maintains a varied and versatile practice, handling both first-instance and appellate matters up to and including High Court level and representing both government agencies

Tax: The Bar
Leading Silks
Band 1
Bloom David <i>New Chambers</i>
Davies Gregory <i>Greens List Barristers</i>
de Wijn John W <i>List A Barristers</i>
Deards Kristen <i>Banco Chambers</i>
Hmelnitsky James <i>Sixth Floor Selborne/Wentworth</i>
Sullivan Brendan <i>Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne</i>
Symon Helen <i>Young's List</i>
Band 2
Batrouney Jennifer <i>List A Barristers</i>
Burnett Chloe <i>Sixth Floor Selborne/Wentworth Chambers</i>
Marks David W <i>Level 16 Inns of Court (ORL) ◇</i>
McInerney Daniel <i>List A Barristers</i>
Murphy Terry <i>List A Barristers</i>
O'Loughlin Frank <i>Foley's List</i>
O'Meara Michael <i>Sixth Floor Selborne/Wentworth</i>
Robertson Mark <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Seiden Rashelle <i>Ground Floor Wentworth (ORL) ◇</i>
Wheelahan Eugene <i>Dever's List</i>
New Silks
Baker Melanie <i>Greens List Barristers</i>
Jones Bradley <i>Ground Floor Wentworth (ORL) ◇</i>
Leading Juniors
Band 1
De Wijn Andrew <i>Foley's List</i>
Peadon Chris <i>New Chambers</i> *
Band 2
Chen Florence <i>Level Twenty Seven Chambers</i>
Hirschhorn Michelle <i>Fifth Floor Selborne (ORL) ◇</i>
Stanley Ian <i>Third Floor Wentworth Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>

and parties under investigation in regulatory proceedings. He enjoys a particularly strong reputation in the competition sphere.

Strengths:

"Michael Borsky is a great senior."

"He is briefed in complex matters, a brilliant advocate, incredibly smart and great to work with."

Matthew Collins KC stands out for his expertise in the defamation space, where he is well reputed for his strong track record advising on high-profile disputes. He also acts prominently on financial services and information technology-related issues and on matters of constitutional law.

Strengths:

"Matthew Collins is a real leader of the Australian Bar, a well-respected silk and very easy to work with."

Carl Möller SC is regularly identified by interviewees as a true corporate insolvency specialist at the Victorian Bar and is noted for both practising and teaching in this area.

Strengths:

"Carl Möller SC is an excellent insolvency commercial silk."

"Carl is a significant player now in the insolvency sector."

JUNIORS

Alice Muhlebach is an experienced handler of cases considered by the Australian Competition Tribunal, Federal Court and High Court, where she has acted both for and against the regulatory authorities. She also advises clients on criminal cartel, infrastructure access and merger clearance issues.

Strengths:

"I worked with Alice and she is great in Mel-

Native Title: The Bar
Leading Silks
Band 1
Glacken Sturt <i>Dever's List</i>
Hughston Vance <i>Sixth Floor Windeyer Chambers</i>
Lloyd Stephen <i>Sixth Floor Selborne/Wentworth</i>
Wright Stephen <i>Francis Burt Chambers</i>
Band 2
Keely Tom <i>Chapman's List (ORL) ◇</i>
Kidson Nitra <i>Higgins Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Longbottom Erin <i>Murray Gleeson Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
McAvoy Anthony <i>Frederick Jordan Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
McIntyre Gregory <i>Michael Kirby Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Merkel Ron <i>Owen Dixon Chambers West (ORL) ◇</i>
Neal Anthony <i>List G Barristers</i>
Waters John <i>Sixth Floor Windeyer Chambers</i>
Webb Raelene <i>Murray Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
New Silks
Jowett Tina <i>Sixth Floor Windeyer Chambers</i>
Leading Juniors
Band 1
Athanasios Christopher <i>Queensland Bar (ORL) ◇</i>
Preston Andrew <i>Jeddard Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
Yarrow David <i>List G Barristers</i>
Band 2
Creamer Joshua <i>Murray Gleeson Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>
McKechnie Marc <i>Murray Gleeson Chambers (ORL) ◇</i>

bourne."

Raini Zambelli is well regarded in the insolvency sphere. Her domestic caseload is informed by extensive experience of insolvency-related litigation in numerous foreign jurisdictions and by time spent as an in-house counsel in the financial services sector.

Strengths:

"Raini Zambelli is excellent. She is great, very good on her feet, will hold a point in the face of judicial questioning and hostile opponent, and the quality of her paperwork is excellent."

Caryn van Proctor has a large and varied practice, which extends across several areas, including consumer protection, intellectual property and taxation, and incorporates litigation experience reaching to High Court level.

Strengths:

"Caryn is a great advocate with deep knowledge of the regulatory area. You can't go wrong with her. She is a go-to for regulatory work."

List G Barristers

List G Barristers constitutes a substantial Melbourne offering, mustering some 160 counsel. It focuses principally on commercial and public law issues and commands respect in the market, with one commentator noting: "List G is always a very good source when seeking a barrister." The list brings together advocates with particularly impressive track records in such specialised areas as employment, native title and shipping, as well as those maintaining broader commercial practices, and it attracts especially high praise for having assembled a notable cohort of IP practitioners. One interviewee observes that the list is "the leading list for IP barristers in Victoria." Another finds it "has great depth and breadth of talent, and from an insolvency perspective, it is truly excellent." CEO and senior clerk Jane King is the principal contact.

SILKS

Justin Bourke KC is an exceptionally experienced litigator, to High Court level, of workplace-related cases, in which he acts for both employers and a wide range of government agencies. He is widely regarded as one of the Victorian Bar's leading specialists in industrial relations issues.

Strengths:

"Justin is an exceptional silk in the field."

"Justin is a master advocate with a strategic brilliance few can match."

Bruce Caine KC operates across the full IP spectrum, handling copyright and trade mark mandates in addition to the patent work for which he is especially well known.

Strengths:

"Bruce is extremely capable."

"He is someone I rate highly."

Tom Cordiner KC brings exceptional qualifications to his work at the IP Bar, including a degree in molecular genetics, registration as both a patent and a trade mark attorney, and hands-on experience as a solicitor.

Strengths:

"Tom is the best intellectual property barrister in Australia."

"Tom Cordiner is a very impressive operator. He is thoughtful, caring, efficient, excellent with clients and, most importantly, a top-notch patent litigator."

Rachel Doyle SC is renowned for her handling of matters on behalf of trade unions and individual employees, and she also acts for employers and Victorian state bodies.

Strengths:

"She is fantastic."

Matthew Harvey KC maintains a varied commercial practice within which shipping, broader transport and trade issues feature particularly prominently.

Strengths:

"He clearly and simply explains the position to the court."

"Matthew is my first pick for major shipping or maritime litigation in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania."

Stewart Maiden KC (see p.237) is acknowledged by interviewees to be one of the silks most likely to be encountered on significant insolvency matters, but also one who is particularly noted for his expertise on international insolvency issues.

Strengths:

"Stewart is a technician of the highest order, has great client interface and is a genuinely nice person."

"He is an excellent insolvency lawyer, incredibly smart and hard-working."

Hamish Austin KC operates a versatile practice in which insolvency and transport issues – particularly shipping – feature especially prominently.

Strengths:

"Hamish Austin is highly regarded."

"He is an insolvency barrister I use for complex cases. He is very academic and good at strategy, not just good at court and drafting stuff."

Colin Golvan KC practises across the full range of IP disciplines, attracting praise for his work in both the patent and trade mark spaces and enjoying a particularly high level of recognition

for his copyright-related expertise.

Strengths:

"Colin Golvan is an impressive individual and masterful negotiator."

Anthony Neal KC maintains a 360-degree native title practice which incorporates the representation not only of both proponent and traditional owner parties but also of relevant government bodies.

Paul O'Grady KC is active across the full range of employment, industrial relations and occupational health and safety issues, making regular appearances in both the Supreme Court of Victoria and the Federal Court.

Martin Scott KC devotes much of his practice to transport and shipping-related cases, with matters involving major shipping casualties featuring particularly prominently.

Nicholas De Young KC is active in a variety of spheres, including those of competition, professional negligence and trade practices, but stands out particularly for his handling of regulatory and corporations law issues.

Strengths:

"He is a great barrister."

"Nicholas is a rising star."

Jeremy Slattery SC maintains a wide-ranging practice which often addresses insurance, intellectual property, professional negligence or trade practice issues.

Strengths:

"I have worked with Jeremy for a number of years and he is a go-to silk for me. He is bright, user-friendly, can speak with the client and helps make practical and strategic decisions."

Luke Merrick SC is an experienced advocate at the Melbourne IP Bar, commanding particular respect for his work in the trade mark space.

Strengths:

"Luke Merrick has been great for me – calm and measured."

"He is very clever and I absolutely trust his judgement. He is very good at shaping a case in a way that is palatable to the judge."

Craig Smith SC has a background in chemical engineering and often appears in cases involving technical scientific issues, including biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. He focuses on patent and trade mark cases.

Strengths:

"Craig Smith is a delight to work with. He is super-intelligent and being able to describe complex issues simply is one of his great skills."

JUNIORS

Clare Cunliffe operates across the IP spectrum, being particularly well known for her exhaustive knowledge of patent law and deep familiarity with the pharmaceutical sector.

Strengths:

"The thing that sets Clare apart is her ability to get across a huge amount of material in a short time. That is extraordinary, and it makes her an extraordinary tool in our armoury."

"I have worked closely with Clare Cunliffe, who is a standout barrister. She is smart, quick and witty and she has a near encyclopaedic knowledge of case law in the field of patents."

Rebecca Davern is best known for her rep-

resentation of employers in general employment, industrial relations and discrimination cases considered by the Federal Court.

Strengths:

"Rebecca is extremely hard-working and very user-friendly. Her attention to detail in case preparation is superb."

"She is very commercially and personally aware of the client and aware of how to manage the relationship and the risk profile."

David Yarrow offers experience in the native title space dating back to 1994 and represents indigenous groups across a broad range of mandates, including determination applications, claims-related litigation and other disputes.

Strengths:

"David Yarrow has carried out several native title matters this year and his knowledge of the law is superb, as is his communication to non-lawyers."

Brendan Avallone draws upon experience acquired not only in private practice, but also in a number of state and Commonwealth government agencies to advise or advocate across a varied range of workplace issues, including industrial action, unfair dismissal applications and underpayment claims. A number of barristers place him on their lists of go-to employment barristers, and he receives tributes to both his expertise and his intellect.

Kate Beattie is cited for a variety of capabilities by interviewees, sources not only identifying her as a leading junior for patent cases in general, but also stressing the significance of a scientific background to a career that has seen her act in several pharmaceutical patent cases.

Strengths:

"Kate is very tenacious in her advocacy before the court – a terrific quality."

"Kate Beattie is an impressive senior junior barrister who should in my opinion be a silk. She is quick, scientifically trained and hard-working."

Nico Burmeister draws on experience both as a solicitor and as an in-house counsel in the recruitment sector to advise and advocate across a broad range of practice area issues, often leading his own cases and notably dividing his practice between Victoria and Western Australia. He is active in both the general employment and industrial relations spheres, and he is consistently identified as one of the most promising juniors at the Melbourne Bar.

Peter Creighton-Selvay is active in all areas of IP work and the recipient of enthusiastic commendation from both instructing solicitors and fellow barristers. He has an impressive track record at both trial and appellate level.

Strengths:

"Peter is incredibly smart, well read, up to date and super cost-effective. He is one of the best intellectual property barristers and is on top of his game."

"He is excellent."

Benjamin Fitzpatrick is an exceptionally experienced senior junior who is best known for his work in the patent space, including oppositions and appeals, though his expertise covers the full range of IP practice.

Strengths:

"Ben is a very solid senior person."

Marcus Fleming focuses his practice on litigation in the intellectual property area, offering experience of infringement-related mandates in the copyright, patent and trade mark spheres and of patent revocation proceedings.

Strengths:

"Marcus can always find a needle in a haystack. He has an incredible memory and is very thorough. He finds useful things hidden deep in the evidence."

"Marcus is an absolute standout. I regard him as a pre-eminent senior junior, and absolutely my go-to IP barrister."

Leigh Howard is singled out by market commentators for his in-depth knowledge of industrial relations. He handles the full range of disputes under the Fair Work Act 2009, as well as more public and regulatory issues.

Strengths:

"Lee Howard is smart and excellent and is the new thing in Melbourne."

"Leigh is very impressive. He is very knowledgeable regarding relevant case law, responsive and easy to deal with, and client-focused. He provides practical and commercial advice."

Andrew Pollock acts principally for employers on such issues as enterprise bargaining, industrial action and the consequences of major restructures, handling both contentious and advisory mandates.

Strengths:

"Andrew Pollock is top-notch. His written and oral advocacy skills, along with his client management, are exceptional. He is extremely intelligent and goes the extra mile."

"He is great to have a collegiate and constructive team discussion about the law with and he is prepared to challenge and to listen. Across the board I would describe him as a really top performer."

Kane Loxley practises across a wide gamut of commercial issues, with particular prominence in shareholder class actions and significant regulatory disputes.

Strengths:

"Kane Loxley is my go-to junior in Melbourne. He is incredibly sharp, but also commercial, and one of the nicest barristers I have had the pleasure of working with."

Band 2

Dever's List

Dever's List is headquartered in Melbourne's Owen Dixon Chambers and is the oldest of the Victorian Bar's lists, with a history extending back some 160 years and a large stable of barristers, offering expertise across a broad spectrum of practice areas. Among them are to be found some of Australia's leading appellate advocates as well as eminent practitioners in the employment, insolvency, intellectual property, native title and taxation spheres. Several, including a number of retired judges, are also experienced arbitrators and mediators. John Dever is the chief barristers' clerk and is frequently identified by name as one of the list's key assets.

SILKS

Sturt Glacken KC is generally acclaimed as a

pre-eminent practitioner on the traditional owner side at the native title Bar. Interviewees regularly testify to his unrivalled experience in the space, technical excellence and outstanding performance at the appellate level.

Strengths:

"He is very clever and hard-working."

David Shavin KC enjoys both a national and a regional reputation for his work in the IP space. He is best known for his work on patent cases, though also an experienced handler of trade mark issues, and he offers particularly focused expertise on pharmaceutical matters and questions of what materials can legitimately be regarded as patentable.

Christopher Caleo KC is well reputed in the market for his extensive knowledge and advocacy skills. His broad practice covers not only general commercial, competition and professional negligence issues, but also questions of administrative law.

Strengths:

"Chris Caleo is very good in the insurance space."

Philip Crutchfield KC maintains a highly versatile practice in which insolvency cases feature particularly prominently, but which also covers a broad commercial range. In addition to his general commercial and insolvency work, he also handles insurance, intellectual property and taxation-related briefs.

Strengths:

"He is an able commercial silk."

"He provided prompt and succinct advice and engagement in a client-facing situation in relation to material Australian litigation."

Richard Dalton KC offers over 25 years of experience in the representation of both private and public sector employers and of regulators in the workplace law field, winning particular praise for his technical excellence and skilful handling of appellate cases.

Eugene Wheelahan KC is renowned in the field of tax. His expertise when it comes to the handling of anti-avoidance or transfer pricing disputes receives particularly strong recommendation.

Philip Solomon KC makes regular Supreme Court of Victoria, Federal Court and High Court appearances, handling matters across a broad spectrum which includes matters of administrative, commercial and corporations law and also embraces insurance, negligence and taxation issues.

Robert Craig SC maintains a highly versatile practice, taking in, among other things, significant contractual and consumer law cases, high-profile securities class actions and tough regulatory disputes involving alleged instances of professional negligence or breaches of directors' duties, plus regular instruction on construction matters.

Kathleen Foley SC handles both complex commercial and significant public law matters, her experience in the latter sphere including numerous High Court appearances. In the commercial space, she is especially noted for her involvement, on both plaintiff and defendant sides, in cases concerning the conduct of individual executives.

Strengths:

"She is very good and does a lot of public interest cases."

Matthew Follett SC acts for employers across the full range of general employment and industrial relations issues, offering particularly notable experience handling issues arising in the construction, engineering, resources and transportation sectors.

Strengths:

"Matthew Follett at Dever's List is the best in the business and the leading industrial relations barrister in the country."

"He is a very reliable and knowledgeable person."

Eleven Wentworth

Eleven Wentworth is a respected set and the former home of many New South Wales Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and Land and Environment Court judges, stabling nearly 40 barristers who are regularly praised for their technical skill, fine judgement and user-friendliness. The set is frequently identified as one of Sydney's best, a number of instructing solicitors including it on lists of their top three or four sets. One interviewee states: "Eleven Wentworth is a premier set of commercial chambers in Sydney and very much a go-to for complex commercial matters." The source adds: "I have always found the counsel team to be accessible and available and the clerk has been excellent at finding us assistance in urgent situations." Its key areas of expertise, within the comprehensive range of disciplines covered, include insolvency, insurance, professional liability and tax issues. Zach Rymer is the clerk and recommended contact.

SILKS

Patrick Flynn SC maintains a mixed IP practice, operating in all the main areas and is particularly well placed to act on matters with strong scientific or technological components.

Strengths:

"Patrick Flynn is excellent."

"He is a real up-and-coming star. I certainly regard him very highly."

Michael Izzo SC attracts high praise for his work in the insolvency sphere, his technical abilities, grasp of financial complexities and expertise where schemes of arrangement are concerned being cited particularly frequently.

Strengths:

"Michael is incredibly responsive and I use him for any matter where I need a quick turnaround and sharp, commercial advice."

"Michael Izzo is a go-to for insolvency and corporations matters including schemes. He is very hard-working, bright and fantastic to work with."

Justin Williams SC is singled out as an excellent barrister operating in the insolvency space. In addition to this side of his work, where he is regularly instructed in connection with large, complex restructurings, he is also acclaimed for his broader commercial litigation capabilities, often applied to financial regulatory issues, including those involving insurance issues or allegations of bribery or corruption.

Strengths:

"Justin Williams is a go-to in large complex commercial matters. He is very calm, sophisticated and great to work with."

"He is excellent and highly regarded."

Stephen Free SC is particularly well known for his work in the public law space, he is also notably active on commercial issues in a variety of practice areas, including the environment, financial services regulation and life sciences.

Strengths:

"He is very good and very able."

Sera Mirzabegian SC is active across a wide range of litigation issues including commercial, regulatory and public law, and is widely praised for her commerciality and presence in court.

Ian Pike SC maintains a highly versatile practice which, in addition to its general commercial elements, frequently addresses insolvency, insurance and white-collar crime issues.

Strengths:

"Ian Pike SC is very commercially astute and easy to work with."

"He is a very talented trial lawyer."

James Hutton SC is active in several areas, including the environment, financial services and insolvency.

Strengths:

"James is not afraid of a challenge and has the smarts to identify solutions to problems, rather than just seeing the problems."

"He is excellent on the law, a great advocate, very practical and great to deal with – all round excellent."

JUNIORS

Alan Shearer is active on behalf of businesses of all sizes, and individuals, across a broad range of commercial litigation issues, attracting particular praise for his work on mandates relating to environmental, insurance and shareholder issues.

Strengths:

"Alan is intellectually very bright and he is very hard-working. He is a go-to in class actions."

"He is excellent."

Amy Munro has a broad-ranging practice which takes in both commercial and Royal Commission briefs and includes noteworthy class action and appellate components.

Strengths:

"Amy is a very safe pair of hands on complex regulatory disputes."

Jesse Kennedy's close focus on maritime issues forms a substantial component of a practice largely concerned with international disputes, an aspect of his work which instructing solicitors operating in the shipping space find particularly helpful.

Strengths:

"Jesse is very commercial, easy to work with and has excellent credentials in insurance. He is a pleasure to work with."

"Jesse Kennedy always gives astute advice. His commercial and user-friendly approach, combined with his formidable intellect, makes him a go-to counsel."

Level Twenty Seven Chambers

Level Twenty Seven Chambers is widely regarded as being pre-eminent in Brisbane, its 40-plus members also making it the city's largest set. The set offers a comprehensive range of practice area capabilities, and members experienced in all forms of dispute resolution at state, Com-

monwealth and international levels. It also enjoys a particularly high reputation for the quality of its construction-related expertise. It regularly receives a particularly large body of positive interviewee feedback, with one source referring to it as "one of the strongest chambers sets in Australia and in Queensland." Another interviewee praises the set's ability to operate as a team: "My overall impression is that they work cohesively and professionally and can rely on each other for support." Level Twenty Seven's administrative team is headed by practice manager Daniel Perry.

SILKS

Shane Doyle KC continues to be widely regarded as the leader of the Queensland Bar. He operates across the greater part of the disputes spectrum, being as highly regarded in the construction and insolvency spheres as in the general commercial space.

Strengths:

"Shane is the best lawyer in Queensland. He controls the courtroom and has a reputation for winning which has few equals in our state."

"Shane is easily one of Australia's top commercial silks, and he is for many of my clients the go-to resource, a first-choice silk."

Paul McQuade KC has practised in insolvency law for over 30 years, prior to which he was a chartered accountant for five years, and operates across the full spectrum of corporate and personal insolvency concerns.

Strengths:

"Paul McQuade is the pre-eminent insolvency lawyer. His knowledge in insolvency law is outstanding."

Damian Clothier KC manages a varied and versatile caseload which often includes matters involving the resources sector or those with environmental, insolvency or professional negligence angles.

Strengths:

"He is well regarded in most practice areas. We seek his advice for difficult matters."

Mark Robertson KC is a well-established and respected tax specialist, noted both for his exhaustive knowledge of the practice area and for the variety of the matters he handles. His experience covers the representation not only of major corporates and high net worth individuals, but also of tax authorities at both Commonwealth and state levels.

JUNIORS

Michael Trim offers experience in construction matters, often relating to disputes arising from major projects, acquired not only in more than one Australian jurisdiction but also in London. He is also extremely familiar with the kinds of issues generated by energy and resources, retail and residential developments alike.

Strengths:

"Michael Trim is an excellent constructions barrister with significant experience. He is one of the few senior-junior genuine construction barristers practising."

Florence Chen maintains a broad commercial practice with a focus on tax disputes before the Federal Court and the Australian Tax Office. She

has familiarity with stamp duty, superannuation and income tax.

Strengths:

"Florence is very knowledgeable and easy to deal with. She isn't afraid to put the hard work into preparation and is very good with clients."

"Florence is an intelligent, efficient and hard-working counsel; however, I was most impressed by the quality of her work and her attention to detail."

Claire Schneider's largely construction and infrastructure-focused practice embraces particularly extensive experience of representing clients in cases concerning major energy and resources projects, including appearances not only in the Australian courts, but also before foreign-seated arbitration panels.

Strengths:

"Claire has a name nationally in the construction space. I am aware that she has just spent the last couple of years working on one of the largest pieces of construction litigation in the country."

"She is super-smart, hard-working and got across complicated matters quickly."

Stewart Webster operates in the construction, energy and resources, and financial services areas, as well as several other fields within a broad-ranging remit.

Strengths:

"Stewart Webster is probably the best junior in Queensland and should be a KC. He is strategic, highly intelligent and, importantly, wins cases."

"He is the leading junior counsel in Queensland."

Michael May's work addresses a broad range of commercial and administrative law dispute types, class actions and insolvency or tax-related issues having lately occupied much of his attention.

Strengths:

"Michael has strong technical ability and excellent advocacy skills."

"Michael is brilliant and someone I would strongly endorse. He is meticulous."

New Chambers

New Chambers is a Sydney set home to over 50 barristers, practising in over 50 practice areas and appearing in court, administrative tribunal and public inquiry proceedings and a variety of alternative dispute resolution processes across Australia and abroad. The chambers' versatile offering includes strong concentrations of expertise in the financial services and insolvency spheres, and its members include a star of the appellate Bar and pre-eminent providers of advice and advocacy on taxation and shipping issues. Interviewees are quick to praise the exceptional quality of the advocacy and advice that the set offers, one identifying it as a "well-resourced and knowledgeable chambers." Another observes: "It is an excellent set. I would regard it as one of the leading sets in Sydney." The set is also complimented for its exceptional credentials in shipping law: "A number of their barristers have long-standing and in-depth experience in admiralty and maritime issues." Clerk and practice manager Angela Noakes is a recommended contact.

SILKS

David Bloom KC has acted on behalf of both taxpayers and the taxation authorities for some four

decades and continues to appear in key appellate cases considered by the High and Federal Courts.

Strengths:

"I would recommend David Marks for complex tax and trust litigation."

Kate Eastman SC brings some 30 years of experience to the comprehensive range of employment law matters she handles for individuals and both public and private sector organisations, often in the Federal Court or before other tribunals at state or Commonwealth level. She attracts particular praise for discrimination cases and her work when instructed in connection with key inquiries, including Royal Commissions.

Strengths:

"Kate is considered to be preeminent in employment law generally but in particular discrimination law, including workplace behaviour. She is probably my all-time first pick as an employment law silk."

"I would recommend Kate extremely highly. She is our go-to barrister for difficult discrimination matters and sensitive employment matters where high stakes are involved."

Gregory Nell SC devotes the greater part of his practice to maritime law issues, an area in which he has worked for nearly 40 years and continues to receive universally laudatory feedback from interviewees for his unrivalled knowledge and experience.

Strengths:

"Greg is probably the most knowledgeable and experienced barrister in Australia in maritime law." "He is the leader of the Bar for shipping matters."

Adam Bell SC maintains a broad commercial practice within which restructuring and insolvency issues feature significantly, and acts extensively on behalf of both liquidators and receivers.

Strengths:

"He is a genuine expert."

"Adam is a good liquidation lawyer and is great at examinations in court."

David McLure SC is active across an impressive range of practice areas, including, but by no means limited to, those of corporate crime, financial services, insolvency, taxation and shipping.

Strengths:

"David is a fantastic advocate."

Michael Hodge KC's practice encompasses competition and commercial disputes, including class actions, investigations, cartels and abuse of power. He acts for both corporates and regulatory bodies on complex and sensitive disputes.

Strengths:

"Michael is one of the leading competition barristers in the country, if not the leading one. He is very commercial and speaks the commercial language."

"Michael is fantastic. He is strategic, practical and client-friendly."

Catherine Gleeson SC devotes a substantial proportion of her practice to shipping matters, notably including cargo, delay and demurrage claims, and is widely regarded as a barrister of increasing prominence in this highly specialised space.

Strengths:

"She is incredibly intelligent and is very successful. She is great on her feet, is a no-nonsense

lawyer and goes to the right level of detail."

"Catherine is passionate for her clients yet always alive to the weaknesses in their case and makes appropriate concessions."

JUNIORS

Emma Beechey is highly experienced in the representation not only of leading liquidators and insolvency practitioners but also of major banks, and also offers noteworthy experience of having acted on cross-border insolvency mandates.

Strengths:

"Emma Beechey is one of the established stars of insolvency work. She is very responsive and incredibly intelligent with great practical experience."

"She is a practical and commercial counsel."

Chris Peadon's (see p.237) broad tax law practice embraces mandates both for taxpayers and for the ATO and incorporates noted expertise in transfer pricing and the taxation of capital and revenue and foreign investments.

Strengths:

"Chris Peadon is diligent in preparation of the case and readily understands the issues involved. He has a good relationship with clients and is able to explain the issues in layman's language."

"I value Chris' practical, clear, proactive advice. His judgement generally and particularly in relation to court matters is good, and he is extremely responsive."

Sonia Tame focuses principally on corporate commercial disputes incorporating financial services, regulatory or contentious contractual components. A number of interviewees highlight the experience she brings to the Bar as a former solicitor.

Strengths:

"Sonia Tame is exceptional. She is technically gifted and hard-working."

"I have worked with her on a number of extremely difficult matters and she has given great advice, including having calls with clients where she has provided that advice in a very accessible form."

Nigel Bowen Chambers

Nigel Bowen Chambers is a compact Sydney set generally acknowledged to represent one of the two or three best concentrations of intellectual property expertise in the jurisdiction, with several commentators acclaiming it as the clear market leader in that respect. One source finds "the barristers at this set to be strong in their technical skills and IP knowledge," adding: "From their clerk to their senior barristers, the entire team is respectful, diligent and supportive." The set garners praise for housing several of the leading practitioners in all branches of IP, with one commentator observing: "They always try their hardest, regardless of the strength of the case, and always give pragmatic advice in everything they do. They are the trendsetters for IP litigation and are well known in the industry for their legal brilliance." Head clerk Alistair Coyne is the key contact at the set.

SILKS

Christian Dimitriadis SC has practised at the Sydney intellectual property Bar for over 20

years, operating across the discipline's spectrum and commanding a particularly high level of respect for his work in the patent space.

Strengths:

"Christian Dimitriadis is one of the key senior barristers in patent litigation. He is highly intelligent and is a quick study in any technology."

"He is an exceptionally bright lawyer, has a very good manner and the Bench love him. You are doing well if you have Chris on the case."

Ed Heerey KC operates in all areas of IP law, attracting particular praise for his work in the trade mark space.

Strengths:

"Ed Heerey is fantastic. He is a go-to for IP, particularly trade mark issues."

"Ed Heerey is brilliant in trade marks."

Hamish Bevan SC acts in all areas of IP practice, handling matters arising from an impressively varied range of business sectors, including fast food, the media and advanced technology.

Strengths:

"Hamish is an outstanding IP silk. He is an excellent court advocate and has really outstanding knowledge of complex IP matters, especially patent and trade mark."

Richard Cobden SC is widely held to be Australia's leading copyright silk, many interviewees also indicating that he is hardly less well regarded for his trade mark-related expertise.

Strengths:

"I highly recommend Richard Cobden SC. He is a very senior, outstanding IP barrister who I have worked with many times over the years."

Sophie Goddard SC is particularly familiar with IP issues arising in the engineering, resources and pharmaceutical sectors and acts across the IP spectrum, receiving specific praise for her work in all three of the principal branches of the discipline.

Strengths:

"Sophie is very knowledgeable and one of the top patent lawyers in the Sydney Bar."

"Exudes strength, charisma and sheer legal brilliance."

Justine Beaumont SC operates across the full copyright, patent and trade mark spectrum and enjoys recognition as a prominent and active barrister in the IP space. She is particularly experienced in the handling of disputes arising from the broadcast and online media sectors, particularly matters involving site-blocking applications or alleged instances of sound recording copyright infringement.

Strengths:

"Justine Beaumont SC is a particularly impressive new silk. She ensures that she is over even the smallest detail of a matter and does not skip a beat."

"She is excellent."

JUNIORS

Megan Evetts brings notable experience to her work, having practised privately and in-house before joining the Bar. Her practice covers a wide range of intellectual property rights, but she is singled out for her expertise with trade marks and patents, particularly within the life sciences sector.

Strengths:

"Meg Evetts is highly intelligent. She is a key

junior counsel at the Bar, a hard worker who is very strategic and easy to deal with. She has great scientific knowledge from her background in bio-science."

"She is an excellent junior counsel."

Shauna Ross is well reputed for the breadth of her intellectual property knowledge, which spans her trade marks, copyright, design, domain name disputes and patents.

Strengths:

"My client was tremendously pleased with her work. She is brilliant and gifted with legal talent."

Laura Thomas practises in the copyright and patent spheres, bringing to her work a background in biochemistry which equips her particularly well to handle matters arising in the pharmaceutical sector.

Strengths:

"Laura is excellent in all kinds of complex IP disputes, very easy to work with and has a very good feel for the court."

"She is a go-to copyright counsel. She is excellent and her written work is really good. She has a deep understanding of the area and primarily focuses on copyright and patents."

Sixth Floor Selborne/Wentworth Chambers

Sixth Floor Selborne/Wentworth Chambers has over 50 barristers in Sydney who offer expertise across a comprehensive range of commercial and public law disciplines, including the construction and native title spheres. It is especially noteworthy for its high concentration of tax-related expertise, at least half of the chambers' barristers doing at least some work in this space, while a number are highly regarded specialists. Clerk Lisa Stewart is the main contact.

SILKS

James H melnitsky SC is seen by many as one of Australia's pre-eminent tax law silks. He regularly acts for both major corporates and the tax authorities, his expertise concerning transfer pricing, tax treaty and land tax issues attracting particular praise.

Stephen Lloyd SC brings exceptional qualifications to his work at the native title Bar, being both a published authority on the relevant legislation and a former co-head of the Constitutional and Native Title Unit in the Commonwealth Office of Litigation. Particularly well equipped to handle appellate cases, he has represented both traditional owner bodies and government agencies in native title-related litigation.

Chloe Burnett SC is a well-known and well-regarded tax silk, noted for her strong litigation capabilities, noteworthy transfer pricing expertise and extensive experience of high-profile cases. She is also noted for her increasing prominence on mandates with a cross-border aspect.

Michael O'Meara SC enjoys a very good reputation for the substantial proportion of his work that he devotes to taxation matters, in which he acts for both private clients and government agencies.

Elizabeth Collins SC has a wide-ranging commercial practice, encompassing shareholder class actions, insolvency and corporations law.

Strengths:

"Elizabeth Collins we use and is excellent."

"She is an incredibly experienced lawyer."

Naomi Sharp SC stands out for the variety of areas in which she has attracted positive notice, including administrative, competition and consumer, environmental law and the white-collar crime sphere.

JUNIORS

Michael Christie SC stands out as one of Australia's most respected construction silks, offering notably extensive experience advising and advocating on major infrastructure and resources-related projects, his work covering both litigated and arbitrated issues in Australia and abroad.

Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne Chambers

Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne Chambers is noted for the high proportion of senior counsel in its membership and for an especially strong group of barristers acting across the full range of intellectual property issues. Other areas of noted strength are the taxation and insurance fields, and the set also hosts noteworthy class action prowess and a wealth of international experience, putting it on more than one instructing solicitor's list of most favoured sets. Sources highly value the quality of both senior and junior counsel at the set, with one stating: "Tenth Floor is one of the strongest chambers in Sydney, with top-quality barristers at all levels." Another interviewee adds: "They are all excellent: good on their feet and in written work, calm under pressure and user-friendly." Emma Hoolahan is the clerk and chief contact for enquiries.

SILKS

Anthony Bannon SC commands respect at the Sydney Bar, being nearly as celebrated for his versatile general commercial practice as he is for his mastery of the full range of intellectual property work.

Strengths:

"Tony Bannon is one of the leading barristers."

"He is one of the seniors leading the IP field."

Matthew Darke SC features on several Sydney solicitors' lists of the barristers they would most want to instruct on a major piece of litigation, being particularly well known for his handling of financial services-related briefs, but cited also for competition and consumer law and intellectual property work.

Strengths:

"Matthew is my go-to silk for almost every matter. He is superb, calm, measured, excellent in court with different judges and good with clients."

"He is a very bright barrister. He is extremely sharp and well prepared, on top of the issues and easy to work with."

Steven Finch SC is noted for his handling of large-scale corporate disputes, including high-profile class actions, and for a breadth of practice which covers such diverse areas as financial services, insurance and product liability.

Strengths:

"He is still busy and very, very good."

John Hennessy SC offers some 25 years' expe-

rience, covering all areas of the discipline, at the intellectual property Bar, and enjoys a reputation as a silk of great strategic insight who is particularly well regarded for his handling of copyright and trade mark issues. His skills are particularly sought after where IP issues arising in the broadcast media sector are concerned.

Strengths:

"John is fantastic, tough and very protective of his clients' interests and the solicitors who brief him."

"I am always impressed with him. He is thorough, very personable when it comes to talking the client through the strategy, pleasant to work with, well organised and intelligent."

Neil Murray SC stands out for his assured handling of patent and copyright litigation cases, offering particularly noteworthy experience where disputes arising in the life sciences and media sectors are concerned.

Strengths:

"I have been against Neil Murray and he did a very good job for his client."

Brendan Sullivan SC is a highly respected player in the tax law space, with extensive experience representing both taxpayers and the tax authorities. Interviewees particularly appreciate his collegiate approach to the running of a case and the clarity both of his thought and of his persuasive submissions to the Bench.

Angus Lang SC is active in all areas of IP work, with a particularly busy practice where patent litigation in the pharmaceutical and TMT sectors is concerned.

Strengths:

"I find him to be quick, astute and very good at what he does. He is very down-to-earth and no-nonsense. I will not hesitate to brief him again."

"Angus is highly regarded."

James Lockhart SC maintains a varied commercial practice, extending across – but by no means confined to – such areas as competition, insolvency, insurance and professional liability, and incorporating substantial experience in the handling of class action briefs.

Strengths:

"He is a very capable and clever lawyer. He is very good to work with, astute and extracts everything out of the case."

"James is easy to work with, responsive, takes on board solicitors' suggestions and works with us in a collaborative way. He has very good judgement and ideas on how to best represent the case. I am happy and will continue to use him."

Kate Morgan SC is noted for her impressive administrative and regulatory practice. She handles investigatory and class action disputes, in addition to more general corporate litigation.

Strengths:

"In relation to consumer law matters, Kate is best in class. She has an impressive track record of handling sensitive, high-stakes litigation."

"She is a great barrister."

JUNIORS

Frances St John is active across all the key intellectual property disciplines and, despite her relatively junior status, regularly acts unled in superior court litigation.

Strengths:

“Frances has really taken to the Bar. She has bettered silks, and I rate her very highly.”

5 Wentworth Chambers

5 Wentworth Chambers houses nearly 40 barristers with expertise ranging across the full commercial and public law spectrum and experience extending to the highest level in both Commonwealth courts and, on a pan-Australian basis, individual state courts. Within this varied offering, the set fields particularly noteworthy expertise in the intellectual property and employment spheres, with one interviewee observing: “This is a very strong floor of highly competent intellectual property barristers.” Speaking more generally, another source states: “They are very good at being responsive. They are able to handle the commerciality and tailor their advice.” Clerk to chambers Sarah Tiffen is the recommended contact.

SILKS

David Chin SC maintains a respected practice across the employment, industrial relations and health and safety spectrum, offering particularly focused expertise on employment contract issues and extensive experience of involvement with Royal Commissions and other inquiries which touch on employment questions.

Strengths:

“David Chin is easy to work with and his written work is of a high quality.”

“He is intelligent, insightful, diligent, thorough and hard-working.”

Andrew Fox SC is a highly respected barrister operating in the IP sphere, winning particular praise for the strength of his patent and trade mark expertise.

Strengths:

“He is a very good team worker, collaborates with the solicitor he works with, has a lot of common sense when dealing with judges and they like to work with him as well.”

“Andrew has a wealth of experience as counsel in matters involving all aspects of IP. I value his knowledge and that, despite a very busy work schedule, he is exceptionally generous with his time.”

Dominique Hogan-Doran SC maintains an impressively varied practice within which matters of financial services and superannuation law and involvement in a number of high-profile Royal Commissions and other inquiries feature prominently.

Strengths:

“Dominique is a standout. She is highly attentive.”

Julian Cooke SC offers experience, up to and including High Court level, of litigation in all areas of IP law, being particularly adept where matters arising from the media, mining, pharmaceutical or telecommunications sectors are concerned.

Strengths:

“He is a very strong, dogged counsel. He is highly regarded and good at patent and copyright matters.”

“Julian has been my go-to IP barrister for some years because he is very impressive and knowledgeable in the area, has great attention to detail and is a pleasure to work with.”

JUNIORS

Phoebe Arcus focuses her intellectual property

practice on patent and trade practices issues and appears regularly in Federal Court cases.

Strengths:

“Phoebe has strong strategic judgement, deep black-letter law skills in IP, and in particular patents, and extensive experience in patent litigation.”

“She is very well prepared and thorough with submissions. She did very well in cross-examination and the client was very happy with that.”

David Larish’s IP practice is principally focused on patent and trade mark issues and embraces particularly noteworthy experience of involvement in major cases arising in the pharmaceutical sector.

Strengths:

“David is an exceptional barrister: very bright, very good on his feet and his knowledge of law is exceptional.”

“He is very commercially minded.”

Ben Mee focuses closely on patent-related issues arising in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical and IT sectors, a specialism backed by his personal qualifications in the biochemistry sphere.

Strengths:

“Ben is an excellent junior. He is very, very good and very, very busy. He has a life sciences degree.”

Dan Fuller (see p.237) is experienced in employment and industrial law and has been instructed on behalf of a range of public bodies.

Strengths:

“Dan is intelligent and is the industrial relations expert for junior barristers. He is very technical but still very approachable.”

“He writes precisely and succinctly.”

Rob Clark has a wide-ranging practice, with experience advising across complex patent, trade mark, copyright and design matters.

Band 3

12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers

12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers enjoys a strong reputation in the Sydney market, boasting over 60 members who offer expertise across a significant range of commercial, regulatory, property and public law practice areas. The set is particularly well regarded for competition/antitrust, white-collar and employment matters. It is often used by government and regulators. One source identifies the chambers as a “go-to for senior counsel.” Others rate its expertise in administrative law: “They have a stellar reputation in the market, a lot of barristers who are extremely knowledgeable and have a strong market reputation in environmental and administrative law.” Clerk Trish Hoff is the main point of contact.

JUNIORS

Conor Bannan enjoys a good reputation for competition and consumer law, including complex cartel and unconscionable conduct litigation.

Strengths:

“Conor is a go-to junior counsel for competition law in Sydney.”

“He is a calm, reliable and very experienced junior. He has great judgement on the technical issues and great ideas on what points to be taken and not to be taken.”

Vanja Bulut offers experience in workplace relations law which both pre-dates and post-dates her 2016 call to the Bar and which incorporates particular familiarity with international employment law and construction sector employment issues, and with the workings of the Fair Work Commission.

Strengths:

“Vanja has a very pleasant manner and she is very affable and easy to work with. She is very intellectual and academic but still very capable of understanding the client’s commercial issues.”

“She is a great advocate. She is persuasive and really intelligent.”

Bridie Nolan has an excellent reputation as a junior counsel for maritime law. Her areas of expertise also encompass insurance and energy and natural resources.

Strengths:

“She has a great reputation.”

“She has got a lot of experience in shipping.”

Fifth Floor St James’ Hall Chambers

Fifth Floor St James’ Hall Chambers is a highly regarded smaller set, long acknowledged for its impressive concentration of specialised, top-tier expertise, and home to two of the most versatile and respected advocates at the New South Wales Bar. It offers especially seasoned expertise in the handling of appellate cases and is also noted for prowess in administrative and constitutional matters equal to that attained in the commercial sphere. Clerk Caroline Davoren is the key contact here.

SILKS

Noel Hutley SC continues to maintain his impressive reputation and is widely regarded as a leader of the Sydney Bar. Although it is widely recognised that he operates across the fullest range of commercial law issues, insolvency matters are known to form a particularly significant component of his practice, and he features on the go-to list of several instructing solicitors.

Strengths:

“Noel is a great barrister.”

“He does a lot of the big cases.”

Bret Walker SC continues to earn high praise from peers and instructing solicitors alike. He is active across a remarkably broad range of practice areas, and is seen as likely to turn up on any matter of clear significance.

Nicholas Owens SC maintains a busy commercial and public law practice, of which appellate matters considered by the High Court constitute a particularly significant component, and is also prominent in the class action and regulatory enforcement spheres.

Strengths:

“Nick Owens is excellent.”

“He has done exceptional work and is a very effective advocate.”

Garry Rich SC stands out for his representation, in superior court proceedings including class actions, of household-name companies and financial service providers facing product liability-related or regulatory litigation. Sources regularly testify to the power of his advocacy.

JUNIORS

Emma Bathurst has a broad commercial range

including expertise in the consumer, corporations and IP law spheres and notable experience of class actions.

Strengths:

“She is very smart and incredibly hard-working.”
“Emma Bathurst is always great.”

Foley’s List

Foley’s List operates from Owen Dixon Chambers in Melbourne and traces its origins back to 1860, now being co-owned and maintained by over 300 barristers who offer advocacy experience acquired in Australian and numerous foreign jurisdictions. In addition to a broad commercial law practice, including barristers with skills in banking and finance, employment, insolvency and taxation issues, the list is also noted for its concentration of Royal Commission-related expertise. Chief clerk Andrew Turner is the key contact.

SILKS

Peter Fary SC is a well-established and highly respected barrister in the insolvency sphere, enjoying particular regard for his expertise concerning bankruptcy issues, upon which he is a published authority.

Strengths:

“He is very good, very experienced.”

Frank O’Loughlin KC is exceptionally well qualified to operate in the taxation law space, having worked within it not only as a solicitor and a barrister, but also as an ATO officer and member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

JUNIORS

Andrew De Wijn has practised as both solicitor and barrister in the tax law field for over 15 years. Acting for clients in both an advisory and a representational capacity, and in negotiations with the ATO, he is well versed in both Commonwealth and state tax issues.

Justin Mereine focuses his practice principally upon complex commercial issues arising in the corporate and financial services sectors, among which insolvency and regulatory aspects feature particularly prominently.

Francis Burt Chambers

Francis Burt Chambers has over 140 members and is the oldest set in Perth, having been established in 1962. It is also the favoured set of many of Western Australia’s most eminent barristers, housing practitioners who are often particularly well qualified to advocate or advise in practice areas linked to the state’s key industries, including environmental, mining and native title law. The chambers is praised for its varied commercial offering, with one source stating: “Francis Burt Chambers is still the pre-eminent commercial chambers in Perth, and still a broad church, with most areas covered – commercial, crime and so on.” Pauline McKay, the set’s executive officer, is a key contact.

SILKS

Stephen Wright SC offers experience in native title and related issues, acquired in government service, in private practice and at the Bar, stretching back some 25 years, and is widely

considered to be one of the pre-eminent practitioners in his field, winning particular plaudits for his litigation skills. Commentators also admire the adaptability which allows him to act for the full range of players in this space, including traditional owner parties, proponents and government agencies.

Patricia Cahill SC maintains a comprehensive commercial practice which regularly attracts recommendations from practitioners in, among others, the construction, insolvency, insurance and taxation spheres and embraces both litigation and arbitration. She is extremely well regarded at the Western Australian Bar.

Julie Taylor SC maintains a broad commercial law practice, offering particularly extensive experience of class action litigation, the arbitration of disputes involving international businesses, or the liquidation or receivership of large corporates.

Greens List Barristers

Greens List Barristers is a sizeable Melbourne list to which over 280 barristers are affiliated, a significant proportion of whom practise extensively in the field of tax law. The full range of practice area disciplines is covered by barristers who act in both advisory and advocacy roles on behalf of clients from the private and public sectors. Director Brett Bowker is a key contact.

SILKS

Gregory Davies KC is a veteran tax silk with enviable experience in the handling of high-profile contentious taxation law cases and is regularly praised for his mastery of complex or protracted issues. Seen by many instructing solicitors as an obvious go-to in Melbourne for any tax-related matter, he is especially commended for his expertise regarding anti-avoidance issues.

Melanie Baker KC brings valuable experience of working for the ATO and a long track record of representing the revenue authorities to a Bar practice which is substantially focused on tax issues, including audit, transfer pricing and GST-related disputes.

Greenway Chambers

Greenway Chambers maintains a strong focus on construction matters within a broad commercial offering, receiving widespread acknowledgement for this specialism, in which close to half of the set’s members practise to at least some extent. The chambers’ barristers also include noted practitioners in the employment and shipping spheres, while a number are well versed in alternative dispute resolution procedures, including arbitration and mediation. Clerk Jo McGoldrick oversees chambers operations and is a first point of contact.

SILKS

Edward Cox SC is widely acknowledged to be one of the leaders of the admiralty and maritime Bar in Sydney. Dedicating a significant proportion of his practice to the litigation or arbitration of a wide range of maritime disputes, his experience equips him particularly well to handle those involving environmental issues or questions of international law.

Strengths:

“We use him a lot. He has 20 years’ experience in shipping. He’s one of the go-to guys.”

“He is very prolific – in every shipping case.”

Francis Hicks SC stands out for his mastery of construction issues, an area in which he is a published authority, regularly receiving tributes to the clarity of his analysis. He has appeared in superior courts in five Australian jurisdictions and is particularly experienced in the handling of mandates concerning large commercial, residential or energy and resources-related projects.

Ian Roberts SC has extensive experience in the industry as both a solicitor and counsel. He advises developers, building contractors and insurers on a wide range of construction disputes.

Jamie Darms SC operates across the employment and industrial relations spectrum, covering all key areas including health and safety and discrimination, and offering notably focused expertise on restraint of trade issues.

Strengths:

“Jamie I would thoroughly recommend.”

“He is excellent, and he is fantastic to work with.”

JUNIORS

Lucas Shipway represents both public and private sector clients across a range of engineering and infrastructure-related disputes, many of which arise from major projects in the transportation or resources sectors.

Julie Wright commands immense respect for her work at the Sydney construction Bar, receiving tributes to her specialist knowledge, tenacious advocacy, immersion in detail and ready, empathetic engagement with clients. Her construction law expertise, often applied to matters arising from the development of major infrastructure projects, is not confined to the domestic litigation scene, but has also been deployed in international arbitration and mediation contexts.

Level 17 Chambers

Level 17 Chambers is a small, well-regarded Queensland set. Its nine barristers cover an impressive range of contractual, commercial and regulatory areas. The members are highly reputed for restructuring/insolvency, construction and insurance.

SILKS

Scott Hooper KC focuses his practice closely either on specific construction issues or on those which are often closely related to them, such as contract, insurance, professional negligence and property law. He is experienced, not only in the handling of court work – including class actions – but also in international arbitration proceedings, and is consistently praised for his ability to produce high-quality work within tight timeframes.

Strengths:

“He is excellent.”

Adam Pomeranke KC operates a broad commercial practice, though he is particularly well known for his handling of class actions and also draws praise for his work on construction and insolvency-related mandates.

Strengths:

“He is a very good up-and-coming silk, analyti-

cally gifted, very hard-working and very good with solicitors and clients as well."

North Quarter Lane Chambers

North Quarter Lane is one of the larger Brisbane-based sets, with nearly 30 members. Its barristers field expertise across a wide range of commercial, competition and contractual disputes and attract particular praise within the tax, construction and energy sectors. The set is praised by sources for its general commercial offering, with one noting it is a "strong, broad, commercial chambers of very high quality." Another interviewee observes that it has a "very good reputation in the construction space and general commercial space."

SILKS

Patrick O'Shea KC (see p.237) focuses his practice largely, though not exclusively, on construction issues and is an experienced handler of both superior court litigation and, increasingly, commercial arbitration.

Strengths:

"He is very well established in the field and has a terrific construction practice."

Simon Couper KC (see p.237) has an impressive range of expertise, from regulatory and contractual litigation to the full gamut of commercial disputes. He is singled out by market commentators for his trial advocacy and cross-examination skills.

Strengths:

"Simon is a very senior silk, particularly known for his cross-examination trial work. He is a fantastic advocate."

Quayside Chambers

Quayside Chambers is a younger Perth set, established as recently as 2016 and fielding fewer than 30 barristers, and is nevertheless broadly acknowledged to be a very high-quality offering in the Western Australian market and is sometimes said to have already established itself as the jurisdiction's pre-eminent chambers. The set's members offer broad-ranging expertise, much of which – including notable capabilities in the arbitration field – is particularly appropriate for employment matters arising from Western Australia's dominant resources sector.

SILKS

Brahma Dharmananda SC maintains a broad-ranging national practice in which complex contractual and joint venture disputes and matters arising from the construction, financial services and resources sectors feature particularly prominently.

Kanaga Dharmananda SC's impressively broad practice covers disputes arising in, among others, the construction, financial services and resources sectors and includes a noted international arbitration component.

6 St James' Hall

6 St James' Hall is a smaller Sydney set, with just over 30 members, and offers expertise in a number of practice areas, but is distinctive for having created a dedicated workplace disputes and discrimination practice group to which 17 set

members, including two especially distinguished practitioners at the employment Bar, belong. Group members offer experience in the representation of public and private sector players, including trade unions and individual employers and employees, before courts, tribunals and public inquiries. Practice manager Nora Faulua is the principal point of contact.

SILKS

Ian Neil SC is regularly identified as one of Australia's leading workplace law silks, offering experience of some of the most prominent mandates in the practice area. A published authority on employment law and particularly familiar with issues specific to the banking and finance, construction and resources sectors, he is also especially sought after for appellate briefs in the industrial relations space.

Strengths:

"Ian Neil gets to the point. He is a great lawyer and definitely comes across with authority. He is very quick to grasp non-legal matters as well."

JUNIORS

Michael Seck acts for a comprehensive range of employer, business association, trade union and public sector clients in the employment sphere, operating additionally in the often related areas of discrimination and human rights.

Strengths:

"Michael Seck of 6 St James is an excellent junior – one of the best senior juniors."

7 Wentworth Selborne

7 Wentworth Selborne is a well-regarded Sydney set that delivers advice and advocacy across the gamut of commercial and public law but is especially in demand for its provision of outstanding talent in the construction and infrastructure arenas, some 20 of the set's 60-odd barristers practising in this space. The chambers also fields several barristers with extensive class action experience. Managing clerk Simon Walker is the principal contact.

SILKS

Mark Dempsey SC is regularly acknowledged by sources to be one of the most experienced and accomplished senior counsel practising in the construction space. Commentators testify extensively to his impressive track record of success and ability to master the most complex cases. Fully conversant with arbitration and mediation procedures as well as with those of the courtroom, his practice encompasses matters across Australia as well as the Asia-Pacific region more broadly.

Duncan Miller SC offers expertise acquired during more than 25 years of experience of construction litigation and arbitration, expertise which is particularly focused when it comes to handling disputes arising from the construction of transport or resources-related infrastructure. Commentators regularly identify him as a leader in his field, likely to be seen on the highest-profile mandates.

Strengths:

"Duncan Miller is a good strategist and is really

good to work with."

Justin Hogan-Doran SC specialises in cross-border litigation and arbitration, and is regularly briefed on shipping and other transport-related disputes within this context.

Strengths:

"I have worked with Justin a lot on complex matters. He understands contracts and is good commercially. He understands the difficult issues commercial parties face and he is very good in court too."

"He is very good on administrative-type shipping disputes. He is easy to work with and knowledgeable."

Jeremy Giles SC operates a remarkably varied practice covering a broad range of contractual, corporate, professional negligence and regulatory matters and embracing a significant class action component.

Strengths:

"I would readily instruct him again."

"He is fantastic: professional, very responsive and very hard-working."

JUNIORS

Nuala Simpson enjoys a strong reputation at the Sydney construction Bar, where she specialises in the handling of complex construction and engineering mandates. She is additionally an experienced handler of class actions, with extensive Federal Court and Supreme Court of New South Wales experience.

Strengths:

"Nuala Simpson would have to be the leading construction infrastructure barrister at the Bar in New South Wales. She is very accessible, always available and has good ideas about how a case should be run."

Quintin Rares comes recommended by peers for the quality of his advice and advocacy. He has a general litigation practice and is especially strong in maritime cases, having appeared in the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Strengths:

"Quintin has been doing shipping a long time and has a very good reputation."

"He is very bright."

Sixth Floor Windeyer Chambers

Sixth Floor Windeyer Chambers is a small, 14-member set whose barristers cover a variety of practice areas, standing out for its particularly heavy concentration of high-level native title-related expertise. The barristers based here offer experience in this field dating back, in some cases, to its inception and embracing the representation of traditional owner, proponent and government agency clients on a nationwide basis and in both state and Commonwealth superior courts. Clerk Gemma Simeoni is the suggested contact.

SILKS

Vance Hughston SC is widely acknowledged to be a pre-eminent native title silk, commanding particular respect for his long service in the sphere, the comprehensive geographical scope of his practice and the significance of the cases he has handled. Particularly noted for his track record of appellate cases, conducted up to and

including High Court level, he is best known for his work on behalf of traditional owner groups but has also acted for proponent parties and government agencies.

John Waters is one of Australia's most experienced native title practitioners, having worked in the area for nearly 30 years and appeared in nearly all jurisdictions across the fullest range of issues and on behalf of indigenous groups, proponent parties and government agencies.

Tina Jowett SC is well established in the native title sphere and much in demand by instructing solicitors. She is active on behalf of both traditional owner and proponent parties in a variety of courts and tribunals and maintains a particularly prominent Federal Court appellate practice.

Young's List

Young's List is a boutique, Melbourne-based list with over 90 affiliated barristers who handle the full range of commercial and public disputes. In addition, the set also attracts praise for its capabilities within the employment, shipping and environmental sectors. One interviewee describes it as an "excellent set." Founder and barristers' clerk Tammy Young is a key contact.

SILKS

Helen Symon KC is one of Australia's longest-serving and most respected tax litigators, noted for her particularly extensive experience of cases concerning the taxation aspects of particularly large transactions, or involving businesses with particularly complex structures. She has appeared before courts and tribunals up to and including High Court level, on behalf of both taxpayers and tax authorities, and her practice also incorporates a significant advisory capability, exercised on behalf of both corporate and individual taxpayers.

Robert Heath KC (see p.237) is noted for his wide-ranging presence at the Victorian Bar. Infrastructure, insurance and professional negligence-related disputes all form notable elements of his practice, and he is also a seasoned handler of class action and arbitration mandates.

JUNIORS

Tom Barry (see p.237) has a broad commercial litigation practice, notably handling matters arising out of infrastructure projects.

Strengths:

"Tom is outstanding. The client is extremely happy with him."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Christopher Athanasiou (Queensland Bar) is a highly experienced and respected senior junior on the native title scene, with extensive experience representing both traditional owner groups and government bodies in Federal Court and other proceedings. He practises at a national level and is often active on matters arising from the interaction of indigenous and resources industry interests.

John Baartz (Alfred Lutwyche Chambers) of Alfred Lutwyche Chambers has practised in the

construction law space, as both solicitor and barrister and in both Australia and the UK, for over 30 years. He brings to his work valuable complementary expertise in the fields of insurance and professional negligence and is particularly familiar with the issues associated with industrial complexes, mines, pipelines and ports.

Strengths:

"I rate him. He has developed a large practice."

Gareth Beacham KC (Callinan Chambers) of Callinan Chambers is a widely well-regarded construction barrister who is especially noted for his expertise concerning professional negligence issues in the architecture and engineering spaces. He is experienced both as a litigator and as an arbitration counsel.

Strengths:

"Gareth Beacham is the leading construction silk in Queensland. He is smart and very enjoyable to work with."

Cynthia Cochrane SC (see p.237) (Level 22 Chambers) of Level 22 Chambers continues to receive extensive and enthusiastic feedback for her increasingly prominent position in the IP market, with more than one commentator testifying to the excellence of her patent litigation practice.

Strengths:

"Cynthia Cochrane is good in the pharmaceutical field."

"She is very highly regarded for patent cases."

Joshua Creamer (Murray Gleeson Chambers) of Griffith Chambers acts prominently for indigenous groups on native title matters, being particularly noted for his handling of future act-related issues. He is also an experienced handler of class actions involving key human rights and discrimination questions on behalf of indigenous peoples.

Michelle Hirschhorn (Fifth Floor Selborne) of Fifth Floor Selborne maintains an impressively varied tax practice, embracing both advisory and litigation work for a mix of ATO and private sector clients and covering both direct and indirect taxation at state and Commonwealth level. Sources testify to her combination of deep knowledge and experience with exceptional approachability.

Mark Hoffmann KC (Bar Chambers) of Bar Chambers is regularly identified by interviewees, not only as one of the leaders of the Adelaide Bar, but also as one of its most industrious and widely experienced practitioners. His wide-ranging commercial practice often sees him instructed on matters in the financial services and insolvency spaces, or on forestry-related issues, and he lately appeared in a noted employment class action.

Patrick Holmes (Alinea Chambers) of Alinea Chambers is a well-regarded senior junior whose broad practice covers a range of industries. He is singled out for his work on banking and finance, financial services regulations and competition disputes.

Strengths:

"Patrick was excellent to work with, had a great manner with witnesses and I would happily involve him in future matters."

Katrina Howard SC (Ninth Floor Selborne Chambers) of Ninth Floor Selborne Chambers is recommended by more than one source for her particularly strong expertise in the patent field, where her academic background in biochemistry,

microbiology and pharmacology constitutes a notable asset.

Strengths:

"Katrina Howard gives very practical advice."

"She has an outstanding reputation in patent matters."

Bradley Jones SC (Ground Floor Wentworth Chambers) of Ground Floor Wentworth Chambers is a prominent barrister in the New South Wales tax law space who maintains a broad coverage of practice area issues, acting both for taxpayers and the revenue authorities.

John Karkar KC (Svenson Barristers) of Svenson Barristers offers immense and highly varied experience at the Victorian Bar, where he has practised for over 40 years. In commenting on his impressively broad practice, sources are particularly likely to single out his expertise in anti-bribery and corruption, financial services and insurance issues for special praise. He also offers extensive appellate experience and acts as both an arbitrator and mediator.

Strengths:

"I have worked with him and he is well regarded."

"Karkar is really good."

Tom Keely SC (Chapman's List) of Chapman's List is particularly well known for his almost unrivalled track record of work on behalf of native title and land claimants, his involvement in the representation of traditional owners having included a period as legal officer to the Central Land Council in Alice Springs.

Liam Kelly KC (Gerard Brennan Chambers) of Gerard Brennan Chambers operates across the commercial spectrum, offering noted strengths where disputes arising from the insolvency, insurance, resources and tax spaces are concerned, and is also active on the regional arbitration scene.

Strengths:

"He has a very strong commercial practice in Queensland and is very highly regarded."

"Liam is very good and experienced."

Nitra Kidson KC (Higgins Chambers) of Higgins Chambers is one of Australia's most experienced native title counsel, her long experience in the space being complemented by extensive additional involvement in human rights and migration law issues. She is particularly well known for her representation of state government agencies in native title cases.

Erin Longbottom KC (Murray Gleeson Chambers) of Murray Gleeson Chambers focuses on administrative, cultural heritage and native title disputes. She is particularly noted for her experience acting for the government and other public bodies.

Strengths:

"Erin is terrific and she is much in demand."

"She is an excellent leader, great to work with, across the material, and she is pleasure to have on the team."

Dilan Mahendra (Quay Chambers) of Quay Chambers is noted for his practice in the employment space, in which he is recognised by sources as a prominent junior. His broad employment practice incorporates particularly extensive expertise and experience in the handling of post-termination restraint issues.

Strengths:

"Dilan is the current intellectual leader of the jun-

iors in employment law.”

“He has a highly regarded practice and he works for employees and employers, so it’s a very diverse practice.”

David Marks KC (Level 16 Inns of Court) commands widespread acknowledgement of his position as one of Queensland’s most prominent tax barristers, enjoying a particularly high level of respect for his handling of stamp duty issues. He acts for both companies and private individuals on tax cases and also regularly provides opinion briefs on taxation matters to professional accountants.

Anthony McAvoy SC (Frederick Jordan Chambers) of Frederick Jordan Chambers acts prominently for traditional owner parties on native title and related matters, his expertise in this area being complemented by deep familiarity with broader human rights and discrimination issues. Sources indicate that he is particularly sought after to advise on the operation of business ventures and heritage protection questions.

Strengths:

“He is the leading indigenous silk from the Sydney Bar.”

“Tony McAvoy is a very good barrister.”

Gregory McIntyre SC (Michael Kirby Chambers) of Michael Kirby Chambers is widely regarded as a highly effective native title silk with an exceptional body of experience in the area of traditional owner issues, dating back even beyond his prominent participation in the landmark Mabo case in 1992. In addition to handling specific native title matters, he also operates in several areas of related concern, including Aboriginal heritage, discrimination, the environment and human rights.

Marc McKechnie (Murray Gleeson Chambers) of Murray Gleeson Chambers is a former solicitor whose practice focuses on public and administrative law, and on native title matters in particular.

Strengths:

“Marc McKechnie has gone to the Bar and is going from strength to strength.”

Ron Merkel KC (Owen Dixon Chambers West) is a former Federal Court judge who, since returning to the Bar, has principally focused his practice on public interest issues generally and on native title and other traditional owner issues in particular. Interviewees speak of him as an excellent advocate who remains a prominent player in this space and whose services may be recommended without question.

Christopher Murdoch KC (Level 8 Inns of Court) of Level 8 Inns of Court covers the full range of general employment, industrial relations and workplace health and safety issues, and is widely held to be one of the most effective barristers operating in these areas at the Queensland Bar. He also offers experience of both first-instance and appellate advocacy in both state and Commonwealth courts.

Chris O’Grady KC (Holmes List) of Holmes List is identified by sources as an excellent choice for employment matters generally and for industrial

relations issues in particular, this latter area being one in which he advises nationally on advocacy strategies. He is further singled out for his expertise in the discrimination sphere, his sharp eye for detail and excellent client relationship skills.

Frank Parry KC (Aickin Chambers) maintains a national practice in the employment space and has long been noted for his representation of large-scale employers facing major industrial disputes. His work for clients operating in the land and air transportation sectors is particularly renowned.

Strengths:

“He is strong with corporations.”

Andrew Preston (Jeddart Chambers) of Jeddart Chambers offers particularly rich experience of the native title space, having represented traditional owner bodies, corporations and government agencies at all levels of the Queensland courts system as well as in Full Federal and High Court proceedings.

Bilal Rauf (State Chambers) of State Chambers maintains a comprehensive workplace law practice and is well regarded by the market, with sources praising him both for skilled advocacy and for paying consistent attention to the direction of case strategy. His expertise in the industrial relations and health and safety spheres commands particular respect.

Strengths:

“Bilal is experienced and well respected.”

Adrian Ryan SC (Patterson’s List) of Patterson’s List stands out for his exceptional knowledge of the patents sphere, particularly deep where issues arising in the pharmaceutical or broader scientific sectors are concerned.

Strengths:

“Adrian is my go-to silk for his pragmatic and commercially sound advice.”

Rashelle Seiden SC (Ground Floor Wentworth Chambers) of Ground Floor Wentworth Chambers is a prominent Sydney tax barrister, noted for her busy practice, confident presentation and extensive experience in the litigation of significant cases up to and including High Court level. She is well known for her representation of clients – often individuals – facing allegations of a serious or even criminal nature. She also maintains a noted state revenue practice.

Ian Stanley (Third Floor Wentworth Chambers) of Third Floor Wentworth Chambers stands out among tax juniors, not only for his deep understanding of tax law, but also for his exceptionally extensive experience, a combination which makes him a particularly attractive choice among instructing solicitors. In addition to advising and advocating on contentious mandates, he also provides counsel on the taxation aspects of proposed transactions.

Strengths:

“Ian is very, very good.”

Jeremy Stoljar SC (Eight Selborne) of Eight Selborne is active on both general commercial issues and matters arising in the financial services and

insolvency spheres. He also offers extensive class action and commission of inquiry experience.

Strengths:

“He is really experienced and his work is high-quality. He is hard-working, across all the details and a pleasure to work with.”

Charles Street (Fourth Floor Selborne Chambers) of Fourth Floor Selborne Chambers focuses on commercial, trade, shipping and maritime disputes. He is noted for his strong background and knowledge in relation to the shipping industry.

Strengths:

“He is a lovely fellow, highly recommended, very approachable and easy to deal with.”

Raelene Webb KC (Murray Chambers) of Murray Chambers offers unrivalled experience at the native title Bar, having not only practised in the area, often in High Court proceedings, since its inception, but also served as president of the National Native Title Tribunal for five years.

Strengths:

“Raelene Webb is terrific.”

Derek Wong (Alinea Chambers) of Alinea Chambers maintains a broad commercial practice covering insurance and regulatory investigations. Market commentators particularly highlight him for class action and appellate proceedings.

Strengths:

“Derek was amazing to work with and I would happily instruct him again.”

“Derek is an exceptional junior barrister. He is hard-working, smart, understands clients and helps solicitors produce the best result for clients.”

Peter Wood (Fifth Floor Selborne) of Fifth Floor Selborne continues to be seen as the pre-eminent junior at the Sydney Bar, with sources recommending him particularly strongly for matters in the financial services regulatory and insolvency spaces.

Stuart Wood KC (Aickin Chambers) is widely seen as one of Australia’s leading employment silks and is particularly well known for his handling of complex industrial relations cases.

Strengths:

“He believes in taking on the unions, and the corporations love him. He is a bit of a fighter.”

Employment

Employment: New South Wales
Leading Firms
Band 1
Ashurst
MinterEllison
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Band 2
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 3
Allens
Baker McKenzie
Clayton Utz
Hall & Wilcox
Johnson Winter Slattery
King & Wood Mallesons
Kingston Reid
Maddocks
Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 4
DLA Piper Australia
FCB Workplace Law
Gilbert + Tobin
HFW
Holding Redlich
Lander & Rogers
Band 5
McCullough Robertson
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
McKenzie Helen Ashurst
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Fox Jim MinterEllison
Perry Darren Seyfarth Shaw LLP*
Band 2
de Flamingh Jack Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Gray Andrew King & Wood Mallesons
Woodbury Stephen Ashurst
Band 3
Banks Dianne Gilbert + Tobin
Bernasconi Rachel Seyfarth Shaw LLP*
Brown Paul Baker McKenzie
DeBoos Alice Kingston Reid
Dransfield Jan Johnson Winter Slattery
Dudley Ben Seyfarth Shaw LLP*
Heddle Bruce Maddocks
Jolly Gareth MinterEllison
Kelleher Ruveni Johnson Winter Slattery
Mansfield Jennie Ashurst
Patterson Jennifer MinterEllison
Price Stephen Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Sant Mark HFW
Band 4
Bastick Miles Herbert Smith Freehills
Dearden Aaron Hall & Wilcox*
Harmer Michael Harmers Workplace Lawyers (ORL) ◇
Hor Joydeep People + Culture Strategies (ORL) ◇
Michalandos Michael Baker McKenzie
Siow Veronica Allens
Skinner Maree Maddocks
Turner Nicholas DLA Piper Australia*
Woods Tony Lander & Rogers
Woodward Sally PwC Legal (ORL) ◇

Employment: Victoria
Leading Firms
Band 1
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Herbert Smith Freehills
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Band 2
Ashurst
Clayton Utz
MinterEllison
Band 3
King & Wood Mallesons
Kingston Reid
Lander & Rogers
Maddocks
Band 4
Allens
Band 5
Hall & Wilcox
KHQ Lawyers
K&L Gates
Mills Oakley
Norton Rose Fulbright
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Amendola Steven Kingston Reid
Burns Paul Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Gardner Chris Seyfarth Shaw LLP*
Band 2
Skene Henry Seyfarth Shaw LLP*
Tamvakologos Michael Seyfarth Shaw LLP*
Tuck John Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Watt Amanda MinterEllison
Wood Anthony Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 3
Doyle Rohan Herbert Smith Freehills
Gianatti Chris KHQ Lawyers*
Jackson Ross Maddocks
Kellock Murray King & Wood Mallesons
Proietto Daniel Lander & Rogers
Trindade Dan Clayton Utz
Band 4
Dewberry Simon Allens
Dunphy Mark Hall & Wilcox*
Lovell Jon Ashurst
Moloney Michaela K&L Gates
Mummé Lucienne Johnson Winter Slattery
Ruskin Nick K&L Gates
Band 5
Catanzariti Rick DLA Piper Australia*
Russell Louise Johnson Winter Slattery
Up-and-coming individuals
Milne Brendan Kingston Reid
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allens

What the team is known for Allens is well placed to advise on employment issues arising from major corporate transactions and restructures including compliance reviews. The team is known

Employment: Queensland
Leading Firms
Band 1
Ashurst
MinterEllison
Band 2
McCullough Robertson
Band 3
Allens
Clayton Utz
Herbert Smith Freehills
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Coonan Michael Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Humphreys Ian Ashurst
Williams Daniel MinterEllison
Band 2
Hall James Ashurst
Moy Michael McCullough Robertson
Wells Jamie Mills Oakley
Band 3
Faichen Kirsty Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Osborne Martin Norton Rose Fulbright

for advising on litigation mandates involving breach of employment contract and discrimination, and is also able to provide advice with regard to industrial relations and workplace investigations. The firm is increasingly active in advising clients on compliance reviews for modern awards. Allens represents leading Australian and international clients from a wide range of sectors including mining, banking and entertainment. Notable clients include Interactive, Howden Insurance Brokers and Abbott Pharmaceutical.

Strengths

“Allens’ lawyers are able to quickly grasp the issue at hand, and have strong knowledge and understanding of our business, enabling tailored responses.”

“They are outstanding! Allens display a commercially driven and strategic attitude to complex legal matters.”

Work highlights Allens assisted Super Retail with proceedings before the Fair Work Ombudsman alleging breach of the company’s enterprise agreement and the Fair Work Act.

Notable practitioners

Simon Dewberry often advises large corporates on compliance and investigations into issues such as underpayment and whistle-blowing. **Strengths:** “It’s always a pleasure to work with Simon. He is a reliable legal service provider.” “Simon is excellent to deal with. He really knew his stuff and gives very pragmatic and commercial advice.” **Veronica Siow** often advises employers on investigations and compliance matters, in addition to handling executive appointments, workforce restructures and payment issues. She wins praise for her meticulous approach to matters. **Strengths:** “She is an incredibly trusted and safe pair of hands and made herself available to us at every request.” “Veronica is strategic and also knows our risk appetite. She

Employment: Western Australia
Leading Firms
Band 1
Clayton Utz
Band 2
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Herbert Smith Freehills
Kingston Reid
Band 3
Ashurst
DLA Piper Australia
Jackson McDonald
King & Wood Mallesons
Mills Oakley
MinterEllison
Squire Patton Boggs
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Allen Russell <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Lilburne Robert <i>Ashurst</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Harben Saul <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Longland Anthony <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Band 2
Casellas Anna <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Fletcher Duncan <i>Kingston Reid</i>
Wilcox Philip <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Band 3
Di Girolami Bruno <i>Lavan (ORL) ◇</i>
Harding Renae <i>Jackson McDonald</i>
Nickels Leanne <i>DLA Piper Australia *</i>
Reid Kathy <i>MinterEllison</i>
Salter Adam <i>Jones Day (ORL) ◇</i>
Stutley Michael <i>Kingston Reid</i>
White Daniel <i>Mills Oakley</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

understands where we should push and gives us commercial and risk-averse solutions.”

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst has a well-resourced employment group with an impressive reputation for large-scale industrial relations disputes and major company restructurings. The team is called upon by many of Australia’s largest energy and transport companies for its expertise in developing enterprise bargaining agreements. It is well placed to represent clients in employee class actions and in disputes with unions. The firm acts for major clients on the employment aspects of M&A and compliance, and advises employers on health and safety issues. Notable clients include AGL Energy, Anglo American and the Commonwealth Government.

Strengths

“I have confidence in Ashurst’s ability to handle complex matters.”

“Their service level and responsiveness are beyond reproach. I can call at any time to discuss a matter or, if not available, Ashurst very quickly makes the date and time to suit me and catch up.”

Work highlights Ashurst acted for Uber in proceedings in the Federal Court, concerning the status of drivers who utilise the Uber Rides plat-

Employment: National Leaders
Leading Firms
Band 1
Ashurst
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
MinterEllison
Band 2
Clayton Utz
Herbert Smith Freehills

form and whether they are employees or independent contractors.

Notable practitioners

Robert Lilburne has over two decades of experience acting for mining and shipping companies on a wide range of employment matters including collective bargaining and industrial relations disputes. **Helen McKenzie** continues to be highly respected for her extensive experience advising across a wide range of employment issues including investigations, underpayments and industrial disputes. **Lea Constantine** is well known in the work health and safety space and acts for a range of public and private sector clients on compliance, investigations and prosecutions relating to serious workplace incidents. **Ian Humphreys** has a strong reputation for industrial relations disputes. **Strengths:** “Ilan is a pleasure to work with; his advice is brilliant and well thought through. Honestly, quite simply, the man is a genius.”

James Hall is a well-regarded employment lawyer in Queensland who is particularly known for assisting clients in the coal industry. **Scarlet Reid** is well regarded in the market for her depth of knowledge in workplace health and safety. She often advises government clients on complex regulatory topics as well as on high-profile and fatal workplace incidents. **Stephen Woodbury** acts for prominent international and domestic companies on industrial relations strategies and enterprise bargaining. **Strengths:** “Stephen gives clear, calm and pragmatic advice in difficult situations. He has deep experience and knows what the best options are and is able to cut through quickly to solutions.” “He is probably the most experienced lawyer in this space. And the calmest person you will ever meet, if you’re ever in a crisis.” **Jennie Mansfield** advises on a range of compliance matters, including award compliance and repayment programmes, with a particular focus on the financial and insurance sectors. **Strengths:** “Jennie is just a delightful person. She is a very smart lawyer, really low key, very accessible, has a great sense of humour, is very pragmatic and you can bounce ideas off her.” **Jon Lovell** is a Melbourne-based employment partner. He advises a string of notable clients on matters including enterprise bargaining, industrial relations and employment disputes.

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie leverages its global network of offices to advise on regional and cross-border employment matters. The firm boasts prominent international clientele from the technology, healthcare and consumer goods sectors. Its expertise spans corporate restructurings and M&A, discrimination and WHS. Its employment team is also valued for its expertise in sensitive executive and director-level

Health & Safety
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Constantine Lea <i>Ashurst</i>
Cutrone Paul <i>Seyfarth Shaw LLP *</i>
Tooma Michael <i>Hamilton Locke (ORL) ◇</i>
Band 2
Bell Steve <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Downes Harold <i>Mills Oakley</i>
Reid Scarlet <i>Ashurst</i>
Band 3
Anderson Aaron <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Morris Katherine <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Band 4
Dunlop Catherine <i>Maddocks</i>
Hall Jane <i>Loupe Legal (ORL) ◇</i>
Makris John <i>Kingston Reid</i>
McCartney Shae <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Titterton Alena <i>Clyde & Co (ORL) ◇</i>

issues including restraint, misconduct, fiduciary breaches, whistle-blowing and executive remuneration. The team is also active on industrial relations matters, acting for employers on disputes with unions and enterprise bargaining agreement matters. Notable clients include Serco, Unilever and Schneider Electric.

Strengths

“Bakers respond promptly with quality advice. They know our business and this helps.”

“The team has excellent knowledge of how to navigate the regulatory environment for serious workplace matters.”

Work highlights Baker McKenzie represented Nike in unfair dismissal and adverse action claims before the Fair Work Commission.

Notable practitioners

Paul Brown attracts praise for his deep knowledge of enterprise agreements and his strong litigation skills. **Strengths:** “Paul remains a delight to work with, in both programmatic and contentious matters. His no-nonsense, direct and extremely practical response has set him apart from his peers, and his high responsiveness makes him a highly dependable collaborator in matters big or small.” “He is an exceptional employment lawyer. If Paul can’t find you a solution, there isn’t one.” **Michael Michalandos** leads the practice from the firm’s Sydney office, often acting for international clients on a wide range of issues including investigations, compliance, governance and contractual matters. **Strengths:** “Michael provided us with excellent support.”

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz is especially active for federal and local government bodies, with a particularly robust client base and expertise in the aviation, technology and university sectors. The firm boasts a highly regarded litigation team, which focuses on discrimination, bullying and industrial disputes, as well as restraint of trade. The firm also handles matters relating to sexual harassment and fraud. Further areas of focus include the use and development of technology to aid in the calculation of the financial impact of proposed clause amendments in enterprise agreements, as well as in evidence analysis for investigations and in compliance

reviews. Notable clients include the Fair Work Ombudsman, Suburban Rail Loop Authority and Austal Ships.

Strengths

"Clayton Utz have the capacity and competence to handle the most complex and sensitive matters that arise. All staff that provide these services are highly skilled and possess the necessary business acumen to be effective."

"Clayton Utz is our go-to external legal provider for all complex and high-profile matters. The firm possesses superior capability and industry know-how. The firm is well resourced and offers a specialised industrial relations practice."

Work highlights Clayton Utz represented Wipro against the State of New South Wales in the NSW Court of Appeal regarding whether an employee who had worked for the company in India and NSW was entitled to long-service leave upon resignation.

Notable practitioners

Saul Harben enjoys a strong reputation for enterprise bargaining and workplace health and safety matters. He is particularly noted for advising energy and mining clients. **Strengths:** *"Saul is a great operator."* **Anna Casellas** handles the full range of employment issues from litigious matters pertaining to industrial relations and dismissals as well as contractual and compliance. She wins praise for the depth of her knowledge and the level of service she provides. **Strengths:** *"Anna was helpful and responsive."* **Dan Trindade** is a well-regarded figure in the Victorian market and is noted for handling industrial strategy and enterprise bargaining disputes. **Strengths:** *"Dan is a good operator."* **Shae McCartney** has an active work health and safety practice advising on workplace investigations and COVID-19 measures for a variety of corporate clients. **Strengths:** *"Shae provides sound advice and often simplifies complex legal considerations during meetings to ensure understanding. She is approachable, knowledgeable and is very aware of the complex operating environment and provides positive customer service."* *"Shae is an exceptional practitioner whose expertise, knowledge and professionalism has, amongst other things, guided our organisation through complex statutory review programs of high value."*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth is known for its highly regarded team of employment and industrial relations practitioners, with an impressive roster of clients in the mining and energy sectors. The practice is also well regarded for its long history of involvement in the development of labour laws, and counts government and private sector clients among its clientele. The team assists with workplace health and safety matters, including issues arising from fatalities; and is engaged on a range of cases related to enterprise agreements, compliance and casual employment. Notable clients include LinkedIn, Network 10 and Qube Logistics.

Strengths

"Corrs stand out for incredibly strong understanding, pragmatic approach to employment issues and valued advice in complex executive situations."

"They provide quick responses and are very knowledgeable."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth assisted Glencore with the negotiation of enterprise agreements and advised on the impact of the Secure Jobs, Better Pay reforms to the Fair Work Act.

Notable practitioners

Michael Coonan is recognised for his track record advising energy, natural resources and maritime clients on industrial relations and regulatory issues. **Strengths:** *"Michael works really hand in hand with our team. He is very strategic."* **Paul Burns** is well regarded for his deep regulatory knowledge and experience in handling complex litigation matters. He is noted for his activity on high-profile matters and is a frequent adviser to both private and public sector clients. **Strengths:** *"Paul is probably the most proactive lawyer I've come across when it comes to discussing strategy about where we are going and keeping us informed. He is a strategic thinker and thinks about the future."* *"Paul Burns has been very useful. He came up with a great strategy and he was very switched on."* **Anthony Longland** is noted for his litigation and trade union experience within the mining and resources sector. **Strengths:** *"Anthony is a strong advocate, and is commercial and pragmatic."* *"The entire team are very impressive but special credit to Anthony Longland who was able to make persuasive, strong representations on a range of proposed workplace relations changes."* **Jack de Flamingh** is well regarded for his work on industrial relations matters, particularly within the mining and infrastructure industries. **Strengths:** *"Jack feels like he is a part of our company by the way he presents himself and the way he assists us."* **John Tuck** heads the firm's practice in Melbourne. He handles a range of matters including workplace investigations, regulatory compliance and industrial regulations. **Kirsty Faichen** maintains a broad employment practice, advising clients across a variety of employee relations and industrial relations matters. **Strengths:** *"Kirsty is our relationship partner and has done a great job."* **Stephen Price** is acknowledged for his litigation skills and has a long track record of advising on various employment disputes including sensitive workplace investigations. **Strengths:** *"Stephen is very responsive and commercially astute. We have a high level of confidence in the legal counsel and strategy he provides."* *"He is extremely sensible and understands the commercial context."*

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper Australia acts for major national and international companies from numerous sectors on their operations in Australia, including contentious and non-contentious employment matters. The team is often engaged to advise on compliance and review matters, and demonstrates additional expertise in post-employment restraints and protection of confidential information. The firm also handles workplace disputes, industrial relations and the employment aspects of restructurings. It is known for servicing multinationals in the technology sector. Notable clients include ServiceNow and Busy Bees.

Strengths

"DLA is great and able to provide commercial advice and fast turnaround time. They are very responsive." *"The firm has experienced and industry-knowledgeable staff."*

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Adobe on its global trade secret protection program which includes restrictive covenant and confidential information protection matters.

Notable practitioners

Leanne Nickels (see p.234) leads the Perth-based employment team. She is known for practising a full range of employment law including workplace relations and discrimination claims. **Strengths:** *"Leanne is awesome: personable, astute, warm, articulate and knowledgeable. She is also responsive and possesses an intimate understanding of our business and industry."* *"She is fantastic."* **Nicholas Turner** (see p.236) has a broad practice encompassing a range of employment issues from unfair dismissal and discrimination to regulatory and contractual advice. **Strengths:** *"Nicholas runs a strong team and I get the sense there is a good working culture within the team."* *"Nick is really good with managing clients and billing."* **Rick Catanzariti** (see p.231) is an experienced employment lawyer at the Melbourne office of DLA Piper. He is particularly strong in disputes such as those regarding pay, discrimination, health and safety and workplace harassment.

FCB Workplace Law

What the team is known for FCB Workplace Law is a boutique employment practice with expertise in employee relations. The law firm often advises on industrial disputes and is active on Fair Work and general protection claims. Its team assists employer clients with enterprise agreement negotiations, and is especially active for construction, manufacturing and retail clients on the eastern seaboard. The practice enjoys support from the wider FCB Group organisation, including HR consulting and business migration practice arms.

Notable practitioners

Managing partner Campbell Fisher is a key contact for clients.

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin is a respected firm handling a range of workplace issues for employers and high-profile executives. It is frequently retained by international companies to advise on employment issues arising from significant corporate restructurings and M&A. The team is active on a variety of workplace disputes, including matters that concern terminations, bullying and confidential information. It also handles matters relating to enterprise bargaining agreements. Notable clients include Cardno Emerging Markets, DT Global Asia Pacific and Milkrun Au.

Strengths

"Gilbert + Tobin provide excellent advice. It is obvious that they are skilled across many areas and give confidence that advice is accurate."

"The advice is straightforward and prompt. Lawyers in the team were always available to provide the appropriate level of advice and support."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin assisted B.O.M Building Supplies with its employment of two

individuals from a competitor.

Notable practitioners

Dianne Banks heads the practice from the firm's office in Sydney and has a broad practice encompassing litigation, investigations and post-restraint obligations. **Strengths:** *"She is a go-to subject matter expert in the employment space." "Di is an absolute pleasure to work with. She is spot on with her advice and super responsive. She always makes me feel like I am her only client which I am sure I am not!"*

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox regularly advises employers across the range of contentious industrial and employee relations matters, including union disputes, restraint of trade matters and workplace harassment. It is especially active in disputes, appearing before tribunals, courts and the Fair Work Commission. The team is also able to assist with the employment aspects of restructurings. Notable clients include Michael Page International and AusNet Services.

Strengths

"They are both solution-focused and strategic." "Hall & Wilcox provide excellent, concise and thorough drafting and advice. They provide quick and responsive turnaround of matters with pragmatic advice."

Work highlights Hall & Wilcox assisted WorkCover Qld with preventing industrial action by unions in relation to the negotiation of a new certified agreement.

Notable practitioners

Aaron Dearden (see p.231) handles various industrial relations and contract disputes, as well as advocating in key employment-related litigation. **Strengths:** *"Aaron is one of the most responsive partners I have dealt with in employment law. I cannot tell you how responsive he has been—exceptional." "He can think of practical ways to resolve disputes." Mark Dunphy* (see p.232) advises on industrial relations and executive issues in both contentious and non-contentious contexts. He regularly provides advice to clients in a variety of sectors.

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills has a market-leading full-service employment practice, widely endorsed for its deft handling of Australia's largest industrial relations matters, including enterprise bargaining, disputes and industrial action. It covers the full gamut of employee relations such as terminations, redundancy and discrimination, also possessing notable expertise in workplace health and safety matters. The firm represents prominent energy, construction, transport and financial clients, and notable names include Chevron, Optus and DuluxGroup.

Strengths

"The Herbert Smith Freehills team has sound knowledge of the law and practice in this area, together with a good commercial lens to navigate complexities."

"I find the whole workplace relations team is commercially minded. They provide their advice from the client's perspective, which is super helpful when managing a corporate's various stakeholders."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills assisted Coles with the remediation of the historical underpayment of salaried employees covered by the General Retail Industry Award 2010.

Notable practitioners

Russell Allen continues to be highly regarded for his extensive experience advising on enterprise bargaining and complex disputes, particularly for clients in the mining and energy sectors. **Steve Bell** heads the practice from its Melbourne office and is well reputed in the market for his experience handling prosecutions and sensitive issues around workplace incidents. **Strengths:** *"Steve is pragmatic and calm." "His knowledge is second to none. He is extremely client-friendly and approachable, and is the type of the partner you want to work with. He has the gravitas of an extremely experienced partner and is a great person to work with."*

Anthony Wood has a broad practice which encompasses compliance, employee claims, enterprise bargaining and workplace health and safety. **Strengths:** *"He can provide top-level strategic advice and is very responsive." "Andrew gets straight to the point, is responsive and has a wealth of information about what is going on in other organisations." Aaron Anderson* is acknowledged for his considerable expertise in occupational health and safety. He advises clients from a range of sectors, including infrastructure and mining, on regulatory compliance. **Rohan Doyle** is a well-regarded employment law practitioner in Victoria, recognised for his expertise in enterprise bargaining and industrial relations disputes.

Strengths: *"Rohan is an outstanding legal and commercial adviser." "He is exceptional." Miles Bastick* has considerable experience advising high-profile clients on both regulatory and litigious issues.

HFW

What the team is known for HFW has a solid employment department with considerable experience of handling industrial and employee relations disputes. It often handles cases involving discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment claims, as well as issues relating to enterprise bargaining agreements and employee terminations. The team represents clients from a number of industries and is particularly noted for its experience in the hospitality sector. Notable clients include Accor Hotels, Hamilton Island Enterprises and Shangri-La Hotels.

Strengths

"HFW show a high level of knowledge around industrial relations and legislative requirements. All team members have an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter."

"The advice is pragmatic and based on a thorough understanding of the business context."

Work highlights HFW acted for hotels in the IHG Hotel network in proceedings before the Fair Work Commission regarding the termination of expired enterprise agreements.

Notable practitioners

Mark Sant is well regarded for his litigation capabilities and his expertise in relation to industrial relations. He also advises on unfair dismissals, discrimination and Fair Work Ombudsman investigations and is noted for his understanding of the

hospitality industry's needs. **Strengths:** *"Mark has a longstanding relationship with our business and provides relevant employment advice within our business context." "He understands our business and the company culture, and is good to work with no matter how big or small the issue."*

Holding Redlich

What the team is known for Holding Redlich maintains a well-regarded employment practice with considerable experience in employee relations and post-employment restraints. The team is well versed in matters surrounding discrimination claims, unfair dismissals, misconduct, and WHS breaches. It advises a range of corporate clients in finance, recruitment, media, and infrastructure sectors, amongst others; and operates in both contentious and non-contentious legal contexts. Notable clients include Moore Australia, Richard Crookes Constructions and Bingo Industries.

Strengths

"Holding Redlich provide good sound advice. We received good support from partner to junior level." "They always demonstrate deep knowledge in the areas needed."

Work highlights Holding Redlich represented Randstad in a matter regarding allegations of discrimination on the grounds of a mental illness and termination of employment due to an employee's complaints of bullying.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Trew and Michael Selinger are key contacts for clients.

Jackson McDonald

What the team is known for Jackson McDonald is a well-established presence within the Western Australian market and is reputed for the breadth of its practice. The firm advises on workplace investigations, unfair dismissals and adverse action as well as health and safety matters, and is noted for its experience acting for mining and public sector clients.

Strengths

"Jackson McDonald are very good technically and are strategic in terms of preserving and protecting our reputation. They were fantastic advocates in contentious moments and ran rings around the opposing counsel."

"They have a good balance of team members with a wide range of skill sets."

Notable practitioners

Renae Harding is well regarded in the Perth market for a range of employment issues. She acts for both private and public sector clients on a variety of matters including workplace investigations and disputes with unions. **Strengths:** *"Renae surpassed all expectations and handled the case with a good balance of professionalism and empathy at all times." "Renae is always a pleasure to work with and provides clear guidance."*

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery maintains a well-regarded team based in Sydney and Melbourne, recognised for its excellent track record in employment disputes, and often handles general protection claims under the Fair Work Act. The firm is retained by major

international clients to advise on the employment aspects of corporate transactions. It maintains an active practice on industrial relations matters, including enterprise bargaining and union disputes, and represents clients from a range of sectors including media, technology, energy and transport. Notable clients include Ambulance Victoria, Emma Dunch and InfiniQ.

Strengths

"Johnson Winter Slattery are incredibly responsive. The service is excellent."

"The team is responsive and provides practical advice. There is a good range of skills and experience."

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery assisted Airport Link with the bargaining and approval of an enterprise agreement, including application to the Fair Work Commission.

Notable practitioners

Jan Dransfield has considerable experience advising on a broad range of employment matters including executive issues and policy and compliance advice. She is particularly noted for her litigation skills. **Strengths:** *"Jan has consistently met all requirements and delivered to expectations in a timely manner." "Jan has been around a long time, knows the law well and is very practical in how she applies it."* **Ruveni Kelleher** has a strong reputation in the market for contentious matters and is noted for defending employers in high-profile claims. **Strengths:** *"Ruveni has strong commercial knowledge and is very customer-focused." "Ruveni was excellent: clear and concise, and straightforward. Most of all, she was very accurate."* **Lucienne Mummé** advises on enterprise agreements and workplace changes, such as restructures, consolidations and downsizing. **Louise Russell** is a special counsel recognised for her long track record advising on industrial relations matters, including collective bargaining and industrial action.

KHQ Lawyers

What the team is known for KHQ Lawyers is a boutique employment practice with experience in a diverse array of industrial relations, health and safety, and employee relations work. It also has additional experience in the implementation of COVID-19 responses and compliance with relevant safety regulations. The firm services clients in a range of sectors such as health, finance, education and media. Notable clients include CSL, John Holland and Asahi Beverages.

Strengths

"KHQ Lawyers are excellent communicators and extremely competent. They provide excellent and efficient service."

"The advice is technically strong as well as pragmatic and understanding of our environment and risk appetite."

Work highlights KHQ Lawyers advised Qube regarding the relocation and transition of its Spirit of Tasmania operations from the Port of Melbourne to the Port of Geelong.

Notable practitioners

Chris Gianatti (see p.233) often advises clients from the construction, manufacturing and retail sectors on enterprise bargaining, industrial action and union disputes. **Strengths:** *"Chris is a great supporter of his clients, to whom he provides*

commercial and practical advice in the face of complex legal issues, particularly in the industrial and employment law areas." "No other practitioner comes close to the service provided by Chris day in day out, and sometimes on the weekend!"

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons is well placed to handle the full range of employment law issues stemming from corporate restructurings and M&A transactions. It advises on adverse action, discrimination and unfair dismissal as well as workplace incidents and industrial disputes. The team has notable expertise in whistle-blower policy as well as remuneration and underpayments. It attracts a broad spread of clients from multiple sectors, particularly banking, mining and energy. The firm is noted for its presence across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. Clients include SunRice, Griffin Coal Mining and Clough Group Administration.

Strengths

"King & Wood Mallesons has taken the time and made the effort to know our business, which helps when briefing complex matters to the firm. KWM are particularly good at seeking clarification before heading down any one path to ensure the firm is providing the answers we requested."

"They are very focused on the underlying issues and importance of a commercial and sensible resolution."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons assisted Epoch Holding in proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia for injunctive relief and a claim against a former employee alleged to have misappropriated sensitive, proprietary information.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Gray acts for blue-chip clients on executive and regulatory issues including compliance and whistle-blowing. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is our most trusted adviser for complex employment law matters." "Andrew is responsive, commercial and strategic. He is focused on obtaining the best outcome for his clients and works tirelessly to achieve this."* **Philip Willox** heads the Perth practice, often advising prominent employers on Fair Work compliance and reviews. **Murray Kellock** often handles senior executive and post-employment matters, and is particularly noted for advising on sensitive investigatory matters.

Kingston Reid

What the team is known for Kingston Reid is a well-regarded specialist employment firm, noted for the depth of its expertise across industrial and employee relations. It handles complex industrial strategy and enterprise bargaining issues, as well as union and class action disputes. The firm has additional experience regarding underpayments, including interpretation, reviews and litigation. Notable clients include Qenos, Macquarie Bank and DP World.

Strengths

"Kingston Reid bring a professionalism to the matters they work on with us. They have gone out of their way to learn and understand our business. This allows them to provide advice on complex matters

while being considerate of our business."

"The lawyers with which we engage have a particular ability to distil complex issues into straightforward and pragmatic advice that is accessible for managers and leaders across my organisation."

Work highlights Kingston Reid assisted HungryPanda to obtain interim injunctions preventing former employees of its Easi business from taking confidential information and working with a competitor.

Notable practitioners

Steven Amendola has an impressive track record acting on high-profile litigation matters. He is known for advising clients in both the public and private sectors and often gives expert coverage in the media. **Strengths:** *"Steven Amendola has been around a long time and is well known." "Duncan Fletcher often assists clients on industrial relations and Fair Work Act matters, including compliance, collective disputes and claims work. Strengths: "Duncan Fletcher has excellent technical knowledge of employment law matters." "Duncan has invested his own time to understand our business, which gives him greater awareness of the issues we are dealing with. He is a very intelligent individual that balances the needs of our business and the commercial realities of the environment we operate in whilst adhering to the outcome agreed." "Alice DeBoos often handles complex litigation matters, particularly for clients in the construction and infrastructure sectors. Strengths: "Alice is an astute litigator who has a keen grasp of the law coupled with commercial sense and healthy risk appetite. Alice is strategic and thinks creatively to achieve the best results possible." "Michael Stutley is recognised for his work in industrial relations and workplace investigations. He also has experience with cross-border and jurisdictional matters for multinationals. Strengths: "Michael shows great customer focus." "He is really good at engaging with stakeholders and answering questions of legal lay people." "John Makris is known for his workplace health and safety practice, assisting client on matters involving workplace incidence as well as on compliance issues. Strengths: "John Makris is a work health and safety and inquest specialist. He is very impressive." "Brendan Milne primarily works within industrial relations with a focus on enterprise bargaining. Strengths: "Brendan is simply outstanding."*

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates maintains an active employee relations and workplace safety practice advising clients from the construction, education and health sectors, as well as non-profit organisations and government entities. The team handles complex employment disputes before the Fair Work Commission and in the courts. It provides expertise across discrimination and employee terminations. Notable clients include the Melbourne Victory Football Club, Victorian Managed Insurance Authority and Master Builders Association of Victoria.

Strengths

"I have always been very pleased with their responsiveness and the level of partner engagement."

"K&L Gates have been able to work in within our

highly legislated landscape to provide current advice and able to use learned experience to inform future options. The advice is tailored to the client's needs and level of sophistication."

Work highlights K&L Gates defended blockchain company Immutable against unfair dismissal claims lodged by Professionals Australia and arbitrated by the Fair Work Commission.

Notable practitioners

Michaela Moloney is a frequent adviser to clients in relation to a range of employee and industrial relations matters. **Strengths:** "Michaela is a top-notch sophisticated lawyer who is responsive and prepared to go the extra mile. Her work is timely and accurate. I also enjoy Michaela's personality and sense of humour." "I have been very pleased with the level of service Michaela offers and her insights with respect to litigation strategy." **Nick Ruskin** leads the team in Melbourne and is noted for his work in relation to a variety of employment matters, including employee disputes as well as industrial relations issues. **Strengths:** "I have used Nick and his team in different organisations and industries and the service and partnership relationship has been consistently high. I have no hesitation in recommending Nick to others." "Nick Ruskin is extremely experienced and pragmatic."

Lander & Rogers

What the team is known for Lander & Rogers covers the full spectrum of employment law matters for a range of government, education and retail clients in New South Wales and Victoria. The practice is particularly active and visible in discrimination and adverse action claims, and offers expertise on industrial relations matters, including enterprise agreement negotiations and disputes with unions. It is also active on non-contentious employment matters such as policy review and employment issues arising out of corporate mandates, as well as boasting capabilities in safety matters, including prosecutions. The team provides support to clients in dozens of countries around the world by drawing on membership of the TerraLex global network. Notable clients include the Fair Work Ombudsman, the University of Melbourne and the Southern Migrant & Refugee Centre.

Strengths

"Lander & Rogers is responsive, relevant and has great industry knowledge."

"The team has been invaluable for our human resources, workplace and industrial relations matters."

Work highlights Lander & Rogers represented Dental Health Services Victoria against a serial litigant alleging contraventions of the Equal Opportunity Act.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Proietto is recognised for his strong contentious practice, frequently advising clients on enterprise bargaining, equal opportunity, executive and post-employment restraint matters. **Strengths:** "Daniel is responsive, pragmatic, extremely smart and able to build rapport and trust at every level." "He is super super smart and humble." **Tony Woods** maintains a broad practice, advising high-profile clients in both the public and private sectors. He frequently acts on both

employee and industrial relations matters.

Maddocks

What the team is known for Maddocks is noted for its high-quality employment law practice with expertise advising public sector clients on enterprise bargaining and industrial relations matters. It is visible advising clients from the healthcare, retail and financial services sectors. The team is also adept at advising clients on employee disputes such as unfair dismissal and confidential information matters. It provides additional specialised expertise in workplace health and safety issues and is noted for representing government departments in prosecutions. The practice maintains offices in Sydney and Canberra alongside its traditional Melbourne headquarters. Notable clients include Costco Wholesale, Optus and Domino's Pizza.

Strengths

"Maddocks have a good working knowledge of employment legislation."

"The firm has clear expertise in contentious employment matters. The team has serviced the matters well with appropriate, scalable resourcing."

Work highlights Maddocks advised Macquarie on its executive remuneration arrangements including short and long-term, transaction-based and other incentive arrangements.

Notable practitioners

Bruce Heddle is a highly experienced practitioner who has a broad practice across the range of employment matters. He often assists employers on issues relating to engagement, remuneration and industrial relations. **Ross Jackson** is well regarded for his practice in the public sector, often acting for government clients in disputes and enterprise bargaining matters. **Strengths:** "Ross is a trusted legal partner who provides sound, considered advice." "Ross shows longstanding dedication. He appreciates the non-legal context and appears to understand client imperatives." **Catherine Dunlop** acts for a number of government departments as well as clients in the health and aged care sectors. She handles a range of workplace health and safety matters including compliance, fatalities and inquests. **Maree Skinner** advises on contentious and compliance matters, involving both unions and employee relations.

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson handles the full range of employment issues across employee relations, industrial relations and workplace health and safety. The firm is experienced in health and safety investigations and is particularly noted for its specific expertise in the mining industry. It is active on contentious matters such as the defence of workplace health and safety prosecutions and disputes with unions. The team is particularly strong on the representation of public sector clients in Queensland and New South Wales. Notable clients include Brisbane City Council, Australian Rail Track and Queensland Health.

Strengths

"McCullough Robertson have very solid understanding of the key issues and demonstrable expertise."

Work highlights McCullough Robertson assisted

AMP Services with an application to terminate an enterprise agreement.

Notable practitioners

Michael Moy is noted for his impressive track record advising public and private sector clients on industrial relations issues including negotiations, disputes and modern awards, as well as on employee relations matters.

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for Mills Oakley maintains a broad employee and industrial relations practice, which also includes significant expertise in workplace health and safety litigation. It handles a range of matters including enterprise bargaining and workforce structuring, as well as harassment and discrimination cases. The team represents employers across numerous industries, such as construction and transportation. Notable clients include the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Stanmore Resources and Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

Strengths

"Mills Oakley are very timely in their responses to requests for advice, take practical considerations into account and do not just give black letter legal advice."

"Mills Oakley consistently deliver exceptionally high-quality advice on complex matters."

Work highlights Mills Oakley advised Bank of Queensland on the employee transition aspects of its acquisition of ME Bank.

Notable practitioners

Harold Downes is highly regarded in the market for regulatory advice and is noted for acting on high-profile prosecutions. **Jamie Wells** is well regarded in the market and handles a variety of employment disputes including those involving enterprise agreements, class actions and individual claims. **Daniel White** is noted for litigious matters particularly within the maritime, mining, and oil and gas industries. **Strengths:** "Daniel is attentive, responsive and very approachable. He is always available to discuss practical implications and think both strategically and commercially, looking for the best outcome." "Daniel's knowledge of the law, current, historical and developing is excellent. He understands our work, that of our clients and how we each interact in the broader market. His advice is very bespoke and suited for our circumstances."

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison is highly regarded for employment litigation, with a focus on discrimination and executive matters, alongside additional strength in industrial relations. It has notable experience in a number of industries including government, education, financial services, and energy and natural resources. The team maintains a strong presence across New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. Notable clients include Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Westpac Banking and Department of Education and Training of Victoria.

Strengths

"MinterEllison have an obvious depth of talent. They are also very responsive."

"The lawyers we work with always seem to know

what's coming in a matter and have a plan in place for that."

Work highlights MinterEllison assisted Linfox Armaguard with an industrial dispute with the Transport Workers Union before the Fair Work Commission regarding a new policy that meant certain employees were no longer entitled to a lunch break allowance.

Notable practitioners

Jim Fox maintains his position as a leading employment lawyer with significant experience advising on industrial disputes and enterprise bargaining.

Strengths: "Jim is practical, approachable, responsive and always available. He is happy with being in front of commercial people and understands the business well." **Daniel Williams** is a leading figure in the Queensland market who advises on industrial relations disputes and strategies, particularly for clients within the construction and infrastructure sectors. **Strengths:** "Daniel is very well regarded in the Queensland market."

Amanda Watt often advises public sector clients on sensitive issues relating to investigation and compliance.

Strengths: "Amanda is pragmatic, experienced and insightful and a pleasure to work with." "Amanda is one of the best employment and discrimination lawyers in Australia. She is smart, caring and responsive. A delight to work with."

Gareth Jolly is well regarded in the market for advising major employers from the financial, media and infrastructure industries on complex disputes, often involving industrial relations. **Strengths:** "Gareth is highly intelligent, very strategic and clever, and tries to give you all the scenarios and recommendations." **Jennifer Patterson** is recognised for her expertise across governance, employment claims and enterprise bargaining, particularly within the media and education sectors. **Strengths:** "She understands education and can problem-solve."

"I would recommend Jennifer for her ability to cut to the chase and pull out the most important issues, and for her ability to convey her message to all levels of people in a very good way. She has a very practical way of approaching issues." **Kathy Reid** is an established Perth-based lawyer who frequently assists clients on both industrial and employee relations matters.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright is noted for its respected team advising on the full range of employment issues, including industrial disputes, unfair dismissals and discrimination cases. It is well regarded for its health and safety expertise relating to compliance, investigations and prosecutions, and also has experience assisting employers on the negotiation of and disputes concerning enterprise agreements. The team represents global clients in cross-border matters as well as at a local level, with strength in the public, construction and energy sectors. Notable clients include Lendlease, Bonza and Cushman & Wakefield.

Strengths

"Norton Rose Fulbright are subject matter experts with advice that makes sense for the business. They are knowledgeable and clear in their advice."

"I've found the response and legal advice to be sound and practical."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright acted for the Victorian government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing facing criminal prosecution under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Notable practitioners

Katherine Morris handles regulatory and compliance issues in the workplace health and safety space and often defends clients in prosecutions for serious workplace incidents. **Martin Osborne** is recognised for his knowledge of industrial relations, particularly within the energy, infrastructure and construction sectors. **Strengths:** "Martin and other partners at Norton Rose are pragmatic, really client-focused, driven and great to deal with."

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

What the team is known for Seyfarth Shaw LLP is a specialist employment firm in Australia with capability across the full range of labour and employment issues, including workplace health and safety and strategy. It is well reputed for collective bargaining and high-level union issues, including industrial disputes. The team is often engaged by employers on restraint of employment matters and high-profile M&A. The practice advises major corporates in a number of sectors, including transportation, TMT and retail. Notable clients include Svitzer, ALDI Foods and Telstra.

Strengths

"Seyfarth Shaw are the most client-responsive law firm of all our legal service providers."

"All team members working across the matter have strong knowledge in their respective expertise."

Work highlights Seyfarth Shaw represented Patrick Stevedores in the negotiation of a new enterprise agreement, which included filing applications with the Fair Work Commission.

Notable practitioners

Paul Cutrone (see p.231) is highly regarded for his expertise and experience advising on health and safety issues relating to large infrastructure and mining projects, as well as on serious workplace injuries. **Strengths:** "Paul is a specialist in workplace health and safety inquests and is impressive."

Chris Gardner (see p.232) is well known within the market for his handling of industrial relations and enterprise bargaining disputes with unions, counting major corporates amongst his clientele. **Darren Perry** (see p.234) enjoys a strong reputation for his expertise in industrial relations matters, frequently assisting clients with issues concerning collective bargaining strategies and industrial action, as well as disputes. **Strengths:** "He is a fantastic partner for our legal matters." "We love working with Darren. He is able to distil complex legal concepts into clear and simple ideas for all our executives and he always manages to find an angle or option that no one else has thought of."

Henry Skene (see p.235) is well reputed in the Victorian market for his extensive experience advising on complex disputes as well as advisory matters concerning enterprise bargaining agreements. **Michael Tamvakologos** (see p.235) offers expertise across a broad range of employment issues including collective bargaining, industrial action, employment claims such as discrimination, termination and restraint of trade. **Strengths:** "Michael is responsive and thorough. He knows his stuff and you can be confident Michael knows the

answer." **Rachel Bernasconi** (see p.230) often acts for employers in unionised industries on complex disputes, frequently assisting on issues relating to enterprise bargaining as well as employee relations. **Strengths:** "Rachel's strengths are her deep subject matter expertise and experience together with her ability to deliver advice and outcomes that are commercially focused and pragmatic. Rachel is relied on for all complex and sensitive employment and IR advice across our business." "She is excellent and really cost-effective." **Ben Dudley** (see p.232) is called upon by clients to advise on a variety of employment disputes, including disputes with unions and employees, as well as redundancies and restructures. **Strengths:** "Ben knows the area inside out and has an excellent way of simplifying complex issues. He is measured and strategic." "He is very good on high-risk, high-profile issues."

Squire Patton Boggs

What the team is known for Squire Patton Boggs is well regarded for its solid employment group covering the full range of WHS and industrial and employee relations, and including bullying claims, restraint of trade, dismissals and discrimination. The team assists with immigration law, including visa issues, and advises employers on casual employment and investigations into improper conduct. It counsels on a range of manufacturing, construction, industry bodies and local government clients, especially in the Western Australian market. The firm also benefits from international connections afforded by its global network. Metals Acquisition Corp, Port Headland Pilots and BCI Minerals are notable clients.

Strengths

"Squire Patton Boggs has experienced partners with broad support teams and ancillary resources."

"They have an excellent grasp of complex legal matters and an ability to position legal risk in a pragmatic way. The team can mobilise to respond to critical employment issues quickly."

Work highlights Squire Patton Boggs advised the shareholders of Aware Services on the employment aspects of its sale to Dentsu.

Notable practitioners

Nicola Martin, Kim Hodge, and Erin Kidd are key contacts for clients.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Bruno Di Girolami handles a variety of employment disputes including Fair Work claims and high-profile prosecutions.

Jane Hall of Loupe Legal is recognised for her extensive knowledge of workplace health and safety regulations and has advised a number of prominent companies on investigations and compliance.

Strengths:

"Jane was a delight to work with and bent over backwards to provide ongoing support, legal advice, risk management and education to staff."

"Jane is an excellent resource in the workplace health and safety space, particularly on major projects and infrastructure."

Michael Harmer of Harmers Workplace Lawyers is well known in the market for his work on

contentious matters concerning a wide range of issues including modern awards, discrimination and industrial action.

Strengths:

“Michael is an excellent leader of the team, watched over the case with an eagle eye and always had solutions and counter-arguments to what the other side threw at us. He has a very empathetic response and a great commercial approach to the other side’s tactics.”

“Michael offers personal attention to all our matters, while delegating where appropriate.”

Joydeep Hor of People + Culture Strategies is recognised for handling employment litigation involving a range of issues including terminations, enterprise agreements and harassment cases.

Adam Salter of Jones Day is noted for advising

international and large domestic companies on a number of advisory issues such as redundancy, workers’ compensation and bullying, as well as the employment aspects of M&A deals.

Alena Titterton of Clyde & Co is a specialist in workplace health and safety with notable expertise in litigation, investigations, and safety compliance for a range of clients.

Strengths:

“Alena provides the quality and practicality of advice that is appreciated across the stakeholder groups in our business, including the board, executive management and line management.”

“She is an excellent lawyer.”

Michael Tooma of Hamilton Locke has extensive experience advising large companies on serious and high-profile incidents and fatalities as well as

audits and compliance matters.

Strengths:

“Michael is an extremely astute and commercially savvy operator. In my view, there is no one better for workplace health and safety matter management in Australia.”

“Michael is an excellent lawyer.”

Sally Woodward of PwC Legal is noted for her experience advising large companies on compliance matters and handling workplace investigations into allegations of harassment and discrimination.

Energy & Natural Resources

Energy & Natural Resources	Energy & Natural Resources: Oil & Gas	Energy & Natural Resources: Mining
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople	Senior Statespeople
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Allens	Barrimore Stuart <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>	Hunt Michael <i>EMK Lawyers (ORL)</i> ◊
Herbert Smith Freehills	Jones Angus <i>Allen & Overy LLP</i> *	Leading Individuals
King & Wood Mallesons	Leading Individuals	Band 1
Band 2	Band 1	Brennan Keira <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Ashurst	Covacevich Emma <i>Clayton Utz</i>	Leary Jay <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Clayton Utz	Jarosek Peter <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>	Scott Simon <i>MinterEllison</i>
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Merrick Robert <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>	Band 2
MinterEllison	Rose Peter <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>	Adkins Bruce <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>
Band 3	Band 2	Blakiston Michael <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Allen & Overy LLP	Rogers Craig <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>	Edel Robert <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Baker McKenzie	Vaughan Peter <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>	Langford Scott <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Gilbert + Tobin	Band 3	Wassaf Tony J. <i>Jones Day</i>
Johnson Winter Slattery	Bogdanich Igor <i>Allens</i>	Band 3
White & Case LLP	Bruining James <i>Grondal Bruining</i>	Bogdanich Igor <i>Allens</i>
Band 4	Careless Paul <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>	Boyd Claire <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
DLA Piper Australia	Flynn Chris <i>White & Case LLP</i> *	Clarke Damien <i>McCullough Robertson</i>
Jackson McDonald	Greenaway Tracey <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>	Jackson Robert <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Jones Day	Murphy Darren <i>Jones Day</i>	Lingard Paul <i>Ashurst</i>
McCullough Robertson	Smith Peter <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>	MacGinley Michael <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Norton Rose Fulbright		MacGregor Stuart <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Band 5		Malcolmson Richard <i>Allens</i>
Clifford Chance		Pacitti Lorenzo <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Dentons		Pappas Nicholas <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Grondal Bruining		Woods Gerard <i>Allens</i>
HopgoodGanim Lawyers		Band 4
* Indicates individual with profile.		Bowen Michael <i>Thomson Geer (ORL)</i> ◊
◊ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.		Cohen Brett <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.		Jones Alex <i>DLA Piper Australia</i> *

Band 1

Allens

What the team is known for Allens fields a market-leading practice with considerable strength across the oil and gas, mining and utilities sectors. The practice displays a strong aptitude in the renewables sector, covering acquisitions, divestments and the full life cycle of develop-

ment projects. The firm is regularly sought out by major resources clients to assist with large-scale projects and complex commercial transactions. The team has considerable experience advising on policy drafting and regulatory issues within the electricity sector. In addition, the practice boasts of access to worldwide expertise through the Linklaters alliance, representing several of the globe’s best-known multinational players in all relevant jurisdictions. Key clients include Rio Tinto, Snowy Hydro and Brookfield Asset Management.

Strengths

“They are able to balance a commercial lens with ensuring that their clients are appropriately protected via a robust legal position.”

“They were very responsive and turned around drafts quickly.”

Work highlights Allens advised the consortium of Brookfield Asset Management and MidOcean Energy on the proposed acquisition of Origin Energy.

Notable practitioners

Louis Chiam is based in Melbourne and has particularly noteworthy experience of advising on both complex transactions and regulatory matters in the energy sphere. **Strengths:** *“He is an*

Energy & Natural Resources: Utilities	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Carkeet Mark	MinterEllison
Newman Paul	Ashurst
Saxon Chris	Baker McKenzie
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Ahuja Vishal	King & Wood Mallesons
Chiam Louis	Allens
Ryan David	Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 2	
Bowen Matthew	Jackson McDonald
Gilligan Mitzi	Hive Legal Pty Ltd (ORL) ◇
MacGinley Michael	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Mansour Andrew	Allens
Band 3	
Adams Simon	Squire Patton Boggs (ORL) ◇
Baker Nick	Herbert Smith Freehills
Bruining James	Grondal Bruining
Denning Tanya	Baker McKenzie
Limbers Peter	Maddocks (ORL) ◇
Lingard Paul	Ashurst
White Mark	White Legal (ORL) ◇
Band 4	
Groom Anthony	Johnson Winter Slattery
Howard Dan	Jones Day
Lee Jee-Seon	Johnson Winter Slattery
Lovell Martin	Piper Alderman (ORL) ◇
Reid Joel	MinterEllison
Wohling Clay	MinterEllison
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

excellent lawyer – really good commercially, very concise and understands the market and our business.” **Andrew Mansour** is based in Sydney and is noted for his impressive track record acting on large and complex energy projects, particularly in the electricity sector. **Strengths:** “Andrew Mansour provides a very professional and commercial service to his clients. He is extremely responsive and delivers advice in a way that businesses are able to digest and appreciate.” **Igor Bogdanich** is based in Perth and is respected for his extensive experience advising on large M&A transactions and projects in the mining and gas sectors. **Richard Malcolmson** is well known as an adviser to major mining companies on asset sales, acquisitions, divestments and takeovers. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** “Richard Malcolmson from Allens is a great lawyer and leader.” **Gerard Woods** maintains a strong track record of advising on large transactions, joint ventures and asset sales, as well as on commodities disputes and project structuring in the Western Australian mining space.

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills’ substantial and impressive team offers specialist expertise in all practice sub-areas and is regularly engaged by blue-chip clients. The practice is further noted for its provision of entire life-cycle support to energy and resources projects and full engagement with transactional, operational and contentious issues, supported, where required, by relevant expertise from the firm’s

corporate and disputes practices. The group also incorporates a regional renewables team, with increasing experience in innovative clean energy projects. The firm’s notable clients include Origin Energy, Santos and WestWind Energy.

Strengths

“They give clear and practical advice and have always been a trusted adviser for us. They often show determination and tenacity in solving complex issues, driving a positive outcome.”

“They are highly responsive and thoughtful.”

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills acted for IGO on its AUD1.26 billion acquisition of 100% of the shares in Western Areas via a scheme of arrangement.

Notable practitioners

Stuart Barrymore is based in Perth and enjoys a strong reputation in the market for his oil and gas-related expertise. He advises across gas sales, transportation, pipeline developments and transactional matters, and is particularly noted for his experience with LNG projects. **Jay Leary** handles the full range of mining sector matters, including transactions, operating and development agreements, dividing his time between the firm’s Brisbane and Perth offices. **Strengths:** “He is personable, calm, thinks very clearly and is very helpful when there are a lot of pressure and stress in running the process.” **Robert Merrick** is based in Perth and has an impressive track record of advising large oil and gas companies on asset acquisitions, divestments and project development issues. **Strengths:** “Robert is the national practice leader in natural resources. He is very good.” **David Ryan** is based in Sydney and advises across a range of transactional, commercial contracting and regulation mandates, often with regard to large energy infrastructure projects and developments. **Strengths:** “David is an excellent lawyer and has experience in the energy industry that is second to none. He is very personable and responsive – great to work with.” **Nick Baker** is based in Melbourne and is known for his expertise advising on joint ventures and other large transactions in the utilities sector. **Strengths:** “I’ve always enjoyed working with Nick. He’s articulate and efficient in his style. He provides very high-quality advice.” “Nick is an excellent and trusted adviser. He has a great strategic and commercial understanding of the energy industry and greatly adds value beyond the technical legal advice.”

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons’ respected practice offers substantial bench strength across the oil and gas, utilities and mining spectrum. It advises leading domestic and international players on major sector-specific M&A transactions, assisting with the acquisition and divestment of interests in assets at all stages of their life cycles. The practice is also recognised for its high-level interactions with official bodies concerning the future evolution of national energy policy, particularly within the electricity sector. The firm has a notable profile in the renewables sector, including solar and hydro power projects. Its key clients include Glencore, EMR Capital and Navarre Minerals.

Strengths

“It’s a very good team of partners who are accessible and nice individuals. They are pleasant to work with and dedicated to their clients.”

“They really understand what we need commercially, know when the issues need to be raised, are also able to come up with solutions and understand the market really well.”

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons advised Navarre Minerals on its purchase of Queensland’s Mt Carlton Gold Mine and associated assets from Evolution Mining.

Notable practitioners

Vishal Ahuja is based in Sydney and enjoys a high reputation for advising on regulatory issues in the energy sector. He also has extensive experience handling energy supply and power purchase agreements. **Strengths:** “Vishal has unparalleled knowledge of energy regulation, corporate structuring of energy projects and offtake agreements.” “He is very responsive, knows the way we operate, takes into account the broader organisation and is good at thinking about issues. He meets tight deadlines and is good at working closely with internal lawyers, and those who don’t have a legal background.” **Robert Edel** operates from the Perth office and is well regarded for his wealth of experience advising both domestic and international mining companies on mergers, joint ventures, investments, mining royalties and offtake agreements. **Strengths:** “He is an excellent lawyer with broad experience and a commercial approach.” **Scott Langford** is based in Melbourne and maintains an impressive track record of advice on mining sector transactions, including takeovers, joint ventures, divestments and acquisitions as well as IPOs and investments. **Strengths:** “Scott Langford is very good at details, very client-focused and knows us well.” **Craig Rogers** is based in Brisbane and maintains a broad practice, encompassing energy infrastructure projects, financing, acquisitions and purchase agreements. In addition, he boasts expertise in oil and gas-related issues. **Peter Vaughan** is based in Perth and draws upon deep experience in the sector to advise clients on the development of large LNG and carbon capture projects, including joint venture, service and tolling agreements, as well as procurement and regulatory issues. **Strengths:** “Peter is highly regarded and well connected.” **Robert Jackson** is based in Brisbane and focuses principally on advising on transactional and other matters relating to the mining industry and its supporting infrastructure. **Strengths:** “He is a very good lawyer who adds value.” **Lorenzo Pacitti** stands out for his considerable experience acting for prominent mining companies on corporate and commercial issues, including complex investment and transactional mandates. He is based in Perth. **Strengths:** “He has a deep understanding of our business, a good understanding of what is important for us and what our risk appetite is. That allows him to provide tailored client-centric advice in the first instance.” **Nicholas Pappas** is based in Sydney and is particularly well regarded for his handling of transactions in the mining sector. **Strengths:** “He is a long hand in the resources space who understands what needs to be done.”

Band 2**Ashurst**

What the team is known for The Ashurst energy and resources team represents the Australian arm of one of the worldwide firm's core practice groups, well known for its representation of leading multinationals on nationwide and cross-border mandates. The practice is particularly renowned for its advice on major transactional and contentious issues within the oil and gas and mining sectors, and is increasingly active in wind, hydro and energy storage matters. In addition, the firm is noted for its cost-effective employment of new document management technologies. Its clients include Akaysha Energy, Genari Renewables and Woodside.

Strengths

"Ashurst has a large team with bench depth and deep market experience. They smoothly handle complex matters with seamless integration between offices."

"They always provide timely service and respond immediately."

Work highlights Ashurst advised Gentari Renewables Australia on the acquisition of WIRCON GmbH's Australian renewable energy business through a competitive sales process.

Notable practitioners

Paul Newman is based in Brisbane and offers considerable experience of advising on large transactions and project developments. In addition, he has expertise handling complex contractual and regulatory issues, particularly in the traditional and renewable energy sectors. **Paul Lingard** is Perth-based and is particularly noted for his versatility across the energy and resources spectrum, but especially where mining and utilities-related issues are concerned. He handles the full breadth of transactional, regulatory and operational issues. **Strengths:** *"He has a very commercial approach to matters, listens to the needs of clients and provides business advice tailored to clients' need."*

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz's specialised and well-resourced practice advises multinational and prominent domestic clients on a range of matters associated with their energy and resources requirements, addressing regulatory, contentious and project development issues in tandem with an admired transactional support capability. The firm offers comprehensive coverage of all Australian jurisdictions and is particularly valued by clients across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Its key clients include Squadron Energy, Macquarie Capital and Australia Pacific LNG.

Strengths

"Clayton Utz is able to draw on a depth of knowledge and expertise across a talented multi-disciplinary national practice."

"The level of service and responsiveness for all workstreams has been outstanding."

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised Senex Energy on its AUD5 billion gas project in Queensland, which included providing guidance on the invitation for tenders, expressions of interest (EOI)

for bidders and the subsequent offer documents and gas sales agreements.

Notable practitioners

Emma Covacevich is based in Brisbane and enjoys a high reputation in the market for her extensive experience in the oil and gas industry. She advises across a comprehensive range of issues, including M&A transactions, gas transportation and sale agreements, the development and operation of projects, and a variety of regulatory, exploration and licensing questions. **Strengths:** *"Emma consistently applies her experience to complex matters in order to achieve our goal." "She is very commercial and pragmatic."* **Stuart MacGregor** is based in Brisbane and regularly advises international mining clients on their operations within Australia as well as joint ventures and mining infrastructure developments. **Strengths:** *"Stuart is a first-rate partner with deep technical expertise who is highly skilled at advising on complex and material matters."* **Brett Cohen** is well regarded in the market for advising large mining companies on both commercial and project development issues, including acquisitions, divestments, tenure approvals for mining operations and other regulatory matters. He is based in Perth. **Strengths:** *"Brett is extremely knowledgeable and personable, a rare combination."*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth fields a full-service, well-staffed independent practice offering noteworthy experience on large-scale project developments and transactions. The firm is prominent in the oil and gas sector, advising on major LNG projects, including their compliance, contractual and transportation issues. The team also offers considerable expertise within the mining and power sectors, as well as regulatory issues concerning renewables projects. The practice is particularly noted for its coverage of the Papua New Guinean market. Its notable clients include CuString, Rio Tinto and Woodside Energy.

Strengths

"They responded promptly to all of our enquiries, no matter the time of day, and met critical deadlines with ease."

"The team has great depth and the ability to advise on complex energy transaction ranging from construction to regulatory aspects."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised Rio Tinto on a AUD2 billion iron ore joint venture with China Baowu Group in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Notable practitioners

Peter Jarosek is based in Perth and maintains a highly respected practice, largely focused on advising clients on aspects of major oil and gas projects, including contractual arrangements and gas processing and transportation agreements. **Strengths:** *"Peter's key strength is his ability to quickly get across complex issues and documents, identify the key areas to focus on and propose a commercial solution."* **Paul Careless** advises oil and gas, as well as renewables sector clients on a comprehensive range of project delivery issues, including joint venture, upstream and gas processing arrangements. **Tracey Greenaway** works

in Corrs Chambers Westgarth's Perth office. She frequently advises large oil and gas companies on day-to-day matters, M&A transactions and issues related to their project development process, including compliance, contracts and disputes, with a particular focus on renewables projects. **Strengths:** *"Tracey's key strength is her ability to apply deep industry experience and technical expertise to large and complex transactions, managing and leveraging a broader team."* **Michael MacGinley** is based in Brisbane and operates a broad practice, with noted strengths in the mining and energy spaces, which encompasses transactional and project delivery as well as key contractual and commercial arrangements. **Strengths:** *"His strengths are being personable, calm, clear-thinking, experienced and practical." "Commercial acumen and clear legal advice from Michael are always appreciated."*

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison's respected team has an enviable national and regional footprint and is particularly noted for its representation of global mining houses, investors, leading regional oil and gas players and electricity companies, plus government agencies at both state and Commonwealth levels. The firm assists clients on both transactional and operational mandates, covering the full life cycles of their projects from initial exploration and financing, through operation, regulation and contentious issues, to disposal. The practice is able to leverage expertise from within the firm's wider resources to provide a holistic service covering such areas as disputes, environmental concerns and native title issues. Its key clients include Stanwell Corporation, New Hope Corporation and Minjar Gold.

Strengths

"MinterEllison have good commercial awareness and provide advice that assists us to achieve the best commercial outcome."

"The team is highly responsive to requests and can turn around work within tight timeframes."

Work highlights MinterEllison advised the State of Queensland in respect of its acquisition of a private transmission project in North Queensland, with an estimated project value of AUD5 billion.

Notable practitioners

Mark Carkeet enjoys a strong reputation for a wealth of regulatory expertise in the Queensland energy sector which draws upon his extensive experience of advising both regulators and prominent energy companies on policy development and compliance issues. **Simon Scott** advises leading resources companies on a range of complex mandates, including joint ventures, large acquisitions and ownership structures. He is based in Brisbane. **Joel Reid** is based in Brisbane and frequently provides assistance to state and Commonwealth governments, as well as government-owned companies, on matters related to electricity project investment and development, including renewable energy transition projects. Additionally, he acts for large mining companies on issues concerning the transition to renewable energy. **Clay Wohling** is based in MinterEllison's Adelaide office. He is an expert in advising electricity operators on contractual and regulatory

issues, as well as offering assistance during the whole process of large-scale electricity infrastructure projects. Clay offers extensive experience in renewable energy transition-related issues. **Strengths:** *"He brings a great deal of intellect and gravitas to negotiations with other parties, while not allowing that to get in the way of commerciality."*

Band 3

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy's well-regarded practice benefits from the impressive international reach conferred by its integrated global network, handling key transactions for household-name players in all practice area subsectors. The firm is equipped to provide support on transactional and operational issues both domestically and overseas. The practice is further distinguished for corporate expertise in project finance, structuring mergers and investments, particularly within the mining sector. Its notable clients include Sandfire Resources, LG Chem and Resolute Mining.

Strengths

"They are prompt, thorough and available."
"Allen & Overy understand our business, history of documents and legal issues that we need to resolve."

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised a uranium mining company, Peninsula Energy, on its capital raising, which included a fully underwritten placement and share purchase plan.

Notable practitioners

Angus Jones (see p.233) stands out for his impressive track record of advising on oil and gas projects across Asia, Africa, Australia and Europe. He operates in a consultant role from the Perth office. **Strengths:** *"He is seasoned, knowledgeable and professional."*

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie's compact Australian practice is backed by a global international network that is well suited to multi-jurisdictional transactions, with considerable capability across the Asia-Pacific region. The team offers especially impressive expertise in matters involving renewable energy projects in general and transactions concerning their infrastructure in particular. The practice is also noted for its enviable roster of investor and both international and domestic energy and resources corporate clients. The firm is especially active on deals in the mining and oil and gas arenas, and is further commended for its knowledge of energy contracting and regulatory matters. It counts among its clients Weston Energy, Sev.en Global Investments A.S. and Metis Energy.

Strengths

"Baker McKenzie consistently provides exceptional customer service and meets the short deadlines we often request."

"They always look out for the client's best position."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Metis Energy on its AUD12 million acquisition of a solar farm development project in Queensland.

Notable practitioners

Chris Saxon is based in Sydney and offers over two decades of experience advising on large-scale M&A deals, including major privatisations, within the electricity and renewables sectors.

Strengths: *"He is really strategic, working on high-level, long-reaching policies."* **Tanya Denning** is based in Brisbane and is noted for her experience advising on transactions concerning projects in the power and energy sectors, as well as their associated regulatory and compliance aspects. **Strengths:** *"Tanya is very strong and knowledgeable."*

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin's well-regarded group maintains a significant presence on large-scale mining and oil and gas mandates, assisting both domestic and international clients with a variety of transactional, regulatory and investment issues. The firm is particularly active within the renewables space, handling wind and solar projects, with additional experience advising on battery minerals-related matters, including the development of lithium mining projects. The practice also advises extensively on access to resources-related port and rail infrastructure. Its key clients include APA Group, IMDEX and Cooper Energy.

Strengths

"Their service level is consistently high, and they are highly responsive to our requirements."

"They are very informative and knowledgeable."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin advised OZ Minerals on its proposed AUD9.5 billion acquisition by BHP Lonsdale via a scheme of arrangement.

Notable practitioners

Michael Blakiston is based in Perth and is highly regarded for his impressive track record of advising mining clients on regulatory and transactional issues, both domestically and internationally, his range of experience covering over 50 jurisdictions. **Claire Boyd** is based in Perth and is well regarded for expertise handling complex transactions in the resources sector, including mergers and joint ventures. **Strengths:** *"Claire is a highly experienced energy and resources lawyer with deep technical knowledge."*

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery maintains a deep bench in this core practice area for the firm, with substantial partner presence in five cities and specialist expertise across the energy and resources spectrum. The practice enjoys a particularly high reputation in the oil and gas sphere, advising on both upstream and downstream projects. The team also assists clients with large-scale power and mining projects and is highly experienced in advising on acquisitions and divestments, joint venture formations, regulatory questions and access arrangements. Additionally, the firm is adept at handling the full life cycle of energy projects, especially in the solar and wind sectors, and is well placed to provide supporting advice on environmental and native title law issues impacting on practice area mandates. The practice's key clients include GB Energy Holdings, Magnetic Rail Group and New Hope Corporation.

Strengths

"They routinely raise commercial matters that they become aware of in drafting contracts, and make sure that the client is aware of where commercial input is required."

"The team is very prompt and efficient."

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery advised on the sale of Flotation Energy to TEPCO, which included interests in the Seadragon offshore wind project in Victoria.

Notable practitioners

Peter Rose is based in Melbourne and maintains a broad energy and resources practice. His work encompasses M&A transactions, share and asset acquisitions, and commodity sales, as well as associated competition and regulatory matters. He offers particularly focused expertise in oil and gas.

Bruce Adkins is based in Brisbane and is particularly well regarded for his handling of M&A transactions within the mining industry. **Strengths:** *"Bruce is one of the most prominent, experienced and sought-after lawyers in the resources industry in Australia."* **Peter Smith** is based in Brisbane and has over two decades of experience advising on a broad range of matters in the oil and gas space, including transactions, projects and regulatory matters. **Strengths:** *"His strength is his ability to deal with complex issues."* **Anthony Groom** is based in Adelaide and is noted for his handling of infrastructure projects within the electricity and gas sectors, especially issues around their procurement, construction and operation. **Jee-Seon Lee** advises across a broad range of utility-related matters, including gas and electricity regulations, commercial contracts such as power purchase and long-term offtake agreements, and project development issues. She is based in Perth.

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case's substantial and still expanding practice forms part of a global network with a notably strong regional presence, active in all practice area subsectors. The firm is acknowledged for its established eminence in the renewable and mining space, advising on transactions and project development. The practice is increasingly active advising on LNG projects and is also highly regarded for its project infrastructure development-related capability. The team is well placed to advise on relevant construction, environmental and financing issues. The firm's notable clients include Star of the South, Crowley Government Services and Carnarvon Energy.

Strengths

"White & Case are extremely well suited and minded to handle complex deals with multiple facets and risks."

"The service is top-notch, the best I've ever experienced."

Work highlights White & Case advised Neoen on the development and project financing of the Capital Battery lithium-ion battery storage facility.

Notable practitioners

Chris Flynn (see p.232), who works in White & Case's Sydney office, offers a wealth of experience in project advisory work, with a specific emphasis on large oil and gas projects. **Strengths:** *"He is a very commercial lead relationship partner."*

Band 4**DLA Piper Australia**

What the team is known for The DLA Piper energy and resources practice offers a particularly high cross-border capability, facilitated by the integrated nature of the firm's global network. The firm is particularly noted for its mining expertise and its established capability in the renewables space. The team boasts strong capabilities advising on policy development and regulations concerning exploration and extraction, particularly for governments overseas. It also has experience in the management of high-level, cross-jurisdictional contentious matters, notably including arbitration. Key clients include EV Metals, Leichhardt Industrials and Aspen Technology.

Strengths

"The deals are complex, and DLA have an innovative approach which provides imaginative thought around issues, taking into account commercial and financial issues whilst maintaining a commercial philosophy."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Leichhardt Industrials on the development of the Western Australia-based Eramurra Solar Salt Project.

Notable practitioners

Alex Jones (see p.233) is based in Perth and is highly regarded for his handling of both commercial and regulatory matters in the mining sector, particularly those with an international dimension.

Strengths: *"Alex has a pragmatic and sound understanding of commercial impacts on our business. We have a high level of confidence in the advice and work Alex does with us."*

Jackson McDonald

What the team is known for The Jackson McDonald energy and resources practice maintains a long-established and substantial presence in the Western Australian market. The firm is a go-to team for household names from the mining and oil and gas sectors, but also has notable expertise in energy technology and energy infrastructure projects. The practice is well known for its coverage of the renewables sector, particularly with regard to hydrogen-focused projects. The team also boasts impressive skills in relation to regulatory matters, drawing on its involvement in the development of state energy legislation to advise on reforms to the provision of gas and electricity. Its key clients include Indigenous Business Australia, JERA and Solar Suite.

Strengths

"Jackson McDonald responded quickly and effectively to all enquiries."

Work highlights Jackson McDonald advised Sun Bred Power on the sale of Cunderdin solar and battery project.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Bowen offers extensive experience across the oil and gas and power project spectrum. He is particularly noted for his in-depth knowledge of disruptive technologies and policy reform issues in the electricity sector.

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day's compact Australian team is fully connected to a worldwide network and focuses closely on the handling of transactional mandates for prominent players in all practice area subsectors, receiving acknowledgement for raising its profile in the mining space in particular. The firm often advises on contractual arrangements such as exploration and production or power purchase agreements, and offers notable expertise in regulatory and competition issues arising in the energy and resources space. Among its notable clients are Yara Pilbara Fertilisers, Scentre Group and CleanCo Queensland.

Strengths

"Their good industry experience leads to good commercial awareness."

Work highlights Jones Day represented Yara Pilbara Fertilisers in its gas portfolio arrangements in Western Australia.

Notable practitioners

Tony Wassaf is based in Sydney and is highly regarded for his extensive expertise and experience relating to the mining industry, where he has advised on a number of complex and large-scale transactions. **Strengths:** *"Tony is an excellent lawyer, and an intelligent and personable problem solver for our business."* **He is experienced, very knowledgeable and commercial."** **Darren Murphy** is based in Melbourne and has considerable experience advising on oil and gas-related transactional mandates across a number of jurisdictions, both within Australia and across the Asia-Pacific region. **Dan Howard** is based in Brisbane and is acknowledged for his strong expertise in the renewables sector. He is called upon by clients to advise on the development of large solar and wind projects in addition to offtake and power purchase agreements. **Strengths:** *"Dan is a very experienced and capable lawyer. He is very easy to deal with and nothing is too much trouble."*

McCullough Robertson

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson maintains an established presence on the East Coast with a longstanding, in-depth relationship with the Queensland coal sector, advising domestic and prominent international mining companies. The team represents clients across both the extractive industries and renewable energy market. The firm is acknowledged for offering a full 'pit to port' service on large-scale projects, coordinating expertise from across the firm to service everything from transactional matters to related environmental and cultural heritage approvals, health and safety and other regulatory issues and, where necessary, disputes. Principally active in Queensland and New South Wales, but also prominent on the national scene, the practice has recent mandates with Northern Territory, Tasmanian and Western Australian connections. Its key clients include Diatrene Resources, Vitrinite and Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group.

Strengths

"I cannot speak highly enough of them assisting me in those complex problems quickly and quite efficiently."

Work highlights McCullough Robertson advised

Peabody regarding environmental compliance, regulatory matters and enforcement actions stemming from the operation of its mines in New South Wales.

Notable practitioners

Damien Clarke is based in Brisbane and regularly advises mining sector clients on a range of commercial matters, including transactional and taxation issues. **Strengths:** *"Damien is an extremely experienced and commercial lawyer with a deep understanding of natural resources in Queensland."*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for The Norton Rose Fulbright team is the substantial Australian arm of a global practice with significant capacity to advise on both domestic and international energy and resources projects. The team is particularly experienced in acting on the financing and development of projects in the mining and renewable spheres. The firm acts in all sectors for public and private operators and investors, covering transactional, contentious and operational matters that frequently have cross-border aspects. The practice has notable experience advising prominent international energy companies on complex and strategic transactions. Its key clients include Essential Energy, Tokyo Gas and Federation Asset Management.

Strengths

"They are very prompt and resourceful, providing good practical advice."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Vestas – Australian Wind Technology on the development of the Golden Plains Wind Farm in Victoria.

Notable practitioners

Keira Brennan stands out for the breadth of her resources-related expertise. In addition to transactional mandates, she also advises on regulatory and contentious issues, and on questions concerning access to rail and port infrastructure. She is based in Brisbane. **Strengths:** *"She is very pragmatic and can give advice quickly and effectively."* *"Keira is an industry leading energy and resources lawyer whose advice is always well considered, commercial and practical."*

Band 5**Clifford Chance**

What the team is known for The Clifford Chance energy and resources team represents the Australian component of a renowned international firm, frequently utilising its global network in support of significant cross-border mandates for leading multinationals. The firm acts on the full range of practice area issues and at all stages of the project life cycle, but is especially prominent in the handling of major oil and gas mandates. The team boasts experience in relation to the arbitration of cross-border energy and resources sector disputes, while also offering notable expertise in the structuring of acquisitions, disposals and investments, particularly within the renewables sector. Its key clients include Viva Energy Group, Iberdrola and Gelion Technologies.

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised Partners

Group on its sale of CWP Renewables to Squadron Wind Energy Assets.

Notable practitioners

Nadia Kalic in Sydney is a key practice contact.

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons' respected, closely integrated, cross-sector group operates principally from offices in Sydney and Perth and offers experience advising domestic and international corporates on a comprehensive range of energy and resources matters. The team draws on the global resources of one of the world's largest law firms, equipping it for handling relevant corporate and projects-related matters. The practice is particularly known for advising on inbound Chinese investment and on matters with a Papua New Guinea connection. The firm often handles transactional matters across the three subsectors, as well as operational and contractual arrangements. Its key clients include Silex Systems, Montem Resources and Jiangxi Ganfeng Lithium.

Work highlights Dentons worked as Australian counsel for Montem Resources in the sale of a 50% stake in Tent Mountain Renewable Energy Complex to TransAlta.

Notable practitioners

Kym Livesley is a key contact for clients.

Grondal Bruining

What the team is known for Grondal Bruining's well-reputed Perth-based practice is commended for its expertise across the subsectors, receiving particularly high praise for its capabilities in oil and gas. The firm frequently advises on contractual issues arising from major projects within the natural resources space, including procurements,

royalty and cooperation agreements, in addition to gas sale and transportation matters.

Strengths

"It's a Perth-based high-quality boutique with good operators."

Notable practitioners

James Bruining is well regarded for his advice on downstream gas and utility matters and is further noted for his handling of key contractual arrangements for large projects.

HopgoodGanim Lawyers

What the team is known for HopgoodGanim Lawyers' compact team has an acknowledged reputation for its work on behalf of resource explorers and producers, especially junior and mid-market mining clients, in Queensland and Western Australia. The firm is also active in the electricity and oil and gas sectors, with the team providing full support on associated land court, project development and native title issues, in addition to transactional matters. The practice offers notable expertise, too, in the handling of resources infrastructure projects, including their financing, developmental and operational aspects, and maintains close relations with leading resources industry associations.

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Fulcher heads the practice and is a key contact for clients.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Simon Adams of Squire Patton Boggs in Perth is noted for his considerable knowledge of energy sector regulation and often advises on regulatory proceedings, reforms and pricing reviews, as well

as transactional and operational matters.

Michael Bowen of Thomson Geer in Perth stands out for specialised M&A expertise pertaining to the mining sector.

Mitzi Gilligan of Hive Legal in Melbourne is especially well regarded for her commercial and regulatory advice, particularly within the gas and electricity sectors.

Michael Hunt of EMK Lawyers is renowned for his pioneering work in Western Australian mining law. He boasts an impressive track record advising prominent international mining and petroleum clients on major projects.

Peter Limbers of Maddocks in Sydney is very well regarded in the utilities space, where he has practised for over 20 years. He advises across a range of transactional and regulatory issues, acting for both public and private sector clients.

Strengths:

"He is the industry leader and an expert in electricity market rules and regulations."

Martin Lovell of Piper Alderman is based in Adelaide and is well regarded for his advisory work in relation to major infrastructure projects. He handles acquisitions and joint ventures in the utilities sector, with a particular emphasis on renewables.

Strengths:

"Martin is a valued all-round business adviser in addition to a trusted, competent lawyer who provides exceptional legal advice."

Mark White of White Legal in Brisbane has over 25 years of experience advising on utility sector transactions, contracts and projects, offering particular expertise on electricity regulation.

Strengths:

"He is very sharp and very good."

Environment & Planning

Band 1

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst's formidable expertise is applied on behalf of both public and private sector clients in obtaining planning and environmental approvals for infrastructure projects, as well as regulatory approvals for mining and renewable energy projects. The team frequently advises clients on litigation, particularly defending contamination prosecutions and challenges to mining project approvals. The law firm is also active in major inquiries and regulatory investigations at both the national and state levels, and able to draw on the global Ashurst network for jurisdiction-specific expertise as required. Ashurst regularly advises government entities as well as major international corporates in the energy, resources and mining sectors. Its key cli-

ents include AGL, Transurban and Barro.

Strengths

"They have a good understanding of the industry and commercial drivers."

"They have a broad team who are very highly experienced."

Work highlights Ashurst advised ACEN Australia on obtaining the necessary environmental and planning approvals for the Robbins Island Wind Farm, which has a number of opponents.

Notable practitioners

John Briggs is based in Brisbane and is particularly respected for his work in the resources sector, where he advises clients in relation to contentious environment matters and regulatory compliance issues. He also offers carbon, climate and water law-related expertise. **Robert Jamieson** is a highly experienced Melbourne-based partner who assists clients with the environment and

planning aspects of a variety of projects, including energy and transport infrastructure developments. **Mark Brennan** is a highly respected environmental lawyer with an impressive track record of advising mining and resource sector clients on environmental and regulatory approvals.

Strengths: *"Mark is considered the leading practitioner in NSW in this area and is used by us for all complex planning and environmental matters."*

Tony Hill is a highly respected Sydney-based practitioner, noted for his work advising clients on environment and planning issues relating to infrastructure projects. He acts regularly for New South Wales government agencies as well as leading private sector players. **Rebecca Dixon** is based in Sydney and maintains a comprehensive practice, regularly advising clients in relation to environmental compliance, approvals and disputes. **Jane Hall** advises across environmental

Environment & Planning
Leading Firms
Band 1
Ashurst
Clayton Utz
Band 2
Allens
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
MinterEllison
Norton Rose Fulbright
White & Case LLP
Band 3
Colin Biggers & Paisley
Lavan
Maddocks
McCullough Robertson
Band 4
Addisons
Baker McKenzie
Beatty Hughes & Associates
Hall & Wilcox
HopgoodGanim Lawyers
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

and planning matters in the energy, water and manufacturing sectors. She has particular experience handling contaminated land and compulsory acquisition matters. **Strengths:** “She is very pragmatic, accessible, timely and prompt.”

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz maintains a strong focus on public sector infrastructure and development which encompasses rail, road, broadband and urban renewal projects. The environment and planning team also assists leading corporates seeking approvals for mining enterprises or residential, commercial and leisure property developments. Additionally, Clayton Utz represents public and private sector entities in high-profile litigation and before inquiries and tribunals addressing environmental issues, as well as advising on regulatory compliance matters. The firm offers expertise in renewable energy, climate change and water matters, and stands out for exploiting new technology to facilitate rapid reaction to environmental incidents. Its key clients include Australian Rail Track Corporation, EnergyAustralia and TransGrid.

Strengths

“The depth and breadth of the team’s knowledge is second to none.”

“An excellent team to work with. They are very commercial in their approach – they consider all angles.”

Work highlights Clayton Utz acted for Transgrid on securing the environmental and planning approvals under Commonwealth, NSW and Victorian legislation, land access and property acquisition and interface agreements for Project EnergyConnect.

Notable practitioners

Karen Trainor is based in Brisbane and is particularly highly regarded for her representation of mining and resources sector clients in planning

Environment & Planning
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Briggs John Ashurst
Jamieson Robert Ashurst
Prokuda Henry Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Whitehouse John MinterEllison
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Brennan Mark Ashurst
Briggs Peter Herbert Smith Freehills
Hill Tony Ashurst
Power Tim White & Case LLP*
Trainor Karen Clayton Utz
Band 2
Ball Simon MinterEllison
Bateman Brendan Clayton Utz
Beatty Andrew Beatty Hughes & Associates
Bowie Leanne Leanne Bowie Lawyers (ORL) ◇
Brunton Nick Norton Rose Fulbright
Covington Christine Corrs Chambers Westgarth
de Wit Elisa Norton Rose Fulbright
Everett Sallyanne Clayton Utz
Ibbotson Patrick Maddocks
Macindoe Sally Norton Rose Fulbright
Rourke Felicity Allens
Smith Claire Clayton Utz
Wild Elizabeth Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 3
Audeyev Sally King & Wood Mallesons
Beaufoy Mark King & Wood Mallesons
Brezzi Tamara Norton Rose Fulbright
Button Jillian Allens
Camenzuli Louise Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Causser Michael King & Wood Mallesons
Davis Stephen Davis Advisory (ORL) ◇
Dixon Rebecca Ashurst
Hanmore Tim MinterEllison
Hoare Rebecca Norton Rose Fulbright
McCredie Bill Allens
Pacey Kathryn Herbert Smith Freehills
Thomas Nick Clayton Utz
Wallace Craig Lavan
Wright Ian Colin Biggers & Paisley
Band 4
Asten Heidi Herbert Smith Freehills
Austin Matthew King & Wood Mallesons
Daly Samantha Johnson Winter Slattery (ORL) ◇
Gardiner Damien Clayton Utz
Hall Jane Ashurst
Hughes Jennifer Beatty Hughes & Associates
Kahagalle Harshane Addisons
Keen Michelle White & Case LLP*
Lalich Paul HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Lee Meg Hall & Wilcox*
Leong Michael Corrs Chambers Westgarth
McQueen Paul Lavan
Meurling Rosanne Allens
Millar Ilona Gilbert + Tobin (ORL) ◇
Murray Penny Addisons
Shannon Noni Norton Rose Fulbright
Simpson Madeline Herbert Smith Freehills
Walker Luke MinterEllison
Whealy Anthony Mills Oakley (ORL) ◇
Up-and-coming individuals
Pleming Rebecca Allens

approval and contentious environmental mandates. **Strengths:** “She is great. She’s very experienced and well regarded, so she’s reliable and good to deal with. I would not hesitate to use her again.” **Brendan Bateman** is a frequent adviser to energy and infrastructure clients on planning approval and environmental matters. He is particularly well reputed for transport-related mandates. **Strengths:** “Brendan has been a renowned expert in environmental law for many years and always provides quality advice.” **Sallyanne Everett** is a well-regarded Melbourne-based practitioner who is particularly noted for her provision of environment and planning advice to Victorian government clients engaged in major road and rail transportation projects. **Strengths:** “Sallyanne has a wealth of knowledge in the planning and environment space and an ability to distil it to a level that can be understood by all.” **Claire Smith** is a versatile Sydney-based partner with expertise spanning the environment, planning and climate change spectrum who advises on a variety of issues, including contaminated land matters and planning disputes. **Strengths:** “She’s an excellent adviser with a genuinely strong interest in the area of expertise.” **Nick Thomas** counts both government entities and private sector players among his clientele, whom he regularly assists with planning, environmental and climate change issues impacting on their infrastructure and utilities projects. He is based in Sydney. **Damien Gardiner** is a respected Melbourne-based practitioner whose environment and planning expertise is substantially focused on environmental impact assessment, contaminated land and land acquisition matters. **Strengths:** “He’s very well trusted for his pragmatic approach.”

Band 2

Allens

What the team is known for The Allens practice coordinates expertise from across the firm to support a comprehensive range of planning and environment requirements relevant to high-profile energy, mining, infrastructure and residential projects. The firm also stands out for its representation of blue-chip national and international clients and governmental agencies and for its cutting-edge climate change expertise. Allens team is frequently called upon to advise on substantial environment disputes as well as to assist on advisory matters. Its key clients include BlueScope, ATCO Australia and Woodside.

Strengths

“The partners I have worked with are deep thinkers and extremely competent in managing complex and sophisticated matters.”

Work highlights Allens defended Stockyard Hill Wind Farm in common law nuisance proceedings before the Supreme Court, brought by a group of neighbouring landowners.

Notable practitioners

Felicity Rourke is based in Sydney and often acts for corporate clients in environmental disputes arising from project developments or upgrade works. **Strengths:** “Felicity is a wonderful lawyer. I like her communication style – she is very direct.”

Jillian Button regularly acts for energy and resources sector clients on both advisory and dispute-related mandates, and is also active on climate change issues. She is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** “Jill is always a real pleasure to work with. She has a calm, highly intelligent and friendly demeanour, being truly client-focused in a manner that enables our complex litigation matters to proceed extremely smoothly, given her invaluable input and oversight.” **Bill McCredie** is based in Brisbane, where he is recognised for his ability to handle both contentious and advisory environment and planning mandates for clients engaged in resources and infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** “Bill loves what he does, and it shows in his high-quality work and client service.” **Rosanne Meurling** is based in Brisbane and maintains a busy practice, largely focused on the provision of advice to public and private sector players involved in urban and infrastructure development projects in Queensland. Her expertise covers both advisory and contentious briefs. **Rebecca Fleming** is a partner in Allen’s Sydney office, where she advises on development consents and planning appeals for large infrastructure and real estate projects.

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth’s well-regarded team offers full national coverage, addressing a comprehensive range of contentious and non-contentious matters. The firm’s environment and planning team advises energy and natural resources companies on planning approval, energy efficiency, sustainability and climate change concerns in addition to water rights and infrastructure. Other mandates covered include the environment and planning approvals necessary for property and urban development, transport infrastructure and telecommunications. The team also advises on major issues relating to waste disposal and contaminated sites, as well as investigations and enforcement actions in relation to offences under the Environmental Protection Act. Its key clients include Santos, Investa and Oxford Properties and Mirvac.

Strengths

“We have had to navigate some challenging matters, and the team at Corrs have been extremely responsive and supportive. They are very good at prioritising the urgent and advising when other matters may be dealt with in order to confirm the timing with you.”

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth acted for Investa and Oxford Properties on drafting and negotiating its planning agreement with the NSW Government for heritage floor space contributions for the Pitt Street Over Station Development project in the Sydney Central Business District.

Notable practitioners

Henry Prokuda is based in Brisbane and offers a wealth of experience in the representation of both state and local government and private sector clients in practice area issues, including contentious matters considered by Queensland’s Planning and Environment and Land Courts. **Christine Covington** maintains a varied environment and planning practice, regularly assisting clients

from the construction and energy sectors with both disputes and advisory matters. **Strengths:** “Christine is extremely responsive and always delivers great service, taking into account the complex structure of the business she is working with.” **Louise Camenzuli** is based in Sydney and is a frequent adviser to both public and private sector clients on planning and environment issues arising from property developments and energy and resources and infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** “She’s very much my ‘Phone a friend’ in the planning space. I can go to her for anything – ad hoc, informal, formal or complex issues. She’s user-friendly, prompt, cost-effective and gives good, sound advice.” **Michael Leong** is a Brisbane-based urban planning specialist who regularly advises clients on planning approval mandates relating to major developments.

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for The Herbert Smith Freehills team is noted for its national reach and integration of strategic advice from all relevant practice areas to address environmental and planning issues arising throughout the life-cycles of the largest and most complex projects. The law firm is well known for its comprehensive land access and approvals service, supporting both public and private sector projects. The team possesses specialised expertise with regard to environmental impact assessments of mining projects and the specific regulatory considerations affecting developments in the renewables sector. The firm leverages a market-leading dispute resolution practice to assist clients with contentious planning and environmental mandates. Its key clients include Golden Plains Wind Farm, Health Infrastructure NSW and Flotation Energy.

Strengths

“HSF have a sophisticated understanding of complex planning and regulatory matters as they relate to renewable energy projects in Australia.”

“All of the lawyers in the environment team are just wonderful to work with. They’re very collaborative and provide bespoke advice that matches our risk tolerance.”

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised ENGIE Australia & New Zealand on its planning approvals strategy for the Hills of Gold Wind Farm.

Notable practitioners

Peter Briggs is based in Sydney and regularly assists clients with environmental and planning issues relating to energy projects and other major developments, handling both advisory and contentious mandates. **Strengths:** “A brilliant legal mind who approaches every problem with elegant, logical precision. There’s no one I’d rather have in my corner.” **Kathryn Pacey** is well regarded in Brisbane for her work acting for major infrastructure players on all environment and planning aspects of major projects, as well as for assisting clients with environmental issues arising from M&A transactions. **Strengths:** “She has been excellent and provides very pragmatic, sensible and timely advice.” **Heidi Asten** is based in Melbourne and regularly advises clients on environment and planning issues relating to major property developments and transport projects. **Strengths:**

“She has an amazing depth of experience in her field of expertise.” **Madeline Simpson** is based in Brisbane and well regarded in the market for her extensive track record of work on behalf of Queensland government clients on planning and contaminated land disputes.

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons maintains a specialist team with a broad national footprint, coordinating multidisciplinary expertise to advise high-profile corporate and government clients on the environmental and planning aspects of large-scale transactions, infrastructure developments and other major projects. The legal team handles compliance and approval questions, land remediation, water supply and contamination issues, as well as representing clients in planning litigation cases. King & Wood Mallesons represents clients from a number of sectors including infrastructure real estate, energy and natural resources. Its key clients include Lendlease, Telstra and Aurizon.

Strengths

“The team has been great to work with, and they are all clearly very committed and skilled in their field.” “They are very good at strategic thinking, risk assessment and dealing with how to progress a matter.”

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons advised Telstra on the national rollout of mobile base stations, including four separate planning appeals before the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Notable practitioners

Sally Audeyev is a Perth-based practitioner who regularly advises clients on environment and planning issues associated with the development of major Western Australian energy and resources projects. She is noted for her specialist expertise and insights from the public sector and indigenous heritage spheres. **Strengths:** “She has been very impressive in her reasoning, approach and flexibility of thought to deliver an outcome.” **Mark Beaufoy** is based in Melbourne and frequently assists clients with contaminated land matters, environment disputes and planning issues. He also has experience acting on land access, compulsory acquisition and planning appeals for large infrastructure and greenfield developments. **Michael Causer** is based in Sydney and stands out for his work on compulsory acquisition mandates and environmental issues, which often concern contaminated land or other instances of pollution. **Strengths:** “He is very competent in his field and always provides useful advice.” **Matthew Austin** acts for clients from a variety of sectors, including energy, resources and real estate, whom he advises on matters ranging from regulatory approvals to contaminated land issues. He is based in Brisbane.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison maintains an impressive national footprint and frequently represents leading corporates and government departments on the environment and planning aspects of major resources, infrastructure and retail developments. The environment

and planning team offers especially well-developed expertise in obtaining licences to operate and the various approvals processes. The team is further noted for expertise regarding state government infrastructure sales, defence against environmental NGO litigation, compliance actions and its assistance in response to environmental damage investigations. Its key clients include Dexus, Transport for NSW and Yancoal.

Strengths

"They show deep and detailed knowledge of the relevant legislation and policies and condense key issues. Their capacity to translate complex issues to the layperson is much appreciated."

"Because of the breadth of their experience, they are often across issues outside of the scope in question and can bring that awareness to problem solving."

Work highlights MinterEllison advised Transport for NSW on the delivery of the Inland Rail project, including compulsory acquisition of land and appeals.

Notable practitioners

John Whitehouse is a seasoned and highly respected, Sydney-based practitioner with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the planning and environmental law spheres. He brings to the table the particularly notable advantage of being one of the authors of the relevant New South Wales legislation, and of having held significant posts in a number of relevant state departments.

Strengths: *"He has helped write the legislation and the textbook for law schools in New South Wales."*

Simon Ball is noted for his work assisting on environment issues impacting on mining and energy and resources-related infrastructure projects.

Strengths: *"He understands our business well and tailors advice accordingly. Simon is always responsive and proactive on changes to legislation that may impact our business."*

Tim Hanmore is a Brisbane-based partner and frequent adviser to mining clients, often acting on environmental and planning approval matters and related compliance issues.

Strengths: *"Tim is always willing to bring solutions to the table and also listens to input."*

Luke Walker is based in Sydney and regularly advises both government and private sector clients on the planning and environment elements of major infrastructure projects.

Strengths: *"We seriously value his customer service, expertise and advice."*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright offers core expertise in relation to major property developments, including commercial, residential and broader infrastructure mandates.

The team is experienced in handling planning disputes, including development challenges and compensation claims as well as environmental investigations. Norton Rose Fulbright is prominent in climate change matters and advising on energy and renewables projects, offering specialist assistance on waste management, compliance matters and environmental risk assessment. The firm is also increasingly active on matters relating to infrastructure projects. Its key clients include Bayport Group, Qantas Airways and Mirvac BTR Developments.

Strengths

"They have excellent bench strength. We can be very demanding with timing, and they work hard to deliver."

"They give very strategic advice on how to approach the planning scheme process."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright represented Bayport and Intrapac Property in obtaining approvals required under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (and Planning and Environment Act 1987 for the rehabilitation of the Lilydale Quarry).

Notable practitioners

Nick Brunton is based in Sydney and is well regarded for his contentious practice, regularly advising clients on major land acquisition and relocation disputes.

Strengths: *"He's a top operator in his field."* **Elisa de Wit** is based in Melbourne, where she heads Norton Rose Fulbright's Australian climate change practice. Her practice covers contamination, pollution and carbon offsets, as well as compliance with environmental legislation.

Strengths: *"Elisa is well respected and continues to deliver responsive and high-quality work."*

Sally Macindoe regularly handles planning matters relating to major infrastructure projects from the Melbourne office. **Elizabeth Wild** is an established Sydney-based environment and planning lawyer who advises clients on disputes and compliance in relation to pollution and contaminated land matters.

Tamara Brezzi is a well-regarded practitioner who often acts on planning disputes and regulatory compliance issues relating to property developments. Based in Melbourne, she is a particularly experienced handler of matters considered by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Planning Panels Victoria.

Strengths: *"Tamara thinks strategically and holistically. She understands and advises on whether an aspect of the project will be successful either way. She's commercially minded and a pleasure to work with."*

Rebecca Hoare is based in Brisbane and acts for prominent government, infrastructure and resource sector clients on environment and planning matters, which notably include approvals, carbon pricing and climate change issues and environmental investigations.

Noni Shannon acts for both public and private sector players on environmental and climate law issues, and is particularly noted for advising energy and renewables clients on environmental regulatory compliance and contentious matters.

Strengths: *"The insights and guidance she gives in her field of expertise are incredibly useful. She has a gift for explaining the law, and the 'why!'"*

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for The White & Case team is the Australian arm of a global firm and is acknowledged for its management of all planning and environment approvals processes for project delivery, particularly with regard to energy projects and transport infrastructure upgrades.

The firm is also experienced in handling environmental regulatory, land acquisition, native title and cultural heritage matters, and is well placed to coordinate with the firm's highly regarded projects and infrastructure team. Its key clients include Esso Australia, AusNet Transmission and

Suburban Rail Loop Authority.

Strengths

"White & Case are extremely experienced, both in terms of subject matter and processes. They have a strong ability to handle complex situations and provide sound advice."

"The E&P team consistently provide excellent and responsive services."

Work highlights White & Case advised AusNet Services on the environment and planning aspects of the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project, including the land assembly and approvals process.

Notable practitioners

Tim Power (see p.235) is widely acknowledged both by clients and by other market commentators as a leading practitioner for environment and planning issues who frequently advises on issues arising from infrastructure, resources and energy projects.

Strengths: *"He's a fantastic lawyer and a force."* *"Tim's excellent skills, knowledge and experience are highly valued."*

Michelle Keen (see p.233) is based in Melbourne and is particularly active assisting clients on the environmental approval and land acquisition aspects of mining and renewable energy projects.

Strengths: *"Michelle is incredibly proficient and knowledgeable in what she does. She is great to work with."*

Band 3

Colin Biggers & Paisley

What the team is known for Colin Biggers & Paisley is frequently engaged by local councils to assist on environment and planning matters, as well as being regularly instructed by corporate clients and developers. The firm often advises on the planning of residential, retail and commercial developments. The team also demonstrates expertise regarding environmental compliance and land contamination matters. Its key clients include Logan City Council, Woolworths and Sunshine Coast Regional.

Strengths *"Their team is very strong – they clearly understand the strengths and weaknesses of the industry they participate in, and their respect within the market is obvious."*

"A highly competent, engaged and professional team. I never have to worry about difficult negotiations with them in the room."

Work highlights Colin Biggers & Paisley advised DCF Property Group on its VCAT planning appeal for a AUD170 million 25-storey mixed-use development at 28-32 Albert Road, South Melbourne.

Notable practitioners **Ian Wright** regularly acts for developers and local councils in relation to planning and environment regulatory compliance issues affecting major developments.

Lavan **What the team is known for** Lavan is a Perth-based firm with noted capabilities for advising landowners, developers and government on a range of environment and planning issues. The team is proficient at handling compliance and approval issues as well as rights, liabilities and

reviews. The environment and planning team also has particularly extensive experience advising on the implications, management, acquisition and disposal of contaminated land. Its key clients include Satterley Property, Gurner and GreenSquare DC.

Strengths

“Lavan has a strong team that can manage both basic and very complex matters. Their understanding of not only the law but planning practice and political context is critical.”

“Planning and environmental law is complex and constantly changing. The Lavan team provide sound, tested advice and are up to date on legislative changes and policy settings of the relevant decision-making authority.”

Work highlights Lavan acted for the Woolworths Group on a significant supermarket development of the Captain Stirling site in Nedlands, Western Australia.

Notable practitioners

Craig Wallace acts prominently across a comprehensive range of planning and environmental issues, acting for both developers and government agencies and offering particularly extensive experience of approval mandates and matters concerning contaminated land. **Strengths:** *“Craig provides a very strong level of service and has a high level of sophistication in environmental and planning law.”* **Paul McQueen** is an experienced handler of planning application and land contamination and compensation matters for developer clients and has also litigated practice area issues at Supreme Court of Western Australia, Federal Court and High Court levels. **Strengths:** *“Paul fully understands our needs and responds as required. He’s a strategic thinker.”*

Maddocks

What the team is known for Maddocks fields notable expertise in relation to environmental law, including on matters involving land contamination and the environmental aspects of resources projects. The team is able to assist clients on both contentious and advisory mandates. Maddocks is frequently engaged by local councils as well as other government clients. Its key clients include Airservices Australia, Victoria Planning Authority and Transport for New South Wales.

Strengths

“Maddocks are a capable team with extensive knowledge, experience and credibility.”

“They have an excellent understanding of government processes and needs.”

Work highlights Maddocks advised Parramatta City Council on the acquisition by Sydney Metro of a large parcel of land in the Parramatta CBD from the counsel, resulting in a large compensation claim.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Ibbotson is based in Sydney and is highly regarded for his expertise in contamination and environmental regulatory compliance issues, receiving regular instructions from government entities at Commonwealth, state and local levels. **Strengths:** *“He’s a strategic thinker and hard-working, with a strong administrative law and planning law background.”*

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson maintains, particularly on the eastern seaboard, its noted reputation for advice on planning and environmental questions affecting coal mine acquisitions, development and expansion, including compliance, impact assessments and risk mitigation. The firm also handles associated investigations and disputes mandates for a clientele which includes global multinationals, state-owned entities and local councils. It houses a noted renewables capability, plus expertise covering approvals for large-scale mixed-use developments, transport infrastructure and greenfield projects.

Notable practitioners

Stuart Macnaughton in Brisbane and Patrick Holland in Sydney are key contacts.

Band 4

Addisons

What the team is known for Addisons maintain a specialist practice, advising an impressive range of developers such as Mirvac, Stockland and Cbus Property. The team handles the planning and approval aspects of large property, infrastructure, retail and mixed-use developments. In addition to planning approvals, rezoning and compulsory acquisition matters, the firm is well reputed for Land and Environment Court of NSW disputes.

Strengths

“They have a strong team with a great depth of knowledge, and all members are readily available. They are very efficient and nimble, and always provide timely advice.”

Work highlights Addisons advised Mirvac on gaining planning approval on its AUD600 million office tower at Circular Quay in Sydney.

Notable practitioners

Harshane Kahagalle in Sydney is a respected practitioner, particularly noted for the support he gives clients on planning and property development appeal mandates. He brings to the table extensive experience in the litigation of matters arising from major commercial and infrastructure projects and the valuable additional insights that come from having originally trained as an architect. **Penny Murray** acts for a number of prominent developers on their planning approval, zoning and environmental matters. She also has a strong track record in compensation claims. **Strengths:** *“She’s a technical expert and intellectual authority. You can put her in front of non-legal people as she’s great at explaining issues.”*

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie’s nationwide practice maintains a close focus on climate change and renewable energy projects. The firm also handles mandates concerning emissions reduction and carbon sequestration, alongside traditional environmental and planning matters. The team demonstrates strong expertise in handling contamination-related mandates. Its key clients include Providence Climate Capital, Infrastructure New South Wales and VicForests.

Strengths

“Having a deep team to draw on adds to the confidence that we have in Baker McKenzie. The team always provide timely advice and are willing to pivot and be responsive to urgent requests when required.”

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Infrastructure New South Wales on the State Significant Development concept application for the Powerhouse Ultimo Renewal project.

Notable practitioners

Sydney-based partner Ruth Dawes is a key practice contact.

Beatty Hughes & Associates

What the team is known for Beatty Hughes & Associates is a Sydney boutique focused on environment, planning and valuation matters and advising a broad spectrum of government, developer, contractor and industry clients across a similarly comprehensive range of practice area issues. It offers particularly focused expertise concerning waste law questions and in the representation of clients seeking compensation in the wake of compulsory land acquisitions, and receives regular referrals from other law firms for matters in these and other highly specialised spheres.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Beatty handles a wide range of environment and planning issues for a diverse clientele, being particularly well known for his handling of contentious matters, notably including the representation of dispossessed landowners. **Strengths:** *“He is an absolutely fantastic lawyer and an authority in the field.”* **Jennifer Hughes** is particularly noted for her work on waste and contamination issues, and is also a prominent adviser on environmental incident and compliance matters.

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox advises across land acquisition and compensation claims, environmental and conservation policy and planning approvals, as well as related appeals and disputes. In addition to property developers, the team often acts for local and town councils and state government departments. Key clients include Victorian Rail Track Corporation, the City of Kingston and the Department of Transport and Planning.

Strengths

“They have a good understanding of the commercial realities of projects and provide good advice to clients.”

“The leaders of the planning team are skilled in their roles. They are always trying to get the best results for the client.”

Work highlights Hall & Wilcox acted for Riverlee Caruso Epping on its AUD2 billion urban renewal project, ‘New Epping’, at a 51-hectare former quarry site in Epping, Melbourne.

Notable practitioners

Meg Lee (see p.234) in Melbourne offers over two decades’ experience in the representation of government clients and players from a wide variety of private sector industries in planning and environmental approvals and appeals. **Strengths:** *“Meg is very passionate about appropriate planning”*

outcomes that consider the client's needs, the community and the environment. She has a very personal style and can provide skilled and experienced advice in a way that outlines the risks and is easily understood."

HopgoodGanim Lawyers

What the team is known for HopgoodGanim Lawyers provides environment and planning advice on major projects, including infrastructure, retail, industrial and residential developments, offering full life-cycle coverage of all regulatory requirements. Its team also assists in obtaining environmental approvals for mining and other natural resources projects, particularly in Queensland, and is noted for focused expertise in areas such as environmental offsets and wildlife conservation issues. The firm is experienced acting for government entities and landowners on regional Planning and Environment Court and Supreme Court planning litigation matters. Its key clients include Dexus; the Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning; and Stockwell Development.

Notable practitioners

Brisbane-based partners Sarah Macoun and James Ireland are key contacts.

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for The HWL Ebsworth team represents a broad range of clientele, from developers and landowners to energy companies. The firm is particularly well regarded for advising local government on planning agreements and appeals. The team also has experience advising on the planning aspects of large real estate and infrastructure developments.

Notable practitioners

Paul Lalich in Sydney is recognised in the market for his experience acting for clients on a variety of planning matters, including both approvals and disputes.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Leanne Bowie of Leanne Bowie Lawyers in Brisbane commands a high level of respect as a leading figure in the environmental law sphere who is particularly noted for her work on behalf of leading energy and mining sector clients.

Strengths:

"She has always shown breadth and depth of understanding in her advice."

Samantha Daly of Johnson Winter Slattery has

experience advising on approvals, disputes and investigations across the property, mining and infrastructure sectors.

Stephen Davis of Davis Advisory in Melbourne is respected for his deep experience in environmental law and particularly noted for his ability to handle contentious matters.

Ilona Millar of Gilbert + Tobin is renowned for her environment, sustainability and climate change work. Her practice covers climate change, ESG and waste policy.

Strengths:

"Ilona has significant and broad experience and provides wise counsel."

Anthony Whealy of Mills Oakley heads the firm's planning and environment team. He enjoys a strong reputation for acting for developers on their planning approvals and disputes.

Strengths:

"He's a well-known planning lawyer with a good reputation and great pedigree."

"He's knowledgeable, practical and experienced. He brings understanding and clarity to complex planning matters."

Financial Services Regulation

Financial Services Regulation
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
Ashurst
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
Band 2
Clayton Utz
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Gilbert + Tobin
MinterEllison
Band 3
Allen & Overy LLP
Baker McKenzie
K&L Gates
Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 4
Gadens
Hall & Wilcox
Hamilton Locke
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Piper Alderman
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Financial Services Regulation
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Forrest Katherine King & Wood Mallesons
Gordon Jonathan Ashurst
Hastings Luke Herbert Smith Freehills
Smythe Narelle Ashurst
Vrisakis Michael Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 2
Batten Richard MinterEllison
Boynton Jim King & Wood Mallesons
Chaaya Michael Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Eastwood Andrew Herbert Smith Freehills
Harris Richard Gilbert + Tobin
Levy Michelle Allens*
Smedley Fiona Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 3
Beatty Andrea Piper Alderman
Bentley Nikki EY Law (ORL) ◇
Daley Matthew Clayton Utz
Band 4
Denisenko Jason Allen & Overy LLP*
Fuggle Bill Baker McKenzie
Galvin Andrew HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Jackson-Maynes Kate King & Wood Mallesons
Mavrakis Nicholas Ashurst
McHattan Corey Ashurst
Band 4
Bell Austin Johnson Winter Slattery (ORL) ◇
Bulling Jim K&L Gates
El Hassan Zein KPMG Law (ORL) ◇
Freeman Ross MinterEllison
Healy Felicity Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Khoury Fadi Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Knight Daniel K&L Gates
Lumsden Jaime Hamilton Locke
Reeves Peter Gilbert + Tobin
Up-and-coming individuals
Haig Peter Allens

Band 1

Allens

What the team is known for Allens is regularly sought out by major banks, wealth managers and other financial institutions for advice on a range of regulatory matters in connection with superannuation and investment funds. The team frequently provides advice on regulatory compliance and the

structural and governance changes required as a result of significant mergers and acquisitions in the financial services industry. The firm additionally provides back-end assistance to clients facing regulatory investigations.

Strengths

"Allens is the clear industry leader in this space. They have the most experience, including on the highest-profile and most complex matters."

"The team deftly and sensitively handle matters that require balancing of complex factual, legal, commercial and regulatory issues."

Work highlights Allens represented Westpac in ASIC civil penalty proceedings alleging insider trading, unconscionable conduct and AFSL breaches concerning its involvement in the part-privatisation of Ausgrid in 2016.

Notable practitioners

Michelle Levy (see p.234) is a highly experienced figure in the market who often assists clients on regulatory issues relating to superannuation funds. **Strengths:** *"She's a very prominent name – very well regarded in the regulatory sense."* **Peter Haig** is a well-regarded litigator with a growing reputation for advising clients on AUSTRAC investigations and compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regulations. **Strengths:** *"He has all the skills of a great law firm partner. He's unbelievably responsive and stays very close to matters."*

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst demonstrates considerable experience in a broad range of financial services law, advising an array of financial institutions. It is recognised as a go-to firm for advice on complex investigations and enforcements, with additional expertise in areas such as derivatives and payment systems regulation. The team is regarded as one of the leading contentious regulatory offerings and remains a valued adviser for global financial institutions on cross-border mandates, on their entry into Australian financial services markets and on their ongoing engagements with financial services regulators. Clients of the firm include ANZ, REA Group and Mercy Super.

Strengths

"The Ashurst financial services team has great depth and breadth in the field. The broader team offering is also well advanced, and the interaction between Ashurst's legal arm and risk advisory arm works well, blending specialist legal knowledge, technical risk management and compliance expertise."

"Ashurst are extremely capable when presented with unique or complex matters. I have also noticed that Ashurst has the depth of experience within its FSR team to draw on other practitioners as necessary."

Work highlights Ashurst advised ANZ on the regulatory aspects of its AUD4.9 billion acquisition of Suncorp Bank and its subsequent integration.

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Gordon is a well-established and highly regarded lawyer in the financial services area, frequently acting for clients on the establishment of operations and the implementation of regulatory regimes. **Strengths:** *"Jonathan is a market leader in financial services – he's pragmatic and responsive."* **Narelle Smythe** is a leading practitioner in the financial services space and is highly regarded for her expertise in relation to consumer credit and payment systems. **Strengths:** *"Her depth of knowledge, strategic approach, formidable industry awareness and client engagement make even the most challenging matters so much easier to resolve and address."* **Nicholas Mavrakis**

is a seasoned and respected litigator who is experienced at assisting financial services clients on contentious matters. **Strengths:** *"Overall, he's a pleasure to work with. He gets into the weeds and understands the issues."* **Corey McHattan** advises clients in relation to compliance with financial services regulation and is noted for his technical knowledge. **Strengths:** *"He's commercially pragmatic while balancing out the legal. He has a good understanding of the market and the way regulators view things. He's very accessible and responsive."*

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills is broadly acknowledged as Australia's leading adviser for the handling of regulatory investigations and disputes, and remains highly regarded for the strength of its advice on all facets of financial services regulation law. It offers excellent cross-border capabilities through its global network of offices, with the team particularly suited to handling matters involving the UK and Hong Kong, and is recognised as a leader in the growing fintech space. National Australia Bank, Suncorp and ASX are among the firm's key clients.

Strengths

"HSF has an impressive financial services regulatory team – their partners are well versed in handling complex matters efficiently and providing pragmatic advice in a timely manner."

"The Freehills team are what we would call the market-leading thought leaders in financial services. They have a very strong team with very strong senior statesman adviser partners for when you have complex problems."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills represented MetLife before the Full Federal Court in a dispute regarding the Australian Financial Complaints Authority's jurisdiction to hear complaints relating to life insurance in superannuation.

Notable practitioners

Luke Hastings is widely regarded as a leading litigator in the financial services regulation space. He frequently advises international banks, among other major financial services clients, in relation to a variety of contentious matters, including ASIC investigations. **Strengths:** *"He's a go-to for financial services matters."* **Michael Vrisakis** frequently assists clients in the superannuation sector with regulatory issues from his base in Sydney.

Strengths: *"Michael has an excellent reputation among regulators. He's the very senior expert in FSR – we use him when there are really difficult issues, something no one else can solve."* **Andrew Eastwood** often acts on contentious matters for major clients in the financial services sector.

Fiona Smedley is an established practitioner who is recognised for her expertise in relation to investment funds and Corporations Act matters. **Strengths:** *"Fiona is active in industry groups and with regulators regarding proposed new laws, which allows her to share insights. As a result, we receive commercial advice that factors in the likely behaviour of regulators."*

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons maintains its position as a mar-

ket-leading practice, highly commended for its breadth of expertise across the financial services regulatory law landscape. It acts for high-profile financial institutions in both domestic and cross-border matters, providing a comprehensive offering that spans funds management, anti-money laundering issues, payment systems regulation and consumer credit issues. It has a considerable reputation as a prudential regulatory practice and works with financial regulatory bodies to shape future legislation. The team also aids clients throughout the development and offering of cutting-edge fintech and regtech tools. The firm counts Colonial First State, Tyro Payments and Allianz Australia Insurance among their key clients.

Strengths

"The team has great depth in the senior partners and the associates. They are able to tackle the most difficult and complex issues. They have great credibility."

"They have exceptional service. They are extremely timely, technically excellent and provide commercial and practical advice. They have a deep understanding of business and industry."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons advised QSuper on all the legal, regulatory and governance aspects of its merger with Sunsuper, creating one of the largest superannuation funds in Australia.

Notable practitioners

Katherine Forrest is widely regarded as a leading figure in financial services regulation law, frequently assisting banks and other clients on both disputes and non-contentious matters. She is based in Melbourne, and her clients include both domestic and foreign institutions. **Strengths:** *"She deals at a very high level, and the quality of the solutions and advice is superior to most of her peers. She works best when asked to advise on a serious problem that needs careful strategic thinking."* **Jim Boynton** has a wealth of experience advising clients on the regulation of investment funds and other financial services entities. **Kate Jackson-Maynes** assists financial services clients with a variety of regulatory issues, including anti-money laundering matters. **Strengths:** *"Kate provides excellent, commercial and timely advice. She is a pleasure to work with."*

Band 2

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz is widely regarded as a go-to firm offering extensive expertise in regulatory matters and financial reforms. The firm houses a highly regarded contentious practice with experience assisting with regulatory investigations, litigation and the enforcement of licence conditions. It provides regulatory advice relating to investment funds and novel financial products, acting for a blue-chip clientele and major financial institutions including a number of retail banks, with notable clients including CBA, Westpac and Citibank. The firm maintains excellent relationships with international law firms, regulators and corporations.

Strengths

“We go to Clayton Utz for complex issues. They are a credible end-to-end firm, from advisory to contentious. They are also very good at providing value-added services, very good at reaching out and providing insights and passing on industry knowledge and expertise.”

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised one of Athena Group’s subsidiaries on obtaining an AFS licence for the operation of the group’s securitisation programme, together with the structuring and compliance arrangements supporting this programme.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Daley frequently assists clients on regulatory matters relating to investment funds and investment banks. **Strengths:** *“Matthew is technically strong, very commercial and responsive.”*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth is renowned for its investment funds and superannuation capabilities, advising on regulatory matters arising from transactional work in this industry, as well as such issues as anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism finance obligations and remediation. The group is actively involved in the financial services industry through participation in peak industry associations and is active on behalf of foreign clients navigating the Australian regulatory landscape. Clients include PayPal, Apple and Google.

Strengths

“Corrs consistently provides pragmatic, actionable counsel, which is a pivotal strength of the practice. The team’s pragmatic approach underscores the practice’s deep comprehension of real-world challenges and emphasis on results-oriented guidance.”
“The breadth and depth of experience and industry expertise across the team means that we turn to Corrs for their judgement on our most complex and novel regulatory matters, knowing that we’ll consistently receive high-quality advice that is commercial, pragmatic and risk-aware.”

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth represented Meta Platforms in civil penalty proceedings brought by ACCC and ASIC concerning its liability over adverts for cryptocurrency scams on Facebook and whether it has done enough to remove harmful investment scams from the platform.

Notable practitioners

Michael Chaaya is well reputed for his work with superannuation funds and other financial services clients, whom he assists with a variety of regulatory matters, including transactions, establishment of operations and licensing. **Strengths:** *“He is universally praised for his legal acumen, innovation, amazing client communication skills and, above all, his responsiveness and willingness to look after the interests of his clients with genuine care and attention.”* **Felicity Healy** is an established litigator who is noted for her experience and who acts for major financial institutions and banks in relation to regulatory litigation and investigations. **Strengths:** *“She provides excellent legal advice that is also commercially focused and conscious of reputational issues, all of which are critical to the way we do business.”* **Fadi Khoury** is a frequent adviser to investment firms, among

other financial services clients, with regard to a range of regulatory issues. **Strengths:** *“Fadi has assisted us in navigating an ever-changing regulatory landscape and continually finds both practical and commercial solutions.”*

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin maintains a highly regarded regulatory dispute resolution team with a strong following among financial services clients. The team also actively advises on front-end regulatory matters, with noteworthy capability in the regulation of new fintech products, including licensing for new financial products and digital payment systems. The firm’s key clients include major banks, accounting firms, asset management companies and other financial services participants, such as Westpac, Deloitte and Credit Suisse.

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin advised Credit Suisse and Credit Suisse (Australia) on an ASIC investigation regarding transactions, including some that did not proceed, involving Credit Suisse and Greensill.

Notable practitioners

Richard Harris is well regarded for his contentious practice, frequently acting for banks and other financial services clients on disputes. **Peter Reeves** is particularly well noted for his work in the fintech space, frequently assisting clients on matters such as those involving payment systems and cryptocurrency.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison is recognised as an accomplished practice offering comprehensive expertise in investment funds and insurance regulation. The firm is active on cross-border matters, particularly advising on the regulatory aspects of M&A transactions in the financial services sector. It maintains a strong reputation for handling contentious work, including ASIC investigations. The team also advises major banking clients, assisting with payment systems and the development of new products, as well as global insurance companies. IAG, MetLife and NAB are counted among its clientele.

Strengths

“They are plugged into the thinking of the regulators and familiar with other industry participants.”
“Minters give practical and useful advice which is clear to understand and capable of being implemented.”

Work highlights MinterEllison advised Dai-ichi Life on the regulatory aspects of its acquisition of Partners Group, the parent company of Partners Life.

Notable practitioners

Richard Batten is a leading financial services lawyer who boasts a wealth of experience assisting clients on regulatory compliance and the implementation of regulatory regimes. **Strengths:** *“Richard is an exceptional lawyer who is client-focused and thinks outside the box to deliver commercially sound outcomes.”* **Ross Freeman** is well experienced in assisting clients on contentious regulatory matters.

Band 3

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy fields a respected practice that advises multinational financial institutions on regulatory matters in support of international business. The firm is especially familiar with the New York market and regulatory environment, with partners holding qualifications and considerable experience in the jurisdiction. Its capability extends to the regulation of payment platforms, and it acts as a frequent adviser to overseas banks regarding their compliance with Australian consumer contract terms. The team is skilled at advising on the Australian aspects of corporate reorganisation and acquisitions within the financial services industry. It is well placed to assist on cross-border matters, drawing on the strength of its international network of offices.

Strengths

“They are a super responsive team with excellent lawyers. They are real technicians and very commercial.”

Work highlights Allen & Overy was engaged by the board of directors of Star Entertainment to act as Independent Monitor and oversee The Star Casino’s anti-money laundering, financial crime and related remediation efforts at its sites in New South Wales and Queensland.

Notable practitioners

Jason Denisenko (see p.232) is highly regarded for his experience working with investment funds and asset managers, whom he assists along with other financial services providers with regulatory matters.

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for The Baker McKenzie team has substantial cross-border capabilities, catering to an impressive list of multinational clients through the firm’s global network. The firm fields experienced advisers on the establishment and operation of Australian and offshore managed funds, and also advises its international clients on the regulatory requirements for the launch of new consumer products in the Australian market. Notable clients included Morgan Stanley, RAM and Loftus Peak Investment Management.

Strengths

“The financial services team is always responsive and can provide a preliminary view or steer on matters prior to spending time unpacking and formally advising. This is helpful and ideal, as it allows for further thought and consideration internally.”

“They have strong knowledge of the regulatory environment and provide practical advice.”

Work highlights Baker McKenzie acted for ASL in regulatory and criminal investigations concerning certification irregularities by employees in the company’s Australian Coal Superintending and Certification unit.

Notable practitioners

Bill Fuggle is a regulatory lawyer who is well regarded for his expertise in relation to regulatory issues concerning investment funds, banks and other financial services providers. **Strengths:** *“Bill is always on point with his approach to advice, which stems from a deep understanding of legal and industry issues.”*

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates is well regarded for its expertise in the regulatory requirements governing banks, fund managers and fintech developers. It is known for its work advising on new and emerging fintech platforms and their introduction into the Australian market. The firm is also noted for its client following in the funds space. Clients benefit from the team's ability to draw on its international network and experience advising on responses to ASIC and APRA investigations. Notable clients include Honda Australia, EML Payments and CoinJar.

Strengths

"The team consistently provide high-quality, commercial legal advice. This is coupled with a strong understanding of our business and commercial objectives."

"They are prompt, technically spot-on and highly commercial."

Work highlights K&L Gates advised Australian Ethical on a number of regulatory issues concerning the establishment of the Australian Ethical Sentient Clean Energy Income Fund.

Notable practitioners

Jim Bulling is recognised for his broad practice in financial services regulation, including his work on matters in the fintech and superannuation spaces. **Strengths:** *"Jim delivers timely, well-considered and commercial legal advice. We can't speak highly enough of Jim."* **Daniel Knight** is an established financial services lawyer who often provides regulatory advice to banks, investment funds and other financial services clients. **Strengths:** *"Daniel is always very pleasant to deal with, helpful and responsive."*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright assists banking, investment funds and international insurance clients in response to regulatory investigations, as well as advising on the regulatory issues associated with transactional activity and the licensing of new products. It is a part of a global practice that assists multinational clients on complex, cross-border regulatory investigations, with particular strength in Asia, the USA and emerging markets such as South America and Africa. The firm counts major banks and insurers among its clientele, including CBA, Mercer and ING Bank (Australia).

Strengths

"They have in-depth knowledge of the subject matter."

"The commercial awareness of the firm is very high, and they have a good understanding of the market."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised the Commonwealth Bank of Australia on the uplift of an obligations baseline in relation to ASIC Regulatory Guide 271 (RG271), which relates to internal dispute resolution, the ePayments Code and the General Insurance Code.

Notable practitioners

Claudine Salameh is a key contact for clients.

Band 4

Gadens

What the team is known for Gadens is noted for its well-regarded practice in financial services regulation law. The team often acts for substantial financial services companies, including major banks, in relation to investigations and proceedings from regulatory bodies such as ASIC and APRA, as well as being engaged by those bodies to assist on such investigations. It provides clients with further advice regarding licensing and regulatory compliance. The firm's notable clients include Realty Assist Australia, ASIC and Judo Bank.

Strengths

"The team are very knowledgeable and skilled in dealing with and responding to complex Chapter 7 issues."

Work highlights Gadens advised Australian Securities Investment Commission on the development of the Insurance Premium Funding Code of Practice.

Notable practitioners

Kathy Merrick and Liam Hennessy are key contacts for clients.

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox is recognised for its well-established team, which advises a clientele that consists of asset managers, superannuation funds and other financial institutions. The firm is frequently called upon to assist on a variety of financial services regulation matters, including establishment of operations, licensing issues and compliance with regulatory regimes. Hall & Wilcox is also active in emerging areas, such as fintech. Its notable clients include Hope Housing Fund Management, Sire Custodians and Fidira.

Strengths

"They are very prompt and efficient and have been dealing with regulatory and financial services for a long time now."

"The team navigate complicated legal issues expertly with practical and commercial solutions."

Work highlights Hall & Wilcox advised Fidira on the establishment of a digital currency exchange which onboards clients through the purchase of a gift card through retail outlets and online stores.

Notable practitioners

Harry New is a key contact for clients.

Hamilton Locke

What the team is known for Hamilton Locke fields a highly experienced financial services regulation team with particular expertise in the funds, fintech and insurance sectors. The firm regularly advises on compliance, structures and distribution for insurance and fintech products and services. In addition, the team is also proficient in handling licensing and compliance with consumer credit and managed accounts regulations. Arthur J. Gallagher, Zip Co and BetaCarbon are among the firm's clientele.

Strengths

"The firm has a range of specialists who can collaborate on complex matters, allowing for complete advice from one source."

"The team provides advice that is cognisant of the complex nature, business context and risk."

Work highlights Hamilton Locke acted for Employment Hero in negotiating a series of agreements and providing regulatory advice on its arrangement with Shaype to support a payments integration into its platform for the offer of an early access wage system and wallet and card functionality.

Notable practitioners

Jaime Lumsden assists financial services clients with a variety of financial services regulation law issues, including matters in the fintech space.

Strengths: *"Jaime is great to work with. She is clear, precise, analytical and commercially aware."*

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth is known for providing expert advice on credit, payment systems, e-commerce and the regulatory aspects of M&A transactions. The firm is a sought-after adviser on the design of credit contracts and on contentious matters such as enforcement actions related to consumer loans. Its clients include a variety of national banks and small amounts lenders.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Galvin is an established practitioner with experience assisting clients on matters relating to retail banking and payments regulation.

Piper Alderman

What the team is known for Piper Alderman is well reputed for its expertise and experience advising on licensing and compliance in the fintech, regtech and digital currency spaces. The team regularly assist with anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing and financial sanctions, and is also familiar with compliance for services involving consumer credit, digital payments, yield and lending products. The firm is noted for handling investigations and enforcement actions.

Strengths

"The team have demonstrated strong knowledge of the relevant regulatory requirements in Australia and have been able to provide practical advice."

"The firm has a deep and broad team that it can draw on to deal with all facets of financial services regulation litigation and advice."

Work highlights Piper Alderman acted for One Two Home Loans on the launch of its rate-reducing home loan and subsequent regulatory advice on the development of that product and other businesses.

Notable practitioners

Andrea Beatty is a well-regarded lawyer both in the payments space and on consumer protection issues.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Austin Bell of Johnson Winter Slattery is noted for acting for inbound companies on their establishment in Australia, including advice on licensing, exemption applications and compliance obligations.

Strengths:

"He has a really good network and understands the

workings of regulators, which helped us navigate. He's very efficient, commercially minded, accurate and practical."

Nikki Bentley of Ernst & Young is an established figure in the market who regularly assists invest-

ment funds and asset managers with regulatory issues.

Strengths:

"She is dedicated, solutions-oriented and has good connections with the regulator."

Zein El Hassan of KPMG Law is noted for his work on matters relating to superannuation funds, providing advice in respect of a variety of regulatory issues.

Government

Government
Leading Firms
Band 1
Ashurst
Clayton Utz
MinterEllison
Band 2
Allens
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
King & Wood Mallesons
Maddocks
Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 3
Gilbert + Tobin
Herbert Smith Freehills
Lander & Rogers
McCullough Robertson
Sparke Helmore
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst has a market-leading practice, notable for its representation of an impressive range of departments at various levels of government across Australia. The firm is noted for its multidisciplinary teams, often staffed by lawyers with in-house experience of the public sector, which provide expertise across a broad range of sectors, including financial services, work health and safety, and insurance. The practice is additionally able to bring to bear expertise acquired working on government projects in various South-East Asian jurisdictions and in Europe. The firm's notable clients include the Australian Taxation Office, the State Government of Tasmania and Sydney Metro.

Strengths

"Ashurst's advice is well considered and displays a thorough understanding of the legal and commercial issues and complexities related to the matters they are advising on."

"Ashurst has almost entirely been engaged in highly complex matters and has successfully provided positive outcomes."

Work highlights Ashurst advised Victoria 2026, the organising committee for the 2026 Commonwealth Games, on its procurement and contractual agreements.

Notable practitioners

Government
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Kenny Paul Allens
Walter John Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Bush Caroline Clayton Utz
Vane-Tempest Paul Ashurst
Willis Anthony Maddocks
Band 2
Astolfi Simonetta Maddocks
Atkins Caroline Maddocks
Block Peter MinterEllison
Brennan Michael MinterEllison
Jaggers Stephen King & Wood Mallesons
McAdam Holly Norton Rose Fulbright
McKinney Steve Ashurst
Nankervis Stewart MinterEllison
Power Steven Clayton Utz
Wedutenko Alexandra Sparke Helmore
Band 3
Arkwright Kevin Norton Rose Fulbright
Griffin Annabel King & Wood Mallesons
Read Graham Clayton Utz
Rentoul Andrew MinterEllison
Ross-Smith Sarah Ashurst
Story Amanda MinterEllison
Summersby Angela Ashurst
Tsacalos Ashley Clayton Utz
Band 4
Diwell Kylie MinterEllison
Doran Jamie Clayton Utz
Dube Ben Sparke Helmore
Dunphy Barry Clayton Utz
Freeman Angie Clayton Utz
Heath Jared Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Hider Jane King & Wood Mallesons
Leerdam Lenny Keypoint Law (ORL) ◇
Lewis Rachael King & Wood Mallesons
Lovell Jon Ashurst
Morrison Richard Norton Rose Fulbright
O'Sullivan Pria Maddocks
Sibley Cain Clayton Utz
Tuck John Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Woods Tony Lander & Rogers

Paul Vane-Tempest is highly regarded for his experience acting for the Commonwealth Government and for public bodies. He is noted for his expertise in relation to employment and health and safety matters. **Strengths:** "Paul Vane-Tempest

in Melbourne is extremely competent and a great talker as well." **Steve McKinney** regularly acts for departments of the Commonwealth Government, most notably the Department of Defence, which he advises in relation to procurement, contracting and infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** "Steve provides excellent legal commercial and, specifically, contracting advice." **Sarah Ross-Smith** has experience acting for government departments and agencies at both a Commonwealth and state level. She provides advice on a range of matters, including material procurement projects, government schemes and governance issues for public bodies. **Strengths:** "Sarah's commercial knowledge is excellent. This, and her ability to communicate with people of all diversity, supports her being very well regarded and respected." **Angela Summersby** is noted for her experience acting for the Commonwealth Government on technology, procurement and contracting matters. **Jon Lovell** acts for Commonwealth, state and territory government clients, and is particularly noted for his work in relation to employment and industrial relations matters. **Strengths:** "Jon strikes the right balance of being strong technically whilst having the ability to recognise and provide advice with sound commercial results."

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz offers a substantial, highly experienced bench, which is consistently recognised as one of the foremost providers of advice to government bodies in Australia, handling matters for major federal departments, state governments and a wide range of local authorities. The firm's comprehensive coverage of public sector issues includes a particularly renowned specialism in the area of major infrastructure projects. The practice is further noted for its ability to engage with especially complex or potentially contentious questions. Its notable clients include the Queensland Health, Department of Defence and Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

Strengths

"The team provides excellent strategic advice, underpinned by strong technical skills and experience."

"In relation to commercial contracts and government procurement, Clayton Utz has demonstrated a significant level of expertise."

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised the Queensland Government on the establishment of Queensland Hydro, a new SPV for the planning and delivery of its pumped hydro energy storage projects.

Notable practitioners

Caroline Bush has extensive experience as a litigator who acts for government clients on administrative law and commercial disputes. **Strengths:** “Caroline is a very impressive litigator. She is a go-to for complex matters and provides very pragmatic advice.” **Steven Power** is particularly respected for his experience acting for the Department of Defence, which he assists in relation to procurement matters. **Graham Read** is a notable construction lawyer who is based in Sydney and frequently assists government clients on both the Commonwealth and state levels on non-contentious matters. **Strengths:** “Graham demonstrates the utmost professionalism at all times and provides expert advice in each engagement.” **Ashley Tsacalos** is recognised for his substantial presence in New South Wales, where he assists government clients with a variety of complex contentious issues. He attracts praise for his strong track record advising on royal commissions and public inquiries. **Jamie Doran** is experienced acting for the Commonwealth, state and local governments in relation to procurement, funding and commercial matters. **Strengths:** “Jamie is very client-focused and works to ensure my concerns and what I am attempting to achieve are understood.” **Barry Dunphy** is based in Brisbane and is noted for his work acting for Queensland Government clients, as well as the Commonwealth Government. His expertise covers regulatory and public law issues. **Angie Freeman** is noted for her work in the procurement sphere, frequently assisting government clients with IT projects and outsourcing services. **Strengths:** “We are confident that she has the skills to provide high-quality assistance and work with us to resolve issues in a pragmatic yet legally sound manner.” **Cain Sibley** has expertise with regard to administrative law and litigation and is a frequent adviser to a variety of government clients. **Strengths:** “Cain is a very astute administrative law litigator. He is versatile and has excellent judgement.”

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison maintains a standout practice, prominently active at both Commonwealth and state levels, particularly where major social, transport or technology infrastructure projects are concerned. The team is regularly engaged on the most complex or potentially contentious issues, especially in such sensitive sectors as employment, health, immigration and taxation. The firm is also renowned for its handling of transactions involving the transfer of large-scale government assets. The practice’s notable clients include Australian Securities and Investment Commission, Emergency Management Victoria, DevelopmentWA and NSW Department of Customer Service.

Strengths

“One of the beautiful things about Minters is that it does contracts significant in scope, including real estate, technology or complex governance. All the team are amazingly responsive, and advice is always first-rate.”

“Minters has incredible depth to support the complex and sophisticated issues in our commercial matters.”

Work highlights MinterEllison advised the Commonwealth Department of Education, Skills and Employment on sourcing a national cloud-based enterprise information system as part of the Vocational Education and Training Data Streamlining programme.

Notable practitioners

Peter Block is noted for his expertise in infrastructure projects, with experience acting for government clients at both the state and Commonwealth levels. **Strengths:** “Peter has a really good commercial brain and a breadth of government knowledge and understanding. He’s a really smart, all-rounded, practical lawyer.” **Michael Brennan** is a highly experienced practitioner who has advised a number of government departments and agencies in relation to procurement and contract work. **Stewart Nankervis** is broadly regarded as a leading lawyer with regard to construction and infrastructure matters and acts for state governments across Australia. **Strengths:** “He is very strategic and a brilliant negotiator and an exceptional drafter and interpreter of complex contractual positions. You can always rely on his advice.” **Andrew Rentoul** is based in Brisbane and advises departments of the Queensland Government, as well as the governments of Victoria and New South Wales, which he assists on a variety of transactional matters. **Strengths:** “Andrew is great at developing creative and practical solutions to unusual commercial problems. He’s extremely dedicated and reliable.” **Amanda Story** is recognised for her focus on matters relating to technology and telecommunications procurement for Commonwealth Government clients. **Strengths:** “She is meticulous with details and develops effective strategies to achieve the best outcomes for her clients. She is commercially savvy and helps clients make risk-informed decisions.” **Kylie Diwell** is based in Melbourne, where she advises public and private sector clients on procurement and regulatory compliance. She has particular expertise in intellectual property, especially where it intersects with technology and research. **Strengths:** “Kylie provides pragmatic and solutions-focused advice. She has great negotiation skills, really good commercial skills, expertise in IP and more general commercial legal skills.”

Band 2

Allens

What the team is known for Allens has an established reputation in this sphere, underpinned by noted strength in the infrastructure and procurement arenas. The firm is also a prominent actor on major government asset sales and privatisations, first-to-market transactions and urban renewal projects, and is regularly engaged to provide support in respect of royal commissions, other official inquiries and litigation. The team advises government bodies at both a federal and state level. The practice’s clients include New South Wales Rural Fire Service, Queensland Rail and Transport for Victoria.

Strengths

“The solicitors at Allens are exceptionally skilled at handling complex and sophisticated matters. They deliver exceptionally high levels of service and are extremely responsive to client needs.”

“The firm thrives on more complex matters and is able to navigate and explain complex issues simply.”

Work highlights Allens advised Energy Corporation of New South Wales on the procurement of the Waratah Super Battery, which, once completed, will be the largest standby network battery in the Southern Hemisphere.

Notable practitioners

Paul Kenny is noted for his experience acting for the Victorian Government on matters relating to the energy and transport sectors.

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth provides a respected offering, covering a diverse range of government work that includes major infrastructure and procurement projects, complex litigation and assistance with inquiries and commissions. The firm is active at Commonwealth, state and local levels, attracting especially strong praise for its work on behalf of state government bodies. The team is experienced acting on significant energy project mandates, but is also known for both its regulatory expertise and its advice on such areas as employment, planning and the environment. The Western Australian Department of Treasury, Homes Victoria and Infrastructure NSW are clients of the team.

Strengths

“They can problem-solve quickly, present well-considered options and adapt to changing needs. They are clear when articulating new expectations if there is an agreed re-prioritised deliverable.”

“They are responsive and alert to the audience for the practicality of the advice.”

Work highlights Corrs advised the Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning on the AUD3.6 billion Queen’s Wharf integrated resort development.

Notable practitioners

John Walter is a highly regarded and established figure who is noted for his experience acting for the Victorian Government in relation to infrastructure projects. **Jared Heath** acts for a number of government clients in Victoria on a variety of issues, including legislative and regulatory reviews, projects and inquiries. **Strengths:** “Jared has always been responsive and proactive in reaching out and understanding our needs. We value his responsiveness and ability to deliver the work within often very tight deadlines.” **John Tuck** is well regarded for his expertise relating to employment law and acts for a number of prominent state government clients.

King & Wood Malesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Malesons is active at both Commonwealth and state government levels. The firm is especially well known for its handling of major infrastructure and procurement mandates, as well as for representing government bodies before inquiries and in

class action litigation. The team also addresses a variety of fintech and technology issues, the latter including developments in the digital identity sectors. The practice's notable clients include the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide and Yoorrook Justice Commission.

Strengths

"One of the most impressive aspects of their engagement is their ability to access and provide additional skills and expertise as the work evolves and the situation changes."

"They have an excellent understanding of the law. They are also able to think strategically. During the course of our work together, they have been effective in deciding when and how to engage different resources."

Work highlights King Wood & Mallesons advised Yoorrook Justice Commission on all aspects of the strategy and evidence gathering for the first Australian truth-telling inquiry for First Peoples.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Jagers is a frequent adviser to the Commonwealth Government in relation to a range of matters, including procurement and investment. **Annabel Griffin** is noted for her expertise in technology projects and procurement matters, in relation to which she often advises Commonwealth and state government clients.

Strengths: *"Annabel understood the environment in which we were operating, applied a pragmatic approach to issues as they arose, and maintained an open, honest engagement throughout."* **Jane Hider** boasts two decades' experience as a lawyer working with government actors. She is particularly active in the infrastructure and construction spaces. **Rachael Lewis** heads the firm's Canberra office and is recognised for advising Commonwealth government departments on their ICT procurements and related contractual and service agreements. **Strengths:** *"Rachael is knowledgeable and very commercially aware."*

Maddocks

What the team is known for Maddocks is noted for its deep-rooted understanding – often based on in-house experience – of policy and regulatory issues within government. The firm boasts a strong track record of representing clients at Commonwealth, state and local levels and acts particularly frequently for Victoria and New South Wales-based entities. The team is also noted for being a leading choice for Commonwealth Government advice. Some of the practice's notable clients include the Australian Antarctic Division, Airservices Australia and Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

Strengths

"Maddocks are a capable team with extensive knowledge, experience and credibility."

"The turnaround for work is exceptional. They are very flexible and accommodating and provide great-quality advice."

Work highlights Maddocks acted for Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate on the procurement of a new cashless ticketing system.

Notable practitioners

Anthony Willis is regarded as a leading adviser to Commonwealth Government clients and is particularly noted for his expertise in relation to tech-

nology procurement. **Strengths:** *"Anthony Willis is a highly skilled, sophisticated and smart individual."* **Simonetta Astolfi** is well reputed for her work acting for Commonwealth Government entities in relation to probity and procurement issues. **Caroline Atkins** is noted for her experience acting for the Commonwealth Government on the negotiation and implementation of technology contracts. **Pria O'Sullivan** is particularly noted for her experience advising Commonwealth Government departments in relation to property issues.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright maintains an established team noted both for its regular representation of Commonwealth Government bodies and for its prominence on numerous state government panels, most notably in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. The practice offers a broad range of capabilities but stands out for particular expertise in the areas of litigation, procurement and ICT-related issues, as well as investigations, transportation and development projects. The firm's notable clients include the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Victoria Police and Department of the Environment and Energy.

Strengths

"They are very attentive and have continuously demonstrated their commitment to delivering practical commercial solutions to their clients as quickly as possible. NRF's work is highly regarded."

"NRF provides pragmatic solutions which take into account our strategic imperatives and risk appetite."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright acted for Venues NSW, formerly the Sydney Cricket & Sports Ground Trust, on its major commercial, outsourcing and technology transactions, including outsourcing food and beverage services for Allianz Stadium and the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Notable practitioners

Holly McAdam is highly regarded for her experience acting for Commonwealth Government clients on commercial and procurement matters.

Strengths: *"Holly provides exceptional service. She is quick and provides clients with pragmatic commercial solutions."* **Kevin Arkwright** is well regarded for his expertise in relation to construction law and often advises Commonwealth and New South Wales Government clients. **Strengths:** *"Kevin's advice is always well regarded. The effort he goes to to assist with developing contracts, discussing complex issues and making them simple to understand is always appreciated."* **Richard Morrison** is noted for his work on commercial procurement issues, particularly with regard to ICT programmes, and is based in the firm's Canberra office.

Band 3

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin's growing Government department boasts expertise across the entire practice area, including in procurement processes, major infrastructure pro-

jects – especially in the technology sphere – and commissions and inquiries. The firm regularly advises an array of government departments and agencies, as well as private sector clients who are engaging with state actors. Department of Home Affairs, Health Infrastructure NSW and HealthShare NSW are top clients of the firm.

Strengths

"They give incredible commercial advice that goes beyond providing legal expertise. They are incredibly responsive, innovative and creative, always looking for solutions to drive the deal forward."

"The quality of work is very high. They have the ability to meet timeframes and are very familiar with the industry and contracts."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin were appointed as the Solicitors Assisting the Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme.

Notable practitioners

Lesley Sutton, who heads the practice, is a key contact for clients.

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills maintains a well-resourced practice, principally focused on high-value commercial transactions for major state government clients. The team is particularly noted for its handling of major public projects in the health, social housing and transportation sectors. The practice is also recommended for capabilities in the procurement, planning and environment, and PPP spheres.

Strengths

"They have a strong understanding of context and the ability to provide pragmatic commercial advice. The firm is able to provide a broad suite of services across a wide range of areas."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills acted for the Department of Finance on the procurement and construction of the Centres for National Resilience in Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane.

Notable practitioners

Peter Briggs is a key contact for clients.

Lander & Rogers

What the team is known for Lander & Rogers is a well-regarded firm that is noted for its provision of legal services to government clients with regard to a wide range of issues, including workplace relations, projects and contentious matters such as class actions and investigations. The team is frequently engaged to provide advice on both the Commonwealth Government and state government levels. The firm's notable clients include Transport for New South Wales, NSW Ambulance and Department of Regional NSW.

Strengths

"The firm has consistently been able to add value and manage the timing of its work by deploying team members with appropriate skills and experience."

"The lawyers at L&R are always responsive and provide a high level of service that I feel I can rely upon."

Work highlights Lander & Rogers defended Sydney Trains and NSW TrainLink in an application filed in the Fair Work Commission by Unions NSW on behalf of the Combined Rail Unions.

Notable practitioners

Tony Woods is recognised for his work acting for government and public sector bodies in New South Wales in relation to both employee and industrial relations matters. **Strengths:** *"Tony is easy to work with and provides timely and sound advice."*

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson is recognised for its leading Queensland offering for state government and local authority clients undertaking major public works projects. The firm is frequently sought out by major departments of other East Coast state governments in project development and administrative matters, most notably in relation to resources, energy and transport infrastructure. The team is also active

on work for Commonwealth Government departments.

Notable practitioners

Troy Webb is a key contacts for clients.

Sparke Helmore

What the team is known for Sparke Helmore is active in the representation of Commonwealth agencies, but is also adept at handling high-volume administrative mandates, in addition to a comprehensive range of commercial and contentious issues. The firm is a go-to choice for government probity matters and is frequently engaged for its expert handling of immigration litigation, including at the appellate courts and tribunals.

Notable practitioners

Alexandra Wedutenko has a wealth of experience

advising clients on technology and procurement projects, acting for major Commonwealth Government departments. **Ben Dube** is based at the firm's office in Brisbane and acts for Commonwealth Government clients on a variety of matters, including administrative and workplace issues.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Lenny Leerdam of Keypoint Law is an experienced lawyer who acts for government in federal courts and tribunals, and has appeared in the High Court, in relation to a variety of matters, including those relating to administrative law and treaty interpretation.

Insurance

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allens

What the team is known for The Allens insurance team is active in both the front and back ends, assisting clients with claims as well as the establishment of insurance arrangements. Allens is well regarded for serving corporate policyholders in the resources and financial services sectors. Its team possesses a deep understanding of the regulatory and legislative issues relating to the insurance industry supported by substantial cutting-edge technological resources and extensive experience of various international markets. Areas of particular proficiency include business interruption, construction, cyber risk and industrial special risks. Its key clients include IAG and CIMIC.

Strengths

"Allens have outstanding knowledge and provide pragmatic advice."

"The service levels are strong and they are highly responsive. They are very quick to respond and keep the matter moving."

Work highlights Allens acted for the Legal Practitioners' Liability Committee (LPLC) and Maddocks in relation to a claim of negligence against Maddocks by a former client.

Notable practitioners

Louise Jenkins is based in Melbourne and exercises a wide-ranging command of practice area issues which includes particularly well-developed expertise where D&O and professional indemnity issues are concerned. **Malcolm Stephens** devotes a substantial proportion of his litigation practice to the resolution of disputes arising in the insurance space, maintaining a close focus on casualty insurance issues and on D&O, civil liability and professional indemnity matters. **Strengths:** *"Mal-*

colm is just fantastic. No question is too difficult for him, he is very client-friendly." *"He has a very deep and broad understanding of insurance law."* **Andrew Maher** maintains a busy and respected practice from the Melbourne office, offering extensive experience in the superior court litigation of high-stakes insurance disputes and additionally advising insureds across a comprehensive range of risk management and other issues. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is an excellent lawyer who provides a very strong and responsive client service."* *"He is really commercially strategic. He cuts through things easily, is very bright and very accommodating."*

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst's impressive group offers extensive expertise in policyholder work, particularly D&O, warranty and indemnity matters, and is well placed to advise on the placement of insurance for acquisitions, business risk, construction and sustainment. The firm also regularly advises blue-chip insurer clients on a range of non-contentious issues including policy development and insurance M&A. The insurance team are increasingly active in the growing area of cyber insurance law, with experience advising on a range of cyber risk matters and cyber insurance reviews. Ashurst is able to draw on the firm's global reach in order to service international matters. Its key clients include AIA Group and KSL Capital Partners.

Strengths

"The quality of the work is good. Each specialist is excellent in their field."

Work highlights Ashurst has advised Tetra Tech on the scope of its coverage under its professional indemnity insurance policy, further to a claim made in relation to the WestConnex Project.

Ashurst advised AIA Australia on the buy-out of Discovery Vitality Australia from its joint venture

in respect to AIA Health.

Notable practitioners

Rehana Box is widely acknowledged as a standout practitioner in the insurance space generally, and especially where non-contentious issues are concerned. Based in Sydney, she acts particularly prominently on transactional and regulatory matters, including cross-border mandates. **Strengths:** *"Rehana knows all aspects of the insurance industry. She is incredibly responsive."* *"She is client focused and responsive. She provides highly practical and commercially sensible advice, while balancing legal risk."*

Barry.Nilsson. Lawyers

What the team is known for Barry.Nilsson. Lawyers is a domestic firm with a very strong focus on insurance, covering a wide spectrum of insurance law issues, including policy drafting and claims management. The team handles professional indemnity, D&O, financial lines, public and product liability and cyber insurance matters, among others, for major insurers, reinsurers and insurance brokers, several of whom are clients of over 25 years' standing. Notably adept in the handling of health and safety-related insurance issues and acknowledged for the increasingly national character of its offering, with offices in New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia adding to its traditional strength in Queensland. Its key clients include Alliance, Liberty Specialty Markets and AIG.

Strengths

"Barry.Nilsson.'s complete and individual experience covers almost all areas of insurance law."

"They deliver a really consistent standard of work."

Work highlights Barry.Nilsson. Lawyers acted for Asplundh Tree Expert (Australia), a vegetation management company, in proceedings con-

Insurance
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Hawke Fred <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Monahan Patrick <i>Colin Biggers & Paisley</i>
Skehan Greg <i>Colin Biggers & Paisley</i>
Eminent Practitioners
Kearney David <i>Wotton + Kearney</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Box Rehana <i>Ashurst</i>
Carrigan Dean <i>Clyde & Co</i>
Hobson Tricia <i>DLA Piper Australia*</i>
Jackson Cain <i>Wotton + Kearney</i>
Band 2
Bethlehem Keith <i>Colin Biggers & Paisley</i>
Darwin Mark <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Gerber David <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Giblett Ray <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Jowett Richard <i>HFW</i>
Moore Andrew <i>Wotton + Kearney</i>
O'Brien Paul <i>Yeldham Price O'Brien Lusk</i>
Toemoe Travis <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Wearne Nicole <i>Clyde & Co</i>
Band 3
Barrie Toby <i>Barry Nilsson Lawyers</i>
Boardman Patrick <i>Clyde & Co</i>
Chylek Adam <i>Wotton + Kearney</i>
Fox Michelle <i>Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP</i>
Jenkins Louise <i>Allens</i>
Mead Patrick <i>Carter Newell</i>
Narburgh Guy <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
O'Brien Samantha <i>DLA Piper Australia*</i>
Radford Mark <i>Radford Lawyers Pty Limited (ORL) ◇</i>
Smith Julie <i>Lander & Rogers</i>
Stephens Malcolm <i>Allens</i>
Tan Chern <i>MinterEllison</i>
Thornley Charles <i>Lander & Rogers</i>
Band 4
Abrahams Ari <i>Lander & Rogers</i>
Andrews Matt <i>Kennedys</i>
Cantrill Louise <i>Mills Oakley</i>
Chapman Veronica <i>Lander & Rogers</i>
Coorey John <i>Sparke Helmore</i>
Crittenden Robert <i>Meridian Lawyers</i>
Doepel Mark <i>Sparke Helmore</i>
Finn Chris <i>Kennedys</i>
Henningham Belinda <i>Wotton + Kearney</i>
Kennedy Rhett <i>Barry Nilsson, Lawyers</i>
Lattin Avryl <i>Clyde & Co</i>
Maher Andrew <i>Allens</i>
McDonald Matt <i>Hall & Wilcox*</i>
Moran John <i>Clyde & Co</i>
Oldenburg Catherine <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Palmkvist Colleen <i>Lander & Rogers</i>
Sudweeks Stefan <i>Mills Oakley</i>
Taylor Penny <i>Kennedys</i>
Terracall Lucy <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Waller Mark <i>Clayton Utz</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

cerning the Tathra Bush Fires.

Notable practitioners

Toby Barrie is a prominent player on the Western Australian insurance scene. A specialist in professional indemnity issues, he has represented

Insurance: Policyholder
Leading Firms
Band 1
Clayton Utz
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
Band 2
Allens
Ashurst
Band 3
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
HFW
MinterEllison
Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

the insurers of directors of officers from a wide range of sectors, notably including the financial services and mining spheres. **Rhett Kennedy** is based in Brisbane and is notably experienced in the handling of complex claims, particularly those originating in the construction, resources and professional service sectors, as well as those generated by catastrophic meteorological events.

Carter Newell

What the team is known for Carter Newell's respected team maintains a particularly strong Brisbane presence and profile, backed by offerings in Sydney and Melbourne. The team acts exclusively for insurance providers and advisers, including brokers, captive insurers and underwriting agencies, on contentious, advisory and regulatory matters, the former including defence of litigated claims, subrogated recoveries and mediated disputes. It offers expertise in insurance issues specific to a wide range of industries and business sectors, including aviation, healthcare, hospitality and shipping, and is particularly well regarded for the strength of its construction insurance capability.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Mead is based in Brisbane and enjoys widespread recognition as a particularly accomplished practitioner where construction sector insurance issues – on which he is a published authority – are concerned. **Strengths:** “Patrick is a standout for his advisory work and has had a number of excellent results for us on litigated matters as well.”

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz's highly commended team acts for a diverse range of high-profile policyholders, including major banks, corporates and government bodies. The insurance team offers expertise across the spectrum of contentious and non-contentious issues, including professional indemnity, product liability and cyber risk. The law firm handles matters relating to regulatory compliance and insurance product development as well as providing advice on alternative risk transfer and reinsurance. Clayton Utz's contentious practice encompasses, in addition to advice on coverage disputes and claims resolutions, a strong capability for the handling of large-scale customer remediation and compensation issues for leading financial services providers. It also advises extensively on class action-related insurance recovery mandates for both corporate

Insurance Defence
Leading Firms
Band 1
Clyde & Co
Wotton + Kearney
Band 2
Colin Biggers & Paisley
Kennedys
Lander & Rogers
Band 3
Barry Nilsson, Lawyers
MinterEllison
Moray & Agnew
Band 4
Carter Newell
Gilchrist Connell
Hall & Wilcox
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Jackson McDonald
Sparke Helmore
Yeldham Price O'Brien Lusk
Band 5
DLA Piper Australia
McCabe Curwood
Meridian Lawyers
Mills Oakley
Norton Rose Fulbright

Insurance: Insurer: Non-contentious

Leading Firms
Band 1
Ashurst
Clayton Utz
Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 2
Clyde & Co
DLA Piper Australia
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
MinterEllison
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

defendants and individual executives. Key clients include AMP and Singtel Optus.

Strengths

“One of the standout features of dealing with this team is the high level of expertise and professionalism.”

“They are fantastic. In the insurance group, they have a high degree of technical excellence.”

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised AMP in a professional indemnity insurance recovery of compensation and costs relation to its retail customer remediation program, spanning multiple financial advice services licensee subsidiaries. Clayton Utz advised the Suburban Rail Loop Authority on its insurance programme and strategy for the packages that make up the Suburban Rail Loop Project.

Notable practitioners

Fred Hawke is a highly respected, veteran insurance practitioner who continues to advise across a comprehensive range of practice area issues from the Melbourne office. **David Gerber** operates across the full insurance spectrum, acting for both insurers and policyholders and also advising state and Commonwealth government agencies on a variety of issues. He is particularly focused on the financial lines market and often assists on

policy reviews. **Strengths:** “David is an excellent insurance lawyer. He is extremely prompt, easily contactable and very considered.” **Lucy Terracall** is an increasingly prominent lawyer in the contentious insurance space, where she acts principally for policyholder clients. Based in Melbourne, she also advises extensively on regulatory issues. **Strengths:** “Lucy is a very strong adviser in the insurance market and we have relied heavily on her skills and approach to get matters over the line.” “Excellent on calls and provides tailored advice and strategy to address business needs.” **Mark Waller** is based in Brisbane and stands out for his mastery of contentious insurance issues, on which he has litigated for over three decades, his experience covering such matters as coverage disputes, D&O claims and other liability issues.

Clyde & Co

What the team is known for The Clyde & Co team forms part of a market-leading insurance offering with global reach, represents an impressive list of well-known insurers and reinsurers, many of whom are clients of long standing, and covers a comprehensive range of insurance classes. The insurance team is regularly sought out to handle high-profile litigation as well as advisory work. Clyde & Co has substantial experience in shareholder class actions, professional indemnity and property-related matters. The firm has established expertise in the growing area of cyber liability and is also noted for its ability to assist on issues around licensing, regulation and compliance. Its key clients include Enstar Australia and Reeds Consulting.

Strengths

“They are very good, they are a very capable international firm. They have local expertise as well as a global footprint and are very approachable and interact well.”

Work highlights Clyde & Co acted for Catlin Australia and the Hollard Insurance Company in defence of class actions launch on behalf of insureds for COVID-19 related business interruption losses.

Notable practitioners

Dean Carrigan maintains a comprehensive insurance practice handling a broad range of transactional, contentious and regulatory matters, many of which have strategic and regional dimensions for the clients concerned. **Strengths:** “Dean is simply the best. You can always trust him to navigate any problem and deliver pragmatic solutions.” “He is a very impressive lawyer.” **Nicole Wearne** is experienced across a comprehensive range of contentious insurance issues, being particularly well known for her handling of D&O and other professional indemnity matters. **Strengths:** “Nicole is highly competent, very calm, confident and has good market presence. She is an incredibly capable pair of hands.” **Patrick Boardman** is based in Sydney and acts extensively for both insurer and insured clients on indemnity claims and coverage issues in that sphere. **Strengths:** “Patrick is the consummate professional, he has everything technically, and he is a leader. He has the gravitas in the market, and he also thinks 360 degrees, is sensitive to his clients’ needs and is incredibly effective.” **Avryl Lattin** focuses principally on

advising insurance providers on regulatory and compliance issues, but also offers noteworthy transactional and startup establishment experience. **Strengths:** “Avryl has a deep understanding of the insurance landscape and provides advice that is commercially focused and pragmatic, and in a responsive manner. She is trustworthy, honest and an exceptional lawyer.” **John Moran** has been recognised for his work in insurance, particularly in relation to the cyber space. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** “He has a very good reputation in cyber insurance and has a lot of that work.”

Colin Biggers & Paisley

What the team is known for Colin Biggers & Paisley caters to an extensive roster of insurer clients on high-profile contentious matters, notably including high-stakes class actions and construction disputes. The firm is especially well regarded for handling big-ticket D&O and professional indemnity disputes as well as fielding expertise with regard to coverage issues. Additionally, the team is active in asbestos litigation, personal injury and transport-related claims. Colin Biggers & Paisley advises both Australian and multinational clients from within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region and is particularly noted for assisting on work originating from the London market. Clients include RCR Tomlinson and Chubb Insurance.

Strengths

“Colin Biggers & Paisley are excellent, professional, and always reliable.”

“They are highly technical and able to understand various implications of the issue. They provide concise legal advice.”

Work highlights Colin Biggers & Paisley acted for Liberty Specialty Markets to successfully defend a AUD45.7 million claim made by CIMIC on the grounds of material non-disclosure.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Monahan is based in Melbourne and is widely acknowledged to be one of the standout practitioners in the insurance sphere, where he acts particularly prominently on D&O liability and financial services sector-related insurance issues.

Greg Skehan is particularly well known for his work on complex contentious insurance issues, particularly those arising in a construction or engineering-related context. **Strengths:** “Greg is a leader in the field.” **Keith Bethlehem** is based in Sydney and is widely regarded as a go-to lawyer where D&O, financial institution and cyber risk-related issues are concerned. **Strengths:** “Keith is an impeccably safe pair of hands. He has the technical knowledge, experience and dedication which is reflected in his work.”

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for The Corrs Chambers Westgarth practice is frequently sought out by major corporates and institutional policyholders in the construction, infrastructure, financial services and energy sectors in relation to major claims and coverage work, including class action coverage-related advice. The insurance team is particularly active on matters relating to professional indemnity insurance, offers substantial expertise in risk allocation and insurance regimes

and is well placed to advise on surety bond facility issues. Its integrated team, operating across offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, offers nationwide expertise.

Strengths

“They possess knowledge and technique. This is particularly relevant when you need to balance commercial interests with dispute outcome. They are not ‘heavy-handed’ and provide a sophisticated approach to framing issues and communicating with their opponents.”

“The firm has excellent technical knowledge and the ability to make complex matters simple.”

Notable practitioners

Catherine Oldenburg is highly experienced in the litigation of insurance disputes, particularly on behalf of construction and infrastructure sector clients, and also advises on questions concerning a wide range of insurance products. **Strengths:** “Catherine is very responsive, very commercial, and her advice is easy to understand. Definitely recommend her to others that have complex insurance queries or concerns.” “Catherine is a wonderful person to work with.”

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper has a full-service offering and is well placed to act across financial lines, construction, cyber and W&I claims. The team is also noted for its non-contentious capability, with experience advising on transactional and compliance matters, as well as pricing and insurance products. Its key clients include major insurers such as Suncorp and Swiss Re. The insurance team is also active in the insurtech space, representing venture capital firms and start-ups.

Strengths

“They have an impressive capacity to manage complex multi-party financial lines insurance claims.”

“DLA Piper have great depth of knowledge and expertise in Australia in the financial services regulatory environment, with extremely capable SAs and junior lawyers.”

Notable practitioners

Tricia Hobson (see p.233) of DLA Piper in Sydney is active in both the contentious and the non-contentious spheres, her expertise ranging from handling class actions and other large-scale litigation to the provision of in-depth coverage advice.

Strengths: “Someone who has been in the sector for a substantial amount of time, and works on some very significant matters.” **Samantha O’Brien** (see p.234) in Brisbane advises an impressive variety of insurer, insurance agency and intermediary clients on a broad range of transactional and regulatory issues.

Strengths: “Sam is the go-to person. She is extremely pragmatic and has a broad range of expertise. She provides helpful market insight, shares ideas and provides flexible, practical solutions.” “Sam is amazing to work with. She is calm, level-headed, highly switched-on and a great leader.”

Gilchrist Connell

What the team is known for Gilchrist Connell is an accomplished insurance firm assisting insurers with a broad range of contentious issues, including financial lines, professional indemnity,

public liability, casualty and construction-related claims. The firm also operates on life insurance, subrogated recovery and policy coverage matters. Gilchrist Connell has a broad geographical spread with offices situated in every mainland state in Australia, complemented by recent new hires and augmented by membership of the international Harmonie Group of risk industry-focused law firms. Its key clients include Ventia Australia.

Strengths

"They are great, very consistent and prompt – they put everything to the side to attend to our urgent matters. Very knowledgeable, quite technical, with very strong financial lines skill sets."

"They are technically sound and very cost-effective legal managers."

Work highlights Gilchrist Connell advised a managing agent in relation to the defence of a dependency claim heard in the Supreme Court of Queensland.

Notable practitioners

Managing principal Richard Wood is a key contact.

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox acts for insurers, reinsurers, underwriters and self-insured corporations on contentious and non-contentious insurance matters, including policy wording, regulatory issues, claims recovery and settlement strategies. Its product lines include professional indemnity, management liability, general and product liability, workers' compensation, recoveries and accident and health. Hall & Wilcox also assists insurers on statutory insurance matters such as workers' compensation and compulsory third-party insurance.

Strengths

"The firm's advice is concise and their recommendations are commercially appropriate."

"They are very knowledgeable. Some of the best practitioners in the cyber space."

Work highlights Hall & Wilcox represented Insurance Australia, Allianz, ComInsure and QBE, and their insureds in the High Court in a mass tort recovery action relating to a bushfire in Parkerville, in Western Australia. The firm secured a favourable judgment on behalf of its clients.

Notable practitioners

Matt McDonald (see p.234) is based in Melbourne and offers over 20 years' experience in the litigation of high-quantum insurance disputes on behalf of leading Australian and London-based insurers. He is acknowledged for the handling of mass tort and class action cases. **Strengths:** *"Matt is a genuine leader and is a very skilled expert." "Matt has serviced my business needs for many years and ensured that I have been comfortable along the way. Matt has continued to make me and my business feel confident in all litigation."*

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills offers a comprehensive insurance service, including representation in high-profile disputes as well as advice on regulatory compliance and risk management. Its insurance team predominantly acts for corporate policyholders on claims across a number of industries, including the financial services, construction and resources sectors.

The insurance team also provides risk advice relating to transactional insurance issues and the transfer of insurance assets. Herbert Smith Freehills abstains from pursuing a contentious insurer defence practice, so as to provide policyholders with a conflict-free service against insurers, and leverages the resources of its global network to advise on insurance issues with cross-jurisdictional aspects, both within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region. Its key clients include MetLife Insurance and Newcrest Mining.

Strengths

"Herbert Smith Freehills have a highly professional and experienced team with a large team of specialists."

"They always respond quickly to correspondence and provide first-class customer service."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised, drafted and negotiated the Political Risks Insurance policy wording and related materials for the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation trading as Export Finance Australia.

Notable practitioners

Mark Darwin is based in Brisbane and offers over three decades' experience in the contentious insurance space, being particularly well known for his representation of policyholders making business interruption and other claims upon their insurers. **Guy Narburgh** acts extensively for policyholders on contentious, advisory and transactional mandates, being particularly well known for his knowledge of D&O liability issues. **Strengths:** *"It is always a pleasure to work with Guy. His detailed knowledge of insurance law and commercial outcomes combined with his customer service and commercial acumen means that he is well placed to deliver results." "I have had highly impressive dealings with Guy."*

HFW

What the team is known for HFW's solid practice is backed by a global network of offices and is thus equipped to offer expertise covering both the Australian and international markets and cross-jurisdictional insurance matters. The firm is notably well placed to deal with insurance issues affecting high-profile policyholders in the aviation, construction, energy, mining and shipping sectors, including claims and disputes generated by catastrophic events of both natural and human origin. The team also advises extensively on financial transfer and alternative risk transfer issues and on matters concerning company relations with captive insurers.

Strengths

"As they are an international firm they can draw on a wide range of strategies and legal knowledge and they work cohesively together in respect to Australian litigation."

"HFW provide very high-quality service."

Notable practitioners

Richard Jowett is based in Melbourne and is particularly well known for his representation of major construction, engineering and resources sector insureds involved in high-value business interruption or casualty cases. **Strengths:** *"Richard is an excellent professional."*

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth Lawyers fields a respected practice, providing a comprehensive service to insurer clients. The firm's broad geographical coverage across Australia with specialist practitioners in a number of insurance areas including reinsurance, professional indemnity, employers' liability and public liability. The firm also advises on regulatory matters and statutory insurance. As part of a full-service firm, the insurance team is able to draw on expertise in other practice areas to further assist its clients.

Notable practitioners

Philip Battye is a key contact for clients.

Jackson McDonald

What the team is known for Jackson McDonald's substantial, Perth-headquartered practice is particularly skilled in handling insurance matters involving the mining and natural resources industries. It combines a strong Western Australian offering with a national capability, augmented by the 2019 opening of a Sydney office. The firm primarily caters to insurer clients, both domestic and international, with a focus on contentious work. The insurance team is notably active on professional indemnity claims but equally adept at handling claims relating to D&O liability, employers' indemnity, business interruption, and construction and project insurance claims. Other areas of advice include public and product liability, statutory inquiries and legislative compliance. Its key clients include the Minister for Education and Insurance Commission of Western Australia.

Strengths

"Overall the team is very skilled and experienced with technical expertise and knowledge of the local jurisdictions and trends."

"They have a strong presence in the Western Australia market. This ensures they can appreciate commercial issues and relationships not strictly related to the claims or issues they are acting on."

Work highlights Jackson McDonald acted for the Minister for Education and Insurance Commission of Western Australia in defence of a claim made by a student for a serious eye injury he sustained while he was in his classroom.

Notable practitioners

A key contact is Fiona Dempster.

Kennedys

What the team is known for The Kennedys insurance team is a respected firm, noted for its impressive regional and broader international reach, particularly to the London market, and strength in contentious work. The firm primarily provides for insurer clients on a range of matters, covering all lines of insurance and including risk management issues, D&O disputes and public liability claims. Its insurance team operates in a wide range of areas, including the financial, corporate, construction, media and political sectors, notably developing its profile in the medical malpractice space. Its key clients include Everest Re Group, AXA XL and HDI Global.

Strengths

"They are excellent. Really intelligent, savvy lawyers. Not just letter of the law knowledge but also industry knowledge. They are really easy to work

with. The advice is comprehensive and digestible.”

“We really relied on the depth within the team but also the fact they are an international firm as well.”

Work highlights Kennedys advised AXA XL & Chubb on coverage and defence in relation to a class action issued by investors in woodlot investment schemes run by GPL who are alleged to have suffered a loss.

Notable practitioners

Matt Andrews brings to the table a particularly impressive track record in the insurance space, including deep familiarity with financial lines, property and international insurance issues, the last enhanced by the benefits of 21 years’ experience in the London market. **Strengths:** “He is a partner who likes to have full knowledge of all the complexities of the matter. He has the ability to simplify really complex issues.” **Chris Finn** is based in Sydney and focuses closely on public and product liability claims and professional indemnity issues, acting for clients from a very wide range of industries, including the construction, energy, hospitality, medical, resources and transportation sectors. **Strengths:** “Chris provides strong commercial advice and guidance.” **Penny Taylor** specialises in financial lines insurance matters generally and professional indemnity matters in particular. She offers particularly noted experience in the handling of ASIC prosecutions, class actions and high-profile D&O-related litigation. **Strengths:** “Top marks – very happy with Penny’s commercial nous, smarts and personality.”

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons maintains its high reputation for assured handling of a comprehensive range of policyholder work, especially M&A-related warranty and indemnity matters, and enjoys particularly close ties with clients from the financial services sector. The team is active on professional indemnity claims, including those made against other law firms, and class actions, and also known for its front-end practice focusing on regulatory issues. The firm is well placed, thanks to its multi-jurisdictional network of offices, to advise on insurance issues on an Asia-Pacific regional basis. Its key clients include Alltrust Insurance and Horizon Capital Financial.

Strengths

“KWM are diligent, analytical and practical.”

“King & Wood Mallesons are very aware of market practice and commerciality.”

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons successfully defended N.M. Superannuation (a superannuation trustee within the AMP Group) in proceedings brought in the NSW Supreme Court by Resolution Life Australia, an incumbent life insurer for AMP superannuation fund members.

Notable practitioners

Travis Toemoe is based in Sydney and specialises in the handling of major insurance disputes but is also active across a wide range of advisory and transactional mandates. **Strengths:** “Travis heads a team of excellent lawyers who clearly enjoy working with him – something that is apparent in the quality of the work product delivered.” “Travis is a long-trusted adviser, and his advice and acumen is highly appreciated and valued.”

Lander & Rogers

What the team is known for Lander & Rogers fields a well-established insurer practice with considerable experience in the handling of both litigated and non-litigated claims and which offers in-depth knowledge of the London market. Its areas of strength include class action defence work generally, and product liability, professional indemnity, D&O liability, casualty and medical negligence issues specifically, and the practice is also increasingly identified as a market leader for subrogated recovery work. The firm has growing capability in the construction sector and in the increasingly important areas of cyber risk and recovery, and has a dedicated recoveries team operating in all areas of insurance. The insurance team fields further expertise regarding regulation and compliance with regard to insurance M&A transactions. Its key clients include AIG Australia and Allianz.

Work highlights Lander & Rogers was instructed as coverage and defence counsel for Chubb as the co-primary insurer of CIMIC in relation to a claim by CIMIC for indemnity for loss and damage incurred by CIMIC from two shareholder class actions, an ASIC investigation and an AFP investigation.

Notable practitioners

Julie Smith is a prominent, Melbourne-based litigator on behalf of insurer clients across a wide range of practice area issues, including D&O, professional indemnity and management liability claims. **Strengths:** “Julie is a very smart and tough lawyer with a lot of experience.” **Charles Thornley** is based in Sydney and is a specialist in the field of construction and engineering and property insurance, advising regularly on both coverage and defence aspects of the insurance of major infrastructure projects. **Ari Abrahams** is particularly well known for his representation of insurer clients, notably including those operating in the casualty, energy, property and recovery classes in class action and other litigation. **Veronica Chapman** is highly experienced in the insurance space and stands out particularly for her in-depth knowledge of financial lines-related issues and personal and property liability claims. **Colleen Palmkvist** is an insurance litigator based in Sydney. In addition to class actions, she is also noted for complex property, construction and recovery claims.

McCabe Curwood

What the team is known for McCabe Curwood acts for an impressive range of domestic and international insurers, brokers and advisers, including Lloyd’s syndicates, across the full range of both short and long-tail issues. The insurance team is experienced in the superior court litigation of insurance disputes, but maintaining a preference for the adoption of alternative dispute resolution procedures where possible; the team also offers a comprehensive regulatory advisory service. Areas of particular expertise include motor vehicle accidents and other casualty cases, construction and engineering, professional lines and workers’ compensation.

Notable practitioners

Alex Freeman is a key contact for clients.

Meridian Lawyers

What the team is known for Meridian Lawyers is renowned for public liability matters, with particular expertise in casualty, healthcare and product liability. The team is also noted for its experience handling claims within the construction and environmental sectors. Additionally, Meridian Lawyers has increasing proficiency in life insurance matters. The firm acts for both national and international insurers, including London market insurers. Its key clients include IAG and Guild Insurance.

Strengths

“They are a very capable firm. Very skilful and knowledgeable partners and very capable solicitors (including associates and senior associates).”

“They are very knowledgeable in their field. There doesn’t seem to have been an issue they can’t handle.”

Work highlights Meridian Lawyers acted for AIG USA and AIG Australia in relation to a pollution case brought by Qantas against Jones Lang LaSalle in the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Notable practitioners

Robert Crittenden in Sydney acts for a broad range of insurance industry players, including overseas underwriters, focusing primarily on professional indemnity and product liability matters and offering notable experience in the handling of class actions. **Strengths:** “Robert is prompt in answering enquiries. He is very knowledgeable and always able to help, and comes to the best resolution for all involved.” “A really good operator who is known through the industry.”

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for Mills Oakley demonstrates strong litigation capability, with expertise across a broad range of insurance lines including construction, marine, professional indemnity, D&O and medical. The firm is often retained by insurers such as Suncorp and Berkley Insurance Australia.

Strengths

“Their advice is pitched at the right level with an appropriate level of detail. The pragmatic approach to litigation is undertaken within the prism of commercial outcomes.”

“Mills Oakley has ably handled matters of high value involving multiple parties.”

Work highlights Mills Oakley handled a medical malpractice claim for Berkley Insurance Australia.

Notable practitioners

Louise Cantrill in Sydney combines the talents of an experienced litigator with those of an accomplished adviser on non-contentious insurance issues. **Stefan Sudweeks** is based in Mills Oakley’s Sydney office and is an experienced litigator of professional indemnity and D&O liability cases on behalf of both domestic insurance and reinsurance companies and a number of Lloyd’s syndicates.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison demonstrates a broad skill set across the whole gamut of insurance issues and on a truly nationwide basis. Its insurance team is routinely sought out

by both insurer and policyholder clients to handle complex front-end work including corporate advisory, reinsurance and policy wordings. The team is equally adept in handling significant contentious claims, with particular strength in medical malpractice, product liability, regulatory compliance and asbestos claims. It has a focus on emerging risk classes such as warranty and indemnity insurance and cyber risk, and receives specific praise for its ability to service insurance-related class actions. The firm's clients include leading global insurers and a number of the largest businesses in Australia, some examples being Westpac General Insurance and Suncorp.

Strengths

"MinterEllison are very responsive, have a deep knowledge of client needs and expectations and are very friendly to work with."

"The firm is dedicated to providing a high level of service to its clients."

Work highlights MinterEllison acted for Icon/Kajima in class action proceedings before the Supreme Court of NSW in relation to building defects of the Opal Tower.

Notable practitioners

Chern Tan is based in Sydney and is highly regarded for the litigation skills he brings to a range of D&O, professional indemnity, property damage and other issues, acting for both insurers and insureds. **Strengths:** *"Chern has great experience on insurance matters. He provides great analysis." "He is an excellent operator with a very clear focus on the client's objectives."*

Moray & Agnew

What the team is known for Moray & Agnew is a well-known national firm, principally focused on insurance defence issues and routinely handling back-end work for significant insurer clients, reinsurers, underwriters and government agencies. Its insurance team offers specialist knowledge in a range of areas including public liability, medical negligence, industrial special risks and D&O liability. Its clients include international insurers, niche insurers, underwriters, brokers, reinsurers, claims management agencies, government agencies and self-insured corporations. The firm is active in the life insurance space and offers niche expertise in the employment practices liability and workers' compensation spheres. Its key clients include QBE Insurance and MetLife Insurance.

Strengths

"Moray & Agnew have good attention to detail while providing sound practical advice."

"They are very methodical, professional and are always going out of their way to think outside the box for the best outcome."

Work highlights Moray & Agnew acted for Liberty Specialty Markets to successfully defend a negligence claim against a well-known Canberra law firm.

Notable practitioners

National managing partner Geoff Connellan is a key contact for clients.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for The Norton Rose Fulbright offering is a go-to practice for insurer

clients, offering a comprehensive service, seamlessly coordinated with that of related practice groups where appropriate, and excellent cross-border capabilities. The firm is active in the class action and regulatory investigation and commission spaces. The team demonstrates extensive expertise in technology, healthcare and life sciences-related insurance issues. The firm is also acknowledged for its strong non-contentious practice, advising on new products, M&A and licensing. Its key clients include Airbnb and Open Insurance.

Strengths

"The team are great at exploring alternative and out-of-box ideas to solve problems."

"They provide very good and very reliable advice."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Airbnb on the proposed distribution of travel insurance in Australia as well as structuring of its Host Liability Insurance and Experience Liability Insurance offerings.

Notable practitioners

Ray Giblett commands a high level of market recognition as a veteran practitioner in this space, accumulating an enviable body of expertise in the process. Based in Sydney, he operates across the full contentious, regulatory and transactional spectrum. **Strengths:** *"Ray is aware of industry happenings, both at the small and big end of town." "He is very personable and clearly very experienced."*

Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

What the team is known for Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan is a specialist litigation practice, operating from offices in both Sydney and Perth and maintaining a strong global reputation and track record in respect of the handling of class actions as well as litigation involving product liability, professional indemnity and D&O issues. The firm also provides advice on insurance coverage disputes and risk solutions. The team is experienced in both cross-border and domestic insurance disputes for significant policyholder clients including major Australian and multinational corporates, regularly conducting its own court advocacy. Its key clients include Ardent Leisure Group and Greensill Bank AG.

Strengths

"They have exceptional proficiency and expertise. A great team."

"I find them engaged, find them understanding and passionate, and find them effective."

Work highlights Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan acted for Greensill Bank AG and its insolvency administrator, Dr Michael Frege, in a series of claims against its insurers under trade credit insurance policies.

Notable practitioners

Michelle Fox is based in Sydney and offers particularly rich experience in the representation of corporate insureds in class actions and of individual executives in D&O litigation. **Strengths:** *"Michelle is a highly skilled lawyer who offers exceptional legal advice combined with a strong sense of commercial awareness." "She is very competent and very firm. A direct and formidable person to have on your side."*

Sparke Helmore

What the team is known for Sparke Helmore fields a commended insurer practice with a valued pan-Australian presence, active on a broad range of matters including D&O liability, professional indemnity, catastrophic and workers' compensation claims. The insurance legal team demonstrates further ability on claims relating to product and public liability. The firm is experienced in acting on major class actions as well as advising insurers on claims, policy interpretation and coverage issues. Sparke Helmore operates in emerging areas within the insurance industry such as cyber risk and is increasingly noted for its assured handling of London market-related mandates. Its key clients include Medical Defence Organisation and Australian Pacific Airports.

Work highlights Sparke Helmore advised Medical Defence Organisation regarding coverage and joinder issues and represented the insurer in a class action in the Supreme Court of NSW.

Notable practitioners

John Coorey practises principally in the professional indemnity and D&O spheres, acting from the Sydney office for both Australian and London-based insurers. **Strengths:** *"John is a very direct and clear thinker. He is very good at cutting to the heart of the matter, and driving it to a conclusion." Mark Doepel has handled contentious issues in the D&O, financial lines, professional indemnity and reinsurance spaces for nearly 30 years, being particularly well known for his expertise concerning clinical negligence and other medico-legal issues.*

Wotton + Kearney

What the team is known for Wotton + Kearney is a well-regarded insurance powerhouse acting for major insurers on big-ticket disputes, including public and product liability, financial lines and professional indemnity matters. The team is experienced in claims involving the construction, infrastructure and energy sectors, among others. The firm possesses an impressive trans-Tasman footprint, maintaining six offices across Australia and New Zealand, augmented by access to overseas markets, including those in London and Europe and across Asia, through an alliance with other specialist firms. The insurance team is active in such specialist areas as subrogated recoveries, cyber risk, class actions and medical malpractice, and especially noted for its niche expertise concerning the impact of insurance-related issues on the entertainment, leisure and sports sectors. Its key clients include AIG and AXA XL.

Strengths

"Good market relations on both sides of most matters mean they are well placed to consider what might occur down the track and only take points worth taking."

"The experience, depth and breadth of Wotton + Kearney's team is second to none."

Work highlights Wotton + Kearney acted for Halifax Vogel Group in class action proceedings brought by an applicant and group members against cladding manufacturer 3A Composites and supplier Halifax Vogel Group in the Federal Court.

Notable practitioners

David Kearney is the firm's co-founder and CEO and commands great market respect. He continues to oversee the operations of the firm's Australian and New Zealand operations from the Sydney office, drawing on the experience acquired in over 25 years' practice in the commercial insurance space. **Strengths:** "David is a well-known and successful practitioner in the space." "He is well respected in the industry." **Cain Jackson** is based in Melbourne and is noted for his representation of leading financial services providers and other clients in class actions, D&O liability and other professional indemnity issues. **Strengths:** "He is really good, particularly in the D&O space."

Andrew Moore is based in Sydney and focuses on insurance defence issues, including D&O and professional indemnity matters and environmental liability issues, often acting for construction, engineering or financial services sector clients. **Strengths:** "Andrew is incredibly smart, both on coverage advice and defence strategy after cover has been granted. He is also really good at man-

aging tricky clients. An excellent lawyer all-round." **Adam Chylek** commands widespread market recognition for his work in the insurance space, particularly where property-related matters are concerned. He is also noted for his experience in the handling of insurance issues arising from such natural disasters as the Christchurch earthquakes or Queensland floods. **Belinda Henningham** acts extensively for both insurers and insureds in the defence of public and product liability claims of all sizes, her expertise extending across a comprehensive range of both personal injury and property damage issues. "Belinda is a very good longstanding practitioner."

Yeldham Price O'Brien Lusk

What the team is known for Yeldham Price O'Brien Lusk's boutique practice caters to insurers and reinsurers on a range of complex mandates. The law firm offers notable expertise in public liability, medical negligence and aviation-related claims, in addition to professional indemnity, D&O and workers' compensation matters. The team also

advises on regulatory investigations, trusts and corporation law.

Notable practitioners

Paul O'Brien is a highly regarded litigator with a strong practice area focus and expertise covering both the insurance and reinsurance fields. Noted areas of strength include professional indemnity and financial lines issues, especially those arising in a construction connection, and particularly noted coverage-related expertise. **Strengths:** "Paul is a very considered and impressive individual." "A very experienced and well-regarded insurance practitioner who has been around a long time."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Mark Radford of Radford Lawyers Pty Limited in Sydney principally advises insurance industry and other financial services professionals on a comprehensive range of regulatory issues, including interpretation, policy drafting and compliance.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
Gilbert + Tobin
Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 2
Ashurst
Baker McKenzie
Clayton Utz
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
King & Wood Mallesons
MinterEllison
Band 3
Banki Haddock Fiora
Bird & Bird
Davies Collison Cave
DLA Piper Australia
Griffith Hack
Jones Day
Norton Rose Fulbright
Simpsons Solicitors
Spruson & Ferguson Lawyers
Band 4
K&L Gates
Maddocks
Band 5
Addisons
Gadens
Pearce IP
Thomson Geer
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Intellectual Property: Trade Mark & Copyright
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Hay Kate King & Wood Mallesons
Lennon Lisa Gilbert + Tobin
O'Brien Jackie Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 4
Allen Tim Allens
Hayne Karen Omoi IP (ORL) ◇
Hey Georgina Norton Rose Fulbright
Hoad Richard Jones Day
Kolivos Eugenia Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Lewis Lynne Bird & Bird
Ryan Caroline Allens *
Short Donna Addisons
Smith Kellech Ashurst
Stewart Andrew Baker McKenzie
Webb Timothy Clayton Utz
White Elisabeth Baker McKenzie
Up-and-coming individuals
Awerbuch Kerry Gadens

Band 1

Allens

What the team is known for Allens maintains an acclaimed practice with expertise across the full range of IP issues, including commercialisation, contentious and regulatory matters spanning trade mark and patent infringements, and transactional matters. The team's patent experience covers life sciences and technology matters, and the practice has a strong track record working

with leading multinational corporations, particularly in the media and advertising sectors. The firm offers leading expertise in the areas of copyright, brand protection and anti-counterfeiting. Notable clients include Australian News Channel, Sony Music Publishing and CSL.

Strengths

"Allens are excellent in all respects. One of their great strengths is their commercial acumen on IP matters." "They think outside the box to come up with creative

Intellectual Property: Patents
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Hamer Richard <i>Allens</i>
McMaster Wayne <i>Wayne McMaster (ORL) ◇</i>
McVicar Shaun <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Muratore Anthony <i>Jones Day</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Gilchrist Sue <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Swinn Matthew <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Band 2
Cooper Robert <i>MinterEllison</i>
Taliadoros Lisa <i>Jones Day</i>
Band 3
Collins John <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Gourley Odette <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Lee John <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Miller Ben <i>Maddocks</i>
Pascarl Ian <i>Davies Collison Cave</i>
Band 4
Baigent Derek <i>Griffith Hack</i>
D'Aloisio Stuart <i>Ashurst</i>
Fisher Grant <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Fixler David <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Gay Rebekah <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Hay Kate <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Macpherson Helen <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
O'Connell Kim <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Owen Jane <i>Bird & Bird</i>
Pearce Naomi <i>Pearce IP</i>
Sands Patrick <i>K&L Gates</i>
Tyacke Nick <i>DLA Piper Australia *</i>
Williams Chris <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Fitzgerald Nina <i>Ashurst</i>
Iles Emma <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Longstaff Duncan <i>Spruson & Ferguson Lawyers</i>
* <i>Indicates individual with profile.</i>
◇ (ORL) = <i>Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

solutions to difficult problems. They craft sophisticated arguments to address complex issues."

Work highlights Allens was engaged by Airbnb to manage its trade mark portfolio including oppositions, IP enforcements and consumer law advice in both Australia and New Zealand.

Notable practitioners

Richard Hamer is widely seen as one of the leading lawyers in contentious intellectual property matters, especially with regard to patents, and is highly experienced in defending clients in infringement and revocation proceedings. **Tim Golder** acts on a range of trade mark and copyright matters, including cross-border protection issues as well as trade mark registration appeals. **Miriam Stiel** is regularly instructed on significant contentious intellectual property matters. She demonstrates a wealth of experience acting on copyright and trade mark litigation, and shows additional expertise in advising clients on IP aspects of significant acquisitions. **Strengths:** "Miriam is exceptional. She is calm, measured and incredibly intelligent. She is down to earth, and you feel you can rely on her advice without any qualms." "Miriam is calm in a crisis and takes a practical approach to dispute resolution." **Tim Allen** acts on

a variety of trade mark matters, including portfolio management, general advice and disputes. **Strengths:** "He is a very experienced operator." **Caroline Ryan** (see p.235) maintains an active IP practice that includes, but is not limited to, portfolio management and trade mark opposition work. She is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** "Caroline is a very good professional and communicator." "She has high skill, precision and speed."

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin is notable for its breadth of skills, advising on transactional and contentious copyright, design, patent and trade mark issues. The team serves an impressive range of both local and global corporations, and is especially known for its prominence in the technology and media sectors, where it advises on gaming, software and online systems. It also possesses expertise in areas as diverse as mining and healthcare. The team is particularly well regarded for its ability to assist clients on IP litigation, and is notably active of late on appellate work. Gilbert + Tobin offers comprehensive skills on IP transactions including issues of royalty and distribution fee disputes, as well as advertising and regulatory compliance. Notable clients include REC Solar, State Street Global Advisors and Aristocrat Technologies.

Strengths

"Gilbert + Tobin leverage comprehensive experience and skills in managing complex IP matters. They have strong lead partners with a deep bench of associates."

"Gilbert + Tobin are very experienced with a deep appreciation of business and commerce. They are also highly organised."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin acted for CPC Patent Technologies in a patent infringement case in the Federal Court against Apple over biometric technology used in iPhones and iPads.

Notable practitioners

Michael Williams is a market-leading IP practitioner with a wealth of experience in advising clients on a diverse range of contentious matters, and with particular expertise in high-profile copyright disputes. **Strengths:** "Michael has an amazing legal mind." "Michael Williams remains one of the leaders in copyright." **Siabon Seet** is frequently instructed across a range of contentious trade mark and copyright mandates, including enforcement and brand protection matters. **John Lee** advises clients on patent litigation, including disputes in the IT, gaming and renewable energy industries. **Strengths:** "John is an outstanding attorney. He is extremely knowledgeable about a wide range of IP issues." "John is very approachable. He is supportive, knowledgeable, experienced, and good at strategy." **Lisa Lennon** is regularly instructed on non-contentious trade mark matters by a mixed international and domestic clientele from a broad range of sectors, including media, education, banking and life sciences. She specialises in commercial IP, brand protection and portfolio management. **Strengths:** "Lisa Lennon is great. She is very experienced and well regarded in the market. Because she is senior and a partner, she is good at boundary setting and is a good role model." "I have had very good experiences with Lisa

and her team helping my company with intellectual property matters." **Chris William** frequently works on patent management and dispute resolutions for clients from the renewable energy and manufacturing industries. **Strengths:** "Chris is really great. He is very knowledgeable in his area. He has also got some fantastic contacts with barristers and litigators in Sydney and across Australia, has a good team working for him, and he is strategic and capable." "His familiarity with the issues provides clients with the confidence and ease they need to make business decisions."

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills is a pre-eminent group with an outstanding track record in patent litigation in both the pharmaceutical and technological sectors. Its expertise crosses the spectrum of IP services, with groups of commercial IP practitioners and litigators as well as a dedicated trade marks management and prosecution team, and the team has significant experience handling commercialisation and transactional matters. Herbert Smith Freehills regularly advises leading multinational clients on all aspects of IP protection, including the coordination of multi-jurisdictional cases, as well as advising on trade mark portfolio management and the IP aspects of market entry for new products. Notable clients include Biogen, Gilead and Motorola Solutions.

Strengths

"HSF is really at the top of the market, in the top bracket of firms in Australia, really in the top rung. Extremely high quality of work and real depth of expertise."

"HSF partners are exceptional and the senior associates are clearly subject matter experts. They have always been exceptionally responsive and willing."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised Suncorp Group on the IP aspects of its AUD4.9 billion sale of Suncorp Bank to ANZ.

Notable practitioners

Shaun McVicar is a well-reputed lawyer who is noted for the depth of his expertise and experience on patent litigation matters. He is noted for his work representing clients in the pharmaceutical industry. **Sue Gilchrist** is renowned for her expertise in contentious intellectual property matters, including patents, trade marks and copyright. She counts major corporates amongst her clients, notably including those operating in the technology sector. **Strengths:** "Sue is one of Australia's most experienced patent litigators. She is a dream to work with." "Sue is an exceptional expert in her field." **Kristin Stammer** regularly advises clients on the IP aspects of significant transactions, trade mark portfolio management and rebrandings. **Strengths:** "She understands the business well and can cut through the jargon." **Rebekah Gay** frequently acts on patent enforcement strategy and infringement disputes, with clients including, but not limited to, pharmaceutical, IT and retail companies. **Strengths:** "Rebekah is young and dynamic. She is very good to work with and is a straight talker." "Rebekah Gay is a fantastic litigator." **Emma Iles'** practice is particularly focused on patent disputes, where she frequently acts for pharmaceutical and medical device com-

panies. **Strengths:** *“Emma’s expertise is fantastic, but she is able to distil it into practical user-friendly explanations.”*

Band 2

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst has a highly accomplished practice which impresses on both contentious and non-contentious matters. The team is thoroughly experienced in handling high-profile patent, copyright and trade mark disputes, trade mark portfolio management, anti-counterfeiting matters and brand protection for a raft of well-known clients. The practice also offers specialist expertise in food labelling, advertising and marketing advice and the regulation of therapeutic goods and cosmetics. Ashurst acts for an impressive list of domestic and international clients within the technology, life sciences, food and beverage, retail, sports and media sectors. Notable names include ANZ, Alibaba and LEGO.

Strengths

“They are a great firm. They are well known in the trade mark space. They have a good team, are responsive, and provide good service.”

“Ashurst has a large IP team of knowledgeable lawyers who are able to assist counsel to a very high level. From junior lawyers to senior associates and partners, each of Ashurst’s IP lawyers has a great depth of knowledge and experience.”

Work highlights Ashurst defended Henkel against trade mark infringement and passing-off proceedings brought by Reckitt Benckiser in the Federal Court of Australia.

Notable practitioners

Lisa Ritson maintains a highly respected practice, acting for a range of high-profile clients on a variety of trade mark and copyright issues, and offers a wealth of experience in managing global trade mark portfolios. She is notably recognised for her strength advising clients on trade mark litigation. **Strengths:** *“Lisa is really senior and experienced, and is fantastic to work with. She is a real expert in her field.”* **Anita Cade** heads the firm’s practice group and acts on a range of trade mark and copyright matters, including managing IP assets in mergers and in the launching of new businesses, as well as on enforcement issues.

Strengths: *“Anita Cade is an outstanding lawyer. She is clever and is an excellent manager.”* **Stuart**

D’Aloisio acts on a range of intellectual property matters and demonstrates strong expertise in patent disputes, particularly in the life sciences sector. **Strengths:** *“Stuart is calm and collected. He is very reliable and easy to talk to, he has a good perspective. He is able to come up with interesting ideas when necessary.”* *“He is an excellent, excellent practitioner.”* **Kellech Smith** is regularly instructed on both contentious and non-contentious trade mark and copyright mandates.

Strengths: *“Kellech Smith is very impressive. She is very good at working with the client.”* *“Kellech provides good service. She is practical and experienced.”* **Nina Fitzgerald** is noted for her work acting for clients on contentious IP matters, most particularly those relating to patent infringement.

She counts major firms in the pharmaceutical and technology spaces amongst her clients. **Strengths:** *“Nina is an enormously able instructor, she has a great knowledge of law and has very good strategy.”*

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie has enviable cross-border capability and is frequently instructed by distinguished Australian brand owners and blue-chip multinationals. This well-regarded practice provides comprehensive coverage of all IP assets, with particular strength advising household-name corporates in respect of brand protection and anti-counterfeiting actions as well as franchising, site-blocking and other copyright, patent and passing-off matters. Baker McKenzie has strong capability in global trade mark portfolios and is able to service clients across a wide range of industries, including food and beverages, consumer goods, retail, healthcare, hospitality, media and technology. Notable clients include Rio Tinto, the Motion Picture Association and Australian Wool Innovation.

Strengths

“They are very sensible and alert to commercial considerations.”

“It was a really positive experience. They provided valuable advice, and I was really happy with their support and performance.”

Work highlights Baker McKenzie represented Network Ten All Access and Paramount+ in seeking to have the Copyright Tribunal determine a fair licence scheme following the Australasian Performing Right Association and Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners’ Society’s proposal of a new industry licence.

Notable practitioners

Robert Arnold has a wealth of experience acting for global corporates on trade mark and copyright matters. **Helen Macpherson** is recognised for her work in patent litigation. She advises clients from a range of sectors, including pharmaceuticals and agribusiness. She is based in Sydney. **Strengths:**

“Helen is extremely good because she is very smart, very level-headed. She has the right level of consultativeness and a team-oriented approach to her decision-making.” *“She is an extremely capable IP lawyer and litigator.”*

Andrew Stewart heads the IP practice in Australia and is noted for his work on copyright matters, frequently acting for clients in the media and technology sectors. **Strengths:**

“Andrew is a very strategic litigator. He is very good, clever and easy to deal with. He is aggressive in litigation but also knows when to take a backseat. He has very good strategic judgement.” *“Andrew’s strength is as a thought leader, but he is also insightful and effective in getting what we need to get done.”*

Elisabeth White often advises clients on trade mark litigation, with additional expertise in IP commercialisation. **Strengths:** *“Elisabeth is very smart, very quick, and she knows how to deal with a case quickly and competently.”*

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz offers broad-based IP expertise including trade mark and copyright protection, with frequent involvement in cases featuring an international element.

The team handles complex patent matters for a diverse clientele, most notably in the pharmaceutical, technology and telecom sectors, and is active in both contentious and non-contentious matters, though particularly strong on disputes. The firm offers significant expertise in design infringement, passing off and misleading conduct cases. Notable clients include Novartis, Accent Group and Toyota.

Strengths

“I continue to be impressed by Clayton Utz’s ability to handle strategically complex situations – situations where there are multiple potential outcomes and the best path forward is unclear or has several potential stumbling blocks.”

“There is a good mix of skills on the Clayton Utz team. All team members are very responsive and they provide a reliable service.”

Work highlights Clayton Utz defended Pokemon Pty Ltd against allegations brought in the Federal Court that it misrepresented an association with The Pokemon Company International and its trade marks, including in relation to Pokémon-branded NFTs.

Notable practitioners

John Collins is highly experienced in patent litigation and acts for clients in a variety of sectors, offering notable expertise in high-profile pharmaceutical cases. **Timothy Webb** is regularly instructed by a wide range of clients on various contentious copyright and trade mark matters.

Strengths: *“Timothy is very responsive and provides excellent advice.”* *“Timothy Webb is an excellent adviser and negotiator.”*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth has a well-established practice adept at handling contentious and non-contentious matters for global and domestic clients, dealing with both domestic and cross-border cases. The team has a strong focus on the protection of patents and trade marks, with extensive expertise in life sciences and pharmaceuticals as well as high technology and energy and natural resources. Corrs Chambers Westgarth has strong expertise in branding and trade mark portfolio management, particularly on behalf of prominent international companies, and has additional expertise in handling false or misleading advertising litigation. Notable clients include Caterpillar, Jinko Solar and Stockland.

Strengths

“Corrs Chambers Westgarth are good at what they do. The lawyers are proactive, easy to contact and provide very good advice.”

“Corrs has a well-balanced team with strong partner knowledge.”

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth represented American pop star Katy Perry in trade mark infringement proceedings brought against her by an Australian, Katie Taylor (birth name Perry), who registered the trade mark ‘Katie Perry’ for her clothing business.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Stern regularly acts on high-profile contentious IP matters, notably including appeal of origin disputes. **Strengths:** *“Stephen is now amongst the most senior IP lawyers in the*

country. He and his practice are in the upper echelon of IP." **Odette Gourley** has a renowned practice, advising clients on significant contentious mandates involving both patents and trade marks. **Strengths:** "Odette is very experienced. She will do her best to coordinate resources and team efforts to meet the customer's requirements and goals." "Odette is responsive and provides great practical advice. She seems very aware of the commercial landscape in Australia." **Grant Fisher** is based at the firm's Melbourne office and is well regarded for his work on patent litigation matters. He has notable experience in the pharmaceutical and medical device sectors. **Strengths:** "Grant is very good at what he does. He is very, very thorough and can work internationally." "Grant is very experienced, very personable and has technical knowledge and expertise." **David Fixler** is well known for his IP litigation expertise, with a particular emphasis on the pharmaceutical industry. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** "David Fixler is a standout lawyer who ensures a technical and commercial balance is provided on all advice." "He is a brilliant lawyer and outside-the-box thinker. He has a very good understanding of the business side of things." **Eugenia Kolivos** maintains an active commercial IP practice, advising clients from a wide range of industries, including biotech, banking and finance, foods and beverages and social media. **Strengths:** "Eugenia is great. She is a very commercial lawyer. She is able to synthesise complicated issues and provides very pragmatic, commercial advice." "Eugenia Kolivos is super impressive and someone who you can put in front of any client without hesitation."

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons has a renowned litigation team with extensive experience in patent, trade mark and copyright disputes in both the domestic market and overseas through its global connections. It possesses a strong track record in brand protection and advertising clearances. The team acts for an enviable roster of well-known clients in a range of sectors, including pharmaceuticals and electronics, and assists with aspects of the protection and enforcement of IP assets. The firm is further able to handle the IP aspects of commercial transactions including IP asset transfer, licensing and commercialisation agreements and is also ideally placed for cross-border matters in Asia, particularly China. Notable clients include QAD, MSA 4x4 and The Star Entertainment Group.

Strengths

"KWM have a strong IP practice with the ability to handle complex multi-party disputes."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons acted for Fanatics in Federal Court trade mark infringement proceedings commenced by FanFirm.

Notable practitioners

Cate Nagy regularly acts for clients on a wide range of copyright and trade mark matters, including litigation, portfolio management and commercialisation. **Strengths:** "Cate Nagy and her team are experienced, sophisticated, responsive and client-friendly." "Cate stands out as an excellent lawyer in the area, particularly trade mark and copyrights." **Matthew Swinn** is fre-

quently instructed on a range of patent disputes and risk advisory matters in the life sciences and pharmaceutical industries. **Strengths:** "Matthew is strong across the board." **Scott Bouvier** frequently assists clients on IP commercialisation and contentious matters, and is particularly well regarded for his work in the life sciences sector. **Strengths:** "Scott is pragmatic and commercial, and engages in solutions-oriented advice." "He's very good in the commercial licensing space." **Kate Hay** advises clients on patent matters, including disputes, and a range of non-contentious matters, including licensing agreements. She is also noted for her work assisting clients on trade mark disputes. **Strengths:** "Kate is skilful, commercially sound and collegiate. She always sees the practical problems that might arise for the client in any given circumstance." "Kate has a strong all-round IP practice. She's one of the best IP litigators in the country." **Kim O'Connell** has a strong patent litigation practice and counts prominent actors in the technology and pharmaceutical sectors among her clients.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison advises across the full range of IP disputes, including high-profile copyright, trade mark and patent actions. It acts for a number of major corporates on IP protection and rebranding strategies. The team also has extensive experience in handling commercialisation matters and has a depth of expertise handling complex patent disputes, with a track record working with leading international clients from the pharmaceutical, telecommunications, media and technology sectors. MinterEllison's practice also includes a full registration service from a team of patent and trade mark attorneys. Notable clients include Stan Entertainment, Bristol Myers Squibb and Giorgio Armani.

Strengths

"They are really good at providing a really good integrated offering. Minters are seamless in working like that."

"They have very good intrinsic knowledge and there is constant team interaction."

Work highlights MinterEllison represented Thales Australia in Supreme Court proceedings against rival contractor Nioa and Australian company Madritsch in relation to a breach of confidence claim concerning technology used in the Austeyr assault rifle.

Notable practitioners

Robert Cooper regularly acts on substantial patent litigation proceedings in the telecommunications, life sciences and mining sectors. **Strengths:** "Robert is very thorough and responsive. He is good at presenting and giving all the options available." "Rob Cooper has such a wealth of knowledge and skills in litigation." **John Fairbairn** has a well-established practice in trade marks and copyright, with notable expertise in fair dealing, licensing, collecting societies and brand protection. **Strengths:** "John is very intelligent. He is very, very thoughtful and considered with his advice, easy to work with and is very experienced in both copyright and trade marks."

Band 3

Banki Haddock Fiora

What the team is known for Banki Haddock Fiora handles IP issues across numerous industries and sectors, including entertainment, electronics, food and gaming, and relevant regulatory regimes. The law firm is renowned for its skills in contentious trade mark and copyright matters together with managing trade mark portfolios for international clients. The firm is also adept at handling trade mark clearance and prosecution matters. Notable clients include Sony Pictures Television, Nestlé and Schneider Electric Australia.

Strengths

"Banki Haddock Fiora are very well equipped to handle a range of extremely complex and bespoke legal and commercial issues."

"They are well organised and render sound advice. They handle all matters efficiently and effectively."

Work highlights Banki Haddock Fiora advised Pfizer on due diligence for trade mark searches for its COVID-19 vaccine in Australia. It also manages Pfizer's Australian trade mark portfolio.

Notable practitioners

Kate Haddock is frequently instructed on a range of copyright matters, both contentious and non-contentious, including licensing and infringement, Copyright Tribunal proceedings and regulatory advice. **Strengths:** "Kate Haddock has substantial institutional knowledge and commercial acumen." "Kate is a professional through and through."

Bird & Bird

What the team is known for Bird & Bird benefits from a strong global network and is able to advise multinationals hailing from a range of sectors, including life science, media, telecommunications and education. The firm boasts an impressive track record handling trade mark prosecution and patent litigation matters and is experienced in claims involving breach of copyright and confidential information within the media and technology sectors. The team has additional expertise in unfair competition and advertising. Notable clients include RockStar Games, Globaltech Corporation and KPMG Australia.

Strengths

"They have always delivered on budget and, if they feel the matter will exceed a fee estimate, there is ample notice provided and a new fee estimate agreed."

Work highlights Bird & Bird acted for Troy Laboratories in its acquisition of animal healthcare products with trade marks and patents, including well-known brands Avenge, Zapp Encore and Maggo.

Notable practitioners

Lynne Lewis is active on both contentious and non-contentious IP, and is noted for her ability to assist clients on trade mark matters involving portfolio management and regulatory advice. **Strengths:** "Lynne is exceptional, thorough and fast." **Jane Owen** leads the practice from the firm's Sydney office and is an experienced patent lawyer who regularly acts for clients on disputes concerning a diverse range of patents, including those in the areas of mechanics and animal health.

Davies Collison Cave

What the team is known for Davies Collison Cave is a specialist firm comprising patent and trade mark attorneys in addition to well-reputed lawyers, offering a blend of patent and trade mark expertise, as well as designs and copyright know-how. The team provides patent and trade mark registration services and works in conjunction with its well-regarded litigation group for IP disputes. It is able to assist clients with both the commercialisation and enforcement of their IP rights. The firm has notable experience acting for multinationals from a range of industries, including life sciences, medical technology, fashion and telecommunications.

Notable practitioners

Ian Pascal frequently acts in complex litigation proceedings concerning a wide range of patents in the life sciences sector. His clients include multinational corporates in the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries, among others.

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper has an impressive team with a strong focus on transactional matters and contentious and non-contentious IP. It serves a clientele comprising major pharmaceutical and healthcare companies, as well as investors. The team draws on a strong global network that can provide jurisdictional expertise across multiple practice areas, and is able to assist multinational corporates with their brand management and enforcement strategy across the Asia-Pacific region. DLA Piper acts for major brands on global portfolio management, in addition to advertising and marketing issues. Notable clients include Pfizer, ResMed and Camпари.

Strengths

“DLA Piper have a detail-oriented team. They have a tendency to ask the right kind of questions, which makes for an efficient process.”

“The team were able to understand the complex and technical nature of the areas of representation better than any other law firm that was reviewed.”

Work highlights DLA Piper represented Global Retail Brands Australia in Federal Court of Australia proceedings in relation to alleged trade mark infringement, breaches of the Australian Consumer Law and passing off.

Notable practitioners

Nick Tyacke (see p.236) is an IP lawyer who frequently advises clients on patent infringement disputes. He is particularly active in the life sciences sphere and is a notable adviser to major pharmaceutical companies. **Strengths:** *“Nick is an extremely experienced litigator, particularly in pharmaceutical patent litigation.”* *“Nick is very hard-working, and is also very good at running a team. His attention to detail is very good.”*

Griffith Hack

What the team is known for Griffith Hack is an independent national firm with a strong track record handling major IP transactions and deep experience in IP litigation, with particular expertise in patent disputes. It is recognised for its strong expertise across the full range of trade marks and brand protection matters from

clearance and prosecution to oppositions and enforcement matters. The firm is also well versed in copyright and in such niche areas as plant breeders' rights. Notable clients include Puma, the Australian Energy Market Operator and Kraft Foods Group Brands.

Strengths

“Griffith Hack has very strong expertise, both on the patent law side and on the technical side. This combined expertise is critical when identifying patent infringement in complex technical implementations.”

“Griffith Hack provide in-depth analysis and have responsive discussions. They are very respectful and responsible.”

Work highlights Griffith Hack acted for Allergan, the maker of Botox, the well-known anti-ageing product, in a case addressing the question of whether the use of a competitor's trade mark, to promote the competitor's alternative product, infringes the registered trade mark.

Notable practitioners

Derek Baigent is regularly instructed on various contentious IP matters, including patent infringement proceedings as well as copyright and trade mark disputes. **Strengths:** *“Derek is excellent to work with, and he provides practical advice.”*

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day fields this Australian branch of a global IP practice, which leverages the firm's wider international expertise in cross-border prosecution, licensing and litigation matters. It has a strong reputation for its handling of contentious patent matters, especially in the life sciences arena, where the team is singled out for its scientific knowledge and expertise. Its impressive client list comprises many well-known, international pharmaceutical companies which it assists with the protection of patents covering key high-value drugs and treatments. Jones Day also advises clients in the technology field on copyright, trade mark, breach of confidence and design matters. Notable clients include Sanofi, ToolGen and Bristol Myers Squibb.

Strengths

“Jones Day's lawyers are very proficient, very good. They pay a lot of attention to detail, and really leave no stone unturned in the way they approach a matter. They try to get the best result for their client.”

“Jones Day has excellent knowledge and provides excellent client communications for patent-related matters. They are quick to reply, provide updates and propose actions and responses.”

Work highlights Jones Day advised the Chevron Corporation on the divestment of part of its Australian operations, including on licensing arrangements for associated brands.

Notable practitioners

Anthony Muratore is a pre-eminent patent litigator and risk adviser with particularly strong expertise in the life sciences space. **Strengths:** *“Tony Muratore is very experienced and very able.”*

Lisa Taliadoros maintains an active patent litigation practice, frequently acting for prominent clients in the pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries on infringement, opposition, and revocation proceedings. **Strengths:** *“Lisa is across*

the details. She is a very capable IP litigator, very dedicated to her clients' interests and good at coordinating international litigation.” *“Lisa is one of the most competent patent litigators in the country.”*

Richard Hoad is recognised for the depth of his experience acting for clients on trade mark issues, having assisted clients on both disputes and non-contentious matters.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright is recognised for its global, regional and domestic brand protection and IP portfolio management expertise as well as for its experienced litigation team. The team is experienced in handling the IP aspects of corporate and M&A transactions and is able to offer an integrated international practice, providing clients with a connected, cross-border service for multi-jurisdictional litigation and global trade mark portfolio management. Notable clients include McDonald's Australia, TikTok and Star Scientific.

Strengths

“It is one of the premier places for trade mark assistance in Australia.”

“NRF are responsive and efficient. They provide sound advice.”

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright acted for SARB Management Group in defending an appeal to the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia from an opposition, brought by one of its competitors, to the grant of SARB's patent application relating to a vehicle overstay detection method, system and product.

Notable practitioners

Jackie O'Brien has a well-established practice in contentious trade mark and copyright matters, and is greatly experienced at representing clients on complex and sensitive mandates. **Strengths:** *“Jackie is one of the most clear-sighted, strategic and forensic practitioners in IP or generally in Australia.”* *“Jackie is very good at dealing with clients—a very particular skill she has. She is also very good at managing her team and gets the best out of them.”*

Georgina Hey is based in Sydney. She has strong IP expertise, with a focus on trade mark portfolio management. **Strengths:** *“She is reliable, efficient, proactive and flexible. She has her client's interests in focus and understands our perspective.”*

Simpsons Solicitors

What the team is known for Simpsons Solicitors is widely recognised for its consummate understanding of the arts, publishing, music, media and advertising spheres. The team advises a range of high-profile clients and is especially in demand for its copyright expertise on both the advisory and contentious fronts. Simpsons Solicitors also has a strong trade mark focus, acting for a number of high-profile clients on portfolio management and prosecution mandates. Notable clients include Screen Australia, Riot Games and Universal Music Publishing.

Strengths

“Simpsons provide nuanced and comprehensive advice in relation to trade mark matters.”

“They demonstrate excellence in strategy, evidence preparation and negotiation.”

Work highlights Simpsons Solicitors defended

Maurice Blackburn Lawyers from intellectual property litigation in the Federal Court of Australia brought by the global investment firm State Street.

Notable practitioners

Adam Simpson has extensive experience in dealing with a variety of copyright issues in the entertainment industry, frequently assisting clients on high-profile disputes.

Spruson & Ferguson Lawyers

What the team is known for Spruson & Ferguson Lawyers has a substantial group of specialists with skills across the full range of IP services, from the management and sales of IP assets through to litigation, including copyright infringement as well as trade mark and patent oppositions. The team is experienced in advising a broad variety of clients from large multinational corporations to domestic sports administrative bodies. Notable clients include Zoetis, Xiamen Huadian Switchgear and McDonald's Australia.

Strengths

"Spruson & Ferguson Lawyers have excellent patent and IP management advice and understanding."

"They have the experience and the size to handle complex and sophisticated matters."

Work highlights Spruson & Ferguson Lawyers represented Vehicle Monitoring Systems in Federal Court proceedings regarding a patent infringement claim and cross-claim for revocation in relation to a patent for on-street parking enforcement technology.

Notable practitioners

Duncan Longstaff is an emerging name who has been recognised for his work in the patent disputes space. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"Duncan is very knowledgeable. He is a good patent litigator."*

Band 4

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates is recognised for its full-service, globally integrated IP practice that offers patent attorney service as part of the integrated team. It has experience in handling a number of Federal Court disputes involving patents, trade marks and registered design infringement claims. The team also offers expertise in trade mark rebranding, protection strategies and portfolio management. It possesses notable strength within the fashion industry, both locally and internationally, and is highly active in the domestic sports sector. Notable clients include Jellycat, Cricket Australia and the Australian Football League.

Strengths

"K&L Gates' wealth of knowledge means they can handle complex matters with a level of efficiency which makes them stand out amongst the rest."

"They are smart operators, and they know what they are doing."

Work highlights K&L Gates acted for United Petroleum in two Federal Court proceedings involving claims of misleading and deceptive conduct.

Notable practitioners

Patrick Sands is known for his work in patent litigation, particularly in the field of life sciences. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** *"Patrick's legal advice is high quality and is provided in a format that requires little to no interpretation before it can be used or communicated to the business, which is a no mean feat when it comes to patent law."* *"He is a great all-rounder who engages well and follows up rapidly."*

Maddocks

What the team is known for Maddocks boasts a notable practice with capabilities to handle a wide range of IP matters. It provides particular strength in patents, acting on licensing agreements and commercialisation as well as substantial litigation proceedings in the pharmaceutical, medical technology and chemical engineering industries. It also offers expertise on an array of trade mark-related legal services, including portfolio management, licensing, brand acquisitions and oppositions. Additionally, Maddocks is active on copyright enforcement matters. Notable clients include Aristocrat Technologies, The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and Pharmacor.

Strengths

"Maddocks had a really good technical understanding and good client service."

"They were excellent, and good value for money."

Work highlights Maddocks acted for Technological Resources, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto, in Federal Court proceedings for alleged infringement by Epiroc of one of Technological Resources' patents.

Notable practitioners

Ben Miller has a well-established reputation in the patent litigation space, where he frequently acts for big-name clients in the pharmaceutical and biotechnological sectors. **Strengths:** *"Ben Miller is a good, safe pair of hands. He provides good client service."*

Band 5

Addisons

What the team is known for Addisons is a notable Sydney-based law firm offering expertise in a variety of trade mark and copyright services. It assists clients on IP disputes, such as infringement and opposition proceedings, as well as on transactional matters. Addisons' strong team of partners and qualified lawyers and acts on behalf of a number of high-profile clients across various sectors. Notable clients include Pump Haircare, Hemmes Trading and Virgin Enterprises.

Strengths

"The Addisons team has a wealth of experience and technical knowledge. They are also happy to explore a variety of options for complicated cases."

"Addisons have good expertise. They have a good ability to handle complex issues."

Work highlights Addisons acted for Hungry Jack's in Federal Court proceedings commenced by McDonald's which alleges that the client's BIG JACK branding for its hamburgers infringes the well-known BIG MAC trade mark.

Notable practitioners

Donna Short is regularly instructed on various trade mark-related matters, including portfolio management, licensing arrangements, and brand protection. **Strengths:** *"Donna is responsive and very hands-on. She offers solutions tailored to each case."*

Gadens

What the team is known for Gadens is a well-known national firm that frequently assists clients on trade mark matters, as well as offering additional expertise with regard to copyright and patent issues. The firm advises on contentious and non-contentious matters across a diverse range of industries such as technology, sports, healthcare and retail. Notable clients include Alauda Aeronautics, Lark Distilling and Mountain Trail.

Strengths

"Gadens are proactive. They are really impressive and a safe pair of hands."

"Gadens are a very commercially oriented firm. One of their strengths has really been being attentive to the commercial outcome and getting the client to the right commercial position."

Work highlights Gadens advised Chuchka on copyright infringement litigation initiated in the Federal Court of Australia against it by State of Escape.

Notable practitioners

Kerry Awerbuch is a co-head of Gadens' IP practice and frequently acts on trade mark and copyright infringement disputes for clients from the retail industry. **Strengths:** *"Kerry is really practical and helpful, has a good team and appears to delegate well. She provides good practical advice and assistance."* *"Kerry is an exceptional, experienced and highly intelligent IP litigator."*

Pearce IP

What the team is known for Pearce IP has established itself as a well-known firm of practitioners focused on IP issues, with a particular emphasis on life sciences and the pharmaceuticals industry. It has been recognised for its work in the patent space. Clients include Luxotico HK, Cipla Australia and SHL Medical.

Strengths

"A feature of this team is their turnaround time and willingness to identify with the client's priorities."

Work highlights Pearce IP acted for Perfect Day in its appeal to the Federal Court in relation to a decision made by the Australian Patent Office.

Notable practitioners

Naomi Pearce is the founder of Pearce IP. She is known for her work in the patent space, especially in relation to life sciences. She is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"Naomi is an extraordinary lady. She is very strategic."* *"I cannot think of anyone with as much life sciences experience, especially in the biosimilars area, both in terms of prosecution and dispute. She's the number-one person in Australia for that kind of work and she has built up a great practice around her."*

Thomson Geer

What the team is known for Thomson Geer is known for its work in the field of trade marks and copyrights. It is also well regarded for its focus on

the patent dispute space. The firm advises a broad range of clients. Clients include Konami Australia and the Department for Primary Industries and Regions.

Strengths

“Thomson Geer has considerable depth and breadth as an organisation and has always been able to address extremely well all aspects of matters referred to them.”

“They are a well-run firm, very professional.”

Work highlights Thomson Geer acted for Konami in a patent dispute with fellow gaming company Aristocrat.

Notable practitioners

Partner Ben Coogan is a key contact for clients.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Karen Hayne of Omoi IP is a respected practitioner in the trade mark and copyright space. She frequently acts on brand protection and enforcement and design protection matters, and has notable expertise in the entertainment industry.

Wayne McMaster is recognised as an eminent figure in the market with a wealth of experience

in handling significant patent litigation for clients in industries ranging from mining to biotechnology, and offering particular expertise in the life sciences sector.

International Trade/WTO

International Trade/WTO
Leading Firms
Band 1
MinterEllison
Moulis Legal
Band 2
Clayton Utz
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Moulis Daniel <i>Moulis Legal</i>
Percival Andrew <i>Percival Legal (ORL) ◇</i>
Band 2
Chami Zac <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Morfesi David <i>MinterEllison</i>
Thompson Maurice <i>Clyde & Co (ORL) ◇</i>
Band 3
Feldman Jo <i>Norton Rose Fulbright (ORL) ◇</i>
Korbel Andrew <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Zhan Charles <i>Moulis Legal</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Bridges Alistair <i>Moulis Legal</i>
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison is a leading firm for international trade advice, particularly in relation to anti-dumping disputes under WTO and FTA rules. It also offers comprehensive expertise in areas such as sanctions, export controls and anti-bribery. The law firm offers additional expertise in treaty advisory as well as customs issues and trade remedies. MinterEllison advises clients from a range of industries, including education, defence and construction, with notable clients including Rollease Acmeda, the Government of the United Kingdom and Dole Asia.

Strengths

“They have both breadth and depth, as well as commercial awareness.”

Work highlights MinterEllison successfully defended UPM China against dumping allega-

tions brought by Copy Paper.

Notable practitioners

David Morfesi directs the MinterEllison international trade team from the Melbourne office and is personally noted for his experience assisting clients on issues relating to WTO law, investment treaties and export controls. **Strengths:** *“He is great for Australian regulatory and trade policy matters and government affairs trade-related matters. I like him very much as a person.”*

Moulis Legal

What the team is known for Moulis Legal is a highly regarded boutique with extensive experience of handling trade matters across a broad range of sectors. It routinely undertakes substantial anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations. The team is also skilled at taking on safeguard, customs and sanctions-related work and is experienced in handling trade remedy matters for major international companies and governments. Moulis Legal has a notable track record advising clients on aluminium, steel, paper and renewable energy cases, with a particularly strong client base among Asian and European companies, including Dongkuk Steel Mill, Electra Cables and SSAB.

Strengths

“I go to them for their knowledge and their expertise in these niche areas. The trade team seems like they’re doing this all day every day and provide high-quality answers that are generally client-ready.”

“They really try to put the client’s success first. They make it their business to know our business and are a very professional, diligent, data-driven and specialised international trade and competition

and regulatory compliance practice that is second to none.”

Work highlights Moulis Legal represented KG Dongbu Steel in a continuation inquiry regarding anti-dumping measures imposed on zinc-coated steel exported to Australia.

Notable practitioners

Daniel Moulis, Moulis Legal’s founding partner, is based in the Canberra office and acts for clients from a variety of industries across a comprehensive range of practice area issues, including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures. **Strengths:** *“He is really good at explaining to non-legally educated people and can talk with any person within the company. He’s an expert in this area and so he knows it all and knows the people within the authorities and knows exactly what will happen, more or less.”* **Daniel Moulis** is very knowledgeable in trade law and able to handle many complex issues. *“He is very competent.”* *“We get on well and he is very responsive.”* **Charles Zhan** is based in Canberra and focuses principally on trade defence matters, bringing to his work particularly deep familiarity with Sino-Australian trade issues. **Strengths:** *“I am extremely satisfied with Charles’ knowledge and guidance.”* *“He is a very competent lawyer in the international trade field.”* **Alistair Bridges** is a Melbourne-based special counsel who handles the full range of international trade-related issues, winning praise for his particularly thorough and detailed approach to matters.

Band 2

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz fields an established practice, covering a wide scope of trade work. It is especially active on anti-dumping investigations, with further expertise across import-export issues, customs, risk management and regulatory work. The law firm advises clients across a range of sectors including the energy, logistics and steel industries, acting lately for Jackaroo, Nippon Steel and Siemens Energy.

Strengths

"We appreciate their wide-ranging coverage of our requested matters and value their efforts. They have been addressing our requests without any omissions and handling them appropriately."

"They immediately respond the same day to any questions that we have. They have also gone out of their way at times to join global calls off hours when needed."

Work highlights Clayton Utz and Tsai & Tsai represented Guardian Industries in an ongoing dumping investigation by the Ministry of Finance of Taiwan concerning the export of float glass from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Notable practitioners

Zac Chami leads the practice from the Sydney office and is a frequent adviser to clients on contentious trade matters, including anti-dumping and countervailing issues, often acting for clients from the energy and steel industries, amongst others. Having previously served as a Commonwealth legal officer, he is particularly well placed to advise clients on their interactions with government officials. **Strengths:** *"Zac is truly the expert in customs law. We can rely on him to provide advice in a prompt and easy-to-digest nature. He always puts the client first; he is always willing to help, and we feel like we have a great understanding of this area of the law having worked with him and received advice from him." "Zac always treats us as if we're his most important client, which we greatly appreciate. He puts a very passionate touch on all submissions and all efforts to support us and win the case. His integrity and professionalism are at the highest level."*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth maintains an experienced team that advises clients from both the public and private sectors. It is particularly adept at advising overseas companies on anti-dumping investigations, and has noteworthy expertise in China-related cases. The team assists clients from a range of industries, including the technology, manufacturing and agriculture sectors, and is regularly instructed on matters relating to new legislation and sanctions. Notable clients include the Press Metal Group, Australian Sugar Industry Alliance and Powin.

Strengths

"I've had a very positive experience working with them. In particular, I'm impressed by their commercial awareness and understanding of the industry to which the dispute pertains. It's all been really thorough. They really are excellent and despite time differences, I've found them to be really responsive."

"They are simply the best at what they do and are the first choice for many clients when faced with FIRB approval requirements."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised Rio Tinto on all aspects of a major iron

ore joint venture with China Baowu Group in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, including on foreign investment review approvals.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Korbel heads the international trade practice from the Sydney office and is a well-regarded figure in the market, notable for his frequent advice to clients in relation to anti-dumping disputes and import restriction matters. **Strengths:** *"It was a pleasure to work with Andrew. He's knowledgeable, responsive and commercially and legally astute."* **Lizzie Knight** is a Sydney-based partner who advises extensively on cross-border mergers and acquisitions, bringing to the table particularly extensive experience in the handling of large-scale foreign investments in Australia. **Strengths:** *"Lizzie is practical, efficient and responsive, and knows how to navigate the FIRB process for some of our most complex transactions and investments. Clients trust her on their most sensitive and high-profile matters before FIRB."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Malcolm Brennan of King & Wood Mallesons in Canberra offers nearly 30 years' experience of advising clients on the Australian foreign investment scene and the way in which the provisions of the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act and other regulatory legislation may impact on their inbound transactions.

Strengths:

"Malcolm Brennan is an excellent adviser in this space."

Marcus Clark of Johnson Winter Slattery is widely hailed as a trusted adviser to his clients on a range of matters related to FIRB approvals.

Strengths:

"Marcus is one of my favourite individuals to work with. He is responsive, commercial-minded and easy to communicate with. Marcus does a great job of boiling down complex regulations for the layman."

"Marcus is one of the most recognised names in foreign investment law in Australia. Marcus is without peer in his experience and technical knowledge of foreign investment law in Australia."

Jo Feldman of Norton Rose Fulbright is a dispute resolution partner with a strong track record advising on investment and trade treaty work.

Strengths:

"Her advice is holistic and strategic and she understands what we are trying to achieve. She is probably the best trade lawyer we work with for that reason."

Deborah Johns of Gilbert + Tobin is an experienced adviser on foreign investment, with particular expertise on the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act.

Melissa Lai of Johnson Winter Slattery is based

in Canberra and advises clients on Australia's foreign investment rules.

Strengths:

"Melissa understands our industry. She is technical and has FIRB knowledge. She is pragmatic and has the ability to really understand the client in order to advocate effectively to FIRB."

"Melissa is great, very responsive and gives clear, concise advice. I feel she's a safe pair of hands."

David Moore of Johnson Winter Slattery helps clients navigate Australia's foreign investment regime, with particular experience in matters relating to technology and national security.

Strengths:

"He's an expert in everything."

Andrew Percival of Percival Legal in Sydney is a well-established practitioner, particularly noted for his wealth of experience in relation to anti-dumping and countervailing duty issues. He also brings to the table the additional insights that come from having formerly been director of legal services at the Australian Customs Service.

Strengths:

"He is an expert and has done it for decades; Andrew is very competent."

Wendy Rae of Allens in Melbourne specialises in foreign investment questions and offers extensive experience of advising a variety of major foreign funds and state-owned enterprises on their Australia-bound investments, her expertise in the area having lately been acknowledged by her appointment as chair of the Law Council of Australia's Foreign Investment Committee.

Strengths:

"Wendy Ray is excellent and covers us on everything. She's pretty much our go-to for Australian transactions and FDI and antitrust."

"Wendy in my experience is best in her class. When we submit an application we usually get many questions from FIRB, but that doesn't happen with her, as she has done so much research we get approvals very quickly."

"She is the go-to person for the particular type of transaction we have. She is renowned for being an expert in the area. I trust her on any big corporate transaction."

"She's very tailored, very practical, solution-based and very responsive."

"She gives us guidance on our transactions and goes the extra mile to understand the transaction and the business. She approaches it in a calm and considered way and always makes it possible."

Maurice Thompson of Clyde & Co in Melbourne is particularly noted for his work assisting clients from the shipping sector on international trade matters.

Strengths:

"Maurice is a big name in all these areas; I've no issue recommending him."

Investment Funds

Investment Funds
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
Band 2
Ashurst
Clayton Utz
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Gilbert + Tobin
MinterEllison
Band 3
Allen & Overy LLP
Baker McKenzie
DLA Piper Australia
Hall & Wilcox
Band 4
EY Law
Hamilton Locke
Johnson Winter Slattery
K&L Gates
Norton Rose Fulbright
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Boynnton Jim <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Denisenko Jason <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Johnson Stuart <i>MinterEllison</i>
McFarlane Mark <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Murphy Brian <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Nikoloudis Penny <i>Allens*</i>
Smedley Fiona <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Band 2
Anderson Matthew <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Bell Austin <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>
Bentley Nikki <i>EY Law</i>
Cahill Nathan <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Daley Matthew <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Eliakim David <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Fuggle Bill <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Ireland Jon <i>DLA Piper Australia</i>
Ivers Brendan <i>Hamilton Locke</i>
Johns Deborah <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Kemp Marc <i>Allens*</i>
Khoury Fadi <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Laura Adam <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Simmons Lisa <i>Ashurst</i>
Band 3
Apostolou Lewis <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Jamieson Martin <i>DLA Piper Australia*</i>
Lawson Michael <i>MinterEllison</i>
Mellos Kon <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Natale Daniel <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
New Harry <i>Hall & Wilcox*</i>
Tzerefos Con <i>Ashurst</i>
Band 4
Clarke Langton <i>Hall & Wilcox*</i>
Kanabar James <i>Allens*</i>
Kendall Emma <i>DLA Piper Australia*</i>
McMahon Sean <i>Hall & Wilcox*</i>
Moutsopoulos John <i>KPMG Law (ORL) ◇</i>
Sullivan John <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Wood James <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Bobenko Anton <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>

Superannuation
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Girgis Maged <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Hodge Nathan <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Levy Michelle <i>Allens*</i>
Stringer Ruth <i>MinterEllison</i>
Vrisakis Michael <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Band 2
Cambrell Natalie <i>KHQ Lawyers (ORL) ◇*</i>
Chaaya Michael <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Charaneka Scott <i>Ashurst</i>
Dwyer Joanne <i>Jones Day (ORL) ◇</i>
Sanders Geoff <i>Allens</i>
Band 3
El Hassan Zein <i>KPMG Law (ORL) ◇</i>
Mathieson Michael <i>Allens</i>
Yu Sarah <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Jayemanne Ravi <i>K&L Gates</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Allens
What the team is known for Allens is notable for its range of work on fund formation and funds-related M&A. The practice serves an impressive client roster, which includes funds, banks and corporates, and also offers a strong superannuation practice, advising funds on investments in particular. The team utilises the firm’s wider real estate offering to provide an all-round service to its property investment fund clientele, and draws on the firm’s financial services regulatory practice to further assist clients. The practice’s notable clients include Pacific Equity Partners, Global Infrastructure Partners and IFM.

Strengths
“In our experience, there is no firm in the market with equivalent depth of talent and expertise.”
“The team is fantastic, second to none. They are clearly across the detail and are very knowledgeable. They understand the key technical issues but also commercial issues, and help strategise solutions.”

Work highlights Allens advised GPT on the acquisition of management of UniSuper’s circa AUD2 billion direct real estate portfolio.

Notable practitioners
Michelle Levy (see p.234) has a leading practice advising clients active in superannuation and life insurance. She is regularly instructed on a range of transactions, including superannuation fund transfers, business divestitures and M&A, and also offers regulatory and litigation expertise. **Penny Nikoloudis** (see p.234) is noted for versatile expertise in fund-related matters, covering the full fund life-cycle. **Strengths:** *“Penny is incredibly bright, and her work ethic is second to none.”* *“She’s fabulous, with a great deal of knowledge. She’s been fantastic in educating us.”* **Marc Kemp** (see p.233) has a broad-ranging expertise in funds, with particularly noted expertise in advising on

property fund matters. **Strengths:** *“Marc has fantastic client service and is great to deal with.”* **Geoff Sanders** has an excellent reputation in the superannuation market, with noted experience advising on fund transfer matters. **Strengths:** *“Geoff is very humble. He goes out of the way to get the job done right; nothing is ever too hard or too difficult. He is so pleasant to deal with and really commercial.”* *“He comes with a lot of knowledge of superannuation and understands the ecosystem. It’s invaluable because he knows the industry inside out.”* **Michael Mathieson** regularly advises superannuation clients on mergers and acquisitions. **James Kanabar** (see p.233) is based in Sydney, where he is well reputed for fund establishment across a range of asset classes. **Strengths:** *“His attention to detail, commerciality and responsiveness are particularly exceptional.”*

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills has a highly regarded team renowned for acting for large wealth management groups in relation to both the formation and offering of investment management platforms and structured products. The team possesses extensive cross-border capability and remains highly regarded for its adept handling of funds-related M&A activity and restructurings. The practice is also active advising institutional investors with regard to investments into funds. The firm commands respect for its ability to handle matters relating to both the superannuation and life insurance spaces. The team draws on its strong international presence to advise clients on global investment trends. Clients include major banks, asset managers and institutional investors, such as NAB Private Wealth, Clean Energy Finance Corporation and BT Funds Management.

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills acted for BT Funds Management on the strategic transfer of its circa AUD40 billion unitised superannuation business to Mercer via a competitive bid and successor fund transfer process.

Notable practitioners

Maged Girgis is a market-leading practitioner who acts on some of the most significant life insurance business deals and superannuation fund matters, including successor fund transfers and divestitures. **Strengths:** *“He’s at the top of the field in superannuation matters.”* **Fiona Smedley** has a market-leading practice in investment funds, regularly advising a range of high-profile clients such as fund managers, asset managers, banks and non-profits. She has extensive expertise in matters relating to both fund formation and management. **Strengths:** *“Fiona is an excellent funds lawyer.”* **Michael Vrisakis** is a highly regarded financial services lawyer with strong expertise in advising on M&A transactions with superannuation elements. **Strengths:** *“Michael is very innovative and easy to deal with.”*

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons is recognised for its pre-eminent team,

boasting strength in matters relating to fund formation, restructurings, funds M&A and related regulatory issues. The practice is recognised for its expertise in all types of funds, including listed funds, real estate funds, private equity, venture capital and hedge funds, as well as for its expertise in superannuation. The firm's clients benefit from the global nature of the practice thanks to the firm's expansive network, which is particularly strong in China. The team boasts a strong bench with considerable depth of experience in all aspects of the industry, and acts for such major clients as Stockland, AMP and QSuper.

Strengths

"They are incredibly responsive and just knowledgeable about what constitutes the market, which is really valuable to have."

"Their ability to deliver expertise and sophistication is top tier in investment funds in Australia."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons advised Aliro on the stapling of the Aliro Group Industrial Value Trust platform to a new vehicle.

Notable practitioners

Jim Boynton has a renowned practice in the investment funds space and is well versed in fund formation, fund-raising, fund-related M&A and associated regulations. He is frequently instructed by leading international and domestic financial institutions. **Nathan Hodge** has a deep expertise in the superannuation and life insurance space, where he advises prominent fund managers and banks on complex fund transactions. **Mark McFarlane** has a prominent profile in the market and regularly acts on substantial M&A transactions in the funds space. **Strengths:** *"He is a great lawyer with deep experience in regulatory matters and transactional execution."* **Brian Murphy** offers extensive experience in advising fund clients involved in the natural resources and real estate sectors. **Strengths:** *"He is very well known and very highly regarded."* **David Eliakim** has a respected practice advising such clients as property fund managers and infrastructure fund managers on a range of M&A transactions.

Strengths: *"He is a cool head and a very proficient technical lawyer who can think his way through problems. He is also good with more informal advice and is great to bounce ideas off."* **Daniel Natale** is a well-regarded lawyer and is a frequent adviser to asset managers and funds, whom he often assists in relation to fund-raising and structuring issues.

Strengths: *"Daniel has top-quality intellect combined with a great commercial mind. He is a solid negotiator who focuses on the end game."* **Sarah Yu** is well known in the field of superannuation regulations, and has been recognised for her work with financial services institutions, funds and insurers. She is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"Sarah is a great lawyer. She is always happy to take my calls and happy to assist."* **John Sullivan** is well regarded for his expertise in investment funds and M&A, with particular experience handling matters pertaining to real estate, private equity and infrastructure funds.

Band 2

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst offers the full range of services surrounding the entire life-cycle of funds, including the establishment, management and acquisition of funds. The team often works on complex matters relating to property and infrastructure funds, as well as assisting domestic funds with offshore structures. The practice acts in relation to both listed and unlisted funds and also assists investors with investments into funds. Its clients include asset management firms and superannuation funds. Its key clients include Mercy Super, Barrenjoey Capital Partners and Resolution Life.

Strengths

"They have good knowledge of funds and financial services law. A strong team across the board."

"Ashurst are clearly experts in the field of investment funds and financial services, and they are across industry trends."

Work highlights Ashurst advised Mercy Super on its merger with HESTA by way of a successor fund transfer.

Notable practitioners

Scott Charaneka regularly acts for some of the top pension funds in Australia on a range of fund investment matters. **Strengths:** *"Scott is highly regarded, very practical and experienced. He's always looking for solutions."* **Lisa Simmons**

advises fund managers on a range of matters such as fund restructures, establishment and mergers, and also advises investors on their investments into funds. **Strengths:** *"Lisa is one of the most thoughtful, commercial and well-regarded fund lawyers. She is empathetic, curious, commercially minded, technically very strong and of great value."*

Con Tzerefos is an experienced practitioner with an extensive list of funds space clients. He is regularly instructed on such diverse matters as joint venture funds establishment and listed REIT restructures. **Strengths:** *"Con Tzerefos is an incredible relationship partner, always delivering an excellent level of service."*

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz has extensive expertise in domestic and cross-border investment funds. The team boasts a comprehensive understanding of retail and wholesale funds, assisting major clients on fund-raising, asset portfolio acquisitions and disposals, fund restructures and general fund governance advice. The practice is also adept at advising on matters involving regulatory compliance and superannuation for clients, including large corporations and their associated funds, as well as financial institutions. The firm is particularly active in the real estate funds space, supported by a top-tier real estate practice. Its notable clients include fund managers and high-profile institutional investors, such as Queensland Investment Corporation, Prime Property Fund Asia and Kayne Anderson Rudnick Investment Management.

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised Queensland Investment Corporation on the establishment of the Queensland Natural Capital Fund.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Anderson is adept at handling a range of matters relating to fund formation and joint venture fund arrangements for clients in the infrastructure and real estate sectors. **Strengths:** *"He is very articulate and commercial – he keeps it practical and relevant without trying to take the point."* **Matthew Daley's** expertise extends from acting on fund and trust establishment for prominent investment managers to fund-related regulatory work. **Strengths:** *"Matthew has very deep technical expertise and a high level of commercial acumen. He is outstanding."*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth boasts leading expertise in superannuation built upon a dedicated team of sector specialists experienced in handling high-profile mandates. The team offers an established investment funds practice skilled in assisting on all aspects of the fund life-cycle, including fund creation, management, corporate governance and regulation. The firm is able to advise on matters relating both to retail funds and private funds. The team also possesses admirable cross-border capability, assisting major multinational companies with investments both onshore and offshore. The practice's key clients include BGH Capital, Warburg Pincus and Hillhouse Investment Management.

Strengths

"Both individual knowledge and the ability to bring in the bench of specialist resources are excellent."

"The team has an outstanding understanding of all the intricate issues related to fund establishment."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised Laguna Bay Pastoral Company on the establishment of Laguna Bay Fund 2.

Notable practitioners

Michael Chaaya is a well-reputed figure in the Australian superannuation market who is frequently instructed on complex acquisitions and fund-raising, as well as the regulation of funds-related cross-border mandates.

Strengths: *"Michael is extremely impressive as a lawyer and a client-focused practitioner. Thanks to his impressive profile and reputation, negotiating is easy, and working with him always proves to be remarkably smooth."*

Fadi Khoury frequently assists clients on the establishment of both wholesale and retail funds. **Strengths:** *"He is one of the great gentlemen of the industry. He is deeply across the regulatory knowledge and is pragmatically plugged into all the key service providers."*

Kon Mellos is frequently instructed on a range of fund matters, including establishing feeder funds and co-investment vehicles in cross-border contexts. **Strengths:** *"You just get the feeling that Kon knows exactly what is going on at all times – he's unflappable."* **Anton Bobenko** is a lawyer known for advising financial institutions on fund formation matters. He is particularly noted for his work acting on mandates involving private equity and real estate funds. **Strengths:** *"Anton is extremely responsive, with very quick turnaround times." "He is always attentive. He is always great to deal with."*

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin has a well-established reputation for private equity and venture capital fund formation. The firm regularly advises clients on matters related to wholesale and retail funds, as well as new foreign fund manager entrants to the Australian market. The practice boasts additional expertise in relation to funds focused on real estate investments. Able to draw on its impressive tax, financial regulations and M&A practice, the firm provides clients with a full-service package. The team also has experience raising funds domiciled in the Cayman Islands and other offshore jurisdictions. The practice counts among its clients Pemba Capital Partners, Blackbird Ventures and Five V Capital.

Strengths

"The firm is deeply knowledgeable in the field. They are extremely responsive and understand the time pressures associated."

"They are excellent in terms of being subject matter experts. The timeliness of responding to clients and delivering when agreed, and the advice is easy to understand."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin acted for Five V Capital on the establishment of its Five V Horizons Fund.

Notable practitioners

Nathan Cahill is a well-regarded figure in the private funds market, where he is regularly instructed by a comprehensive range of players, including fund managers, financial institutions and investors. He is highly experienced in advising on private equity funds investing in a variety of sectors and has additional expertise in credit funds. **Deborah Johns** is widely recognised for her strong venture capital funds practice, advising numerous fund managers active in the venture capital and private equity spheres in relation to fund formation. **Adam Laura** is a highly accomplished funds practitioner especially renowned for his work in private equity, where he regularly advises clients on a range of matters, including fund formation and co-investment vehicles. He is further experienced in advising on matters such as listing for property, debt and credit funds.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison fields a highly regarded team with in-depth knowledge of superannuation and funds management across a broad range of industry sectors and asset classes. The firm acts on both public and private funds, advising managers on fund structuring and establishment, as well as mergers and acquisitions, and offering noteworthy expertise in the property sector. The team provides further assistance on the rationalisation and restructuring of funds, while also advising clients on regulatory compliance issues in relation to investments and fund operations, including foreign investment regulations and financial services licensing. The practice's clients include major financial institutions, fund managers and both international and domestic investors, with such names as Challenger, AMP Capital and Cromwell Property among its clientele.

Strengths

"They are technically excellent and have sound

commercial knowledge and understanding of regulators' priorities."

"The firm has an excellent level of service and responsiveness. They are capable and willing to work to hit difficult deadlines."

Work highlights MinterEllison advised JP Morgan Asset Management on the launch of its first Australian exchange-traded funds.

Notable practitioners

Stuart Johnson is highly experienced in advising clients on a range of investment product structures, including listed investment trusts. **Ruth Stringer** is widely acclaimed in the market for the wealth of her experience in advising on a broad range of investment fund-related matters. She offers particular expertise in complex issues in the superannuation scheme and life insurance spheres. **Strengths:** *"She is a strong superannuation specialist."* **Michael Lawson** advises clients on both domestic and cross-border matters, including fund formation, co-investment structures and debt management mandates, particularly in the property sector.

Band 3

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy delivers all-round expertise, including working on the formation of funds and providing assistance to fund managers throughout the fund cycle. The firm is active across funds focusing on a number of asset classes, including private equity and real estate. The team also advises on regulatory issues, as well as fund formation, management and investment matters. The practice leverages its international network to provide multi-jurisdictional fund formation, fund restructure and investment advice. Its notable clients include Dexus, IOOF Holdings and Ivanhoe Cambridge.

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised IOOF Holdings on its AUD1.44 billion acquisition of superannuation and wealth management business MLC Wealth from National Australia Bank.

Notable practitioners

Jason Denisenko (see p.232) is a highly experienced practitioner with strong expertise in advising a range of clients on such cross-border funds matters as fund formation, restructures and investments.

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie is in demand for its expertise in providing the full range of funds-related services to an impressive roster of domestic and international clients. The firm is especially noted for its acumen in structuring and establishing funds, including work on innovative funds, structured investments and offshore funds. The team assists high-profile investors with their investments into funds and is also active on matters relating to public funds, advising on transactional matters involving REITs and on the formation and management of ETFs.

Strengths

"They have excellent technical skills and are subject matter experts."

"They have strong knowledge of the regulatory

environment and provide practical advice."

Notable practitioners

Bill Fuggle focuses much of his practice on advising clients on the establishment and regulation of public funds, bringing deep experience in financial services regulation to the table. **Lewis Apostolou** counts major institutional investors, including pension funds and sovereign wealth funds, among his clientele, whom he often advises in relation to their commitments in private funds.

Strengths: *"Lewis is a workhorse and never stops. He loves getting stuck into issues and solving them."*

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper is recognised for its capable and sophisticated offering in fund formation and fund structuring. The practice advises major asset management clients both domestically and internationally. The team boasts proven strength in the formation of retail and wholesale funds, and demonstrates the ability to assist high-profile institutional investors. Its notable clients include Ares Management Corporation, Pengana Capital and Nuveen Australia.

Strengths

"They are alive to the client's concerns and provide proactive problem solving."

"DLA Piper have great technical expertise and are responsive."

Work highlights DLA Piper assisted Nuveen Australia with the launch of its first Australian resident fund, the Nuveen Global Cities Real Estate Fund.

Notable practitioners

Jon Ireland has broad expertise extending across the funds space. He advises a variety of fund managers, asset managers and investors.

Strengths: *"Jon is technically and strategically strong."* **Martin Jamieson** (see p.233) is well recognised in the market for his experience working with listed funds. He acts for clients such as global investment managers on a range of matters, including the establishment of joint venture funds. **Strengths:** *"Martin is well known in the Australian funds market and is a very sharp lawyer to work with."* **Emma Kendall** (see p.233) is a well-regarded lawyer who is noted for her experience assisting asset managers on fund formation and regulatory issues, as well as her work acting for institutional investors. **Strengths:** *"Emma has excellent knowledge of her subject matter and there is a great feeling of confidence in the advice she provides."*

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox is experienced in advising investment fund managers, asset managers and trustees on the establishment and raising of both wholesale and retail funds. The practice boasts a strong offering in the property funds space, with expertise in acting for international and domestic clients on a range of matters, including fund acquisitions and restructures. The firm's notable clients include HOPE Housing Fund Management, HouseMax Technology and Finplex.

Strengths

"They are pragmatic, commercial and responsive."

Work highlights Hall & Wilcox advised Capital

Property Funds on restructuring 601 Coronation Drive Fund, a closed-ended single-asset fund, into an open-ended diversified property fund.

Notable practitioners

Harry New (see p.234) handles transactional and regulatory issues across the funds space, enjoying a particularly high reputation for his expertise concerning property funds. **Langton Clarke** (see p.231) is recognised in the market for his substantial experience acting for fund managers on the establishment and management of wholesale and retail funds focused on a variety of asset classes.

Strengths: “Langton is a very well-respected and diligent lawyer.” **Sean McMahon** (see p.234) is the managing partner at the firm and is known for his expertise in advising funds in a variety of sectors, including property, equities and mortgages, both wholesale and retail. **Strengths:** “Sean is a very well-respected lawyer and well recognised by the industry for his specialist skill set.”

Band 4

EY Law

What the team is known for EY Law represents the legal arm of the global professional services firm. The practice is noted for its experience and expertise in acting for asset managers on a range of fund formation and management matters in relation to both wholesale and retail funds. The team is also well placed to advise clients with regard to regulatory issues and funds M&A. Its clients include GCQ Funds Management, Attunga Capital and OurCrowd Australia.

Work highlights EY Law assisted Pental with its acquisition by Perpetual.

Notable practitioners

Nikki Bentley offers an integrated service for fund managers that extends from fund formation and restructures to regulatory advice.

Hamilton Locke

What the team is known for Hamilton Locke is well known for its work in the investment funds space. It regularly provides advice on fund management and the establishment of funds across various asset classes. The firm can also draw on its notable financial services regulatory expertise to handle complex fund structuring and compliance issues. Its clients include Blue Capital, M8 Ventures and Alpha Node Capital.

Strengths

“They have a wealth of experience. They have a good team structure and support.”

Work highlights Hamilton Locke acted for Jinding Financial Services in establishing a new multi-class debt fund, the Jinding Development Income Fund.

Notable practitioners

Brendan Ivers is a well-established investment funds lawyer who offers particularly deep expertise in the real estate funds space. **Strengths:** “Brendan takes a holistic and commercial view of each project and not just from a purely legal point of view.”

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery is acknowledged for its experience acting for a variety of funds, including property and infrastructure, alternative investment and hedge funds, advising on fund establishment, restructuring and operation. The firm acts on structured and alternative investment products and has a strong track record of working with leading domestic and international hedge fund managers, banks and corporate clients. The team is particularly active on matters relating to credit funds. Its significant clients include Macquarie Asset Management, Bell Asset Management and AllianceBernstein Investment Management Australia.

Strengths

“JWS have been innovative in their thinking and are a practical, commercial partner. They continue to add value in their ability to construct effective implementation solutions to our problems.”

“They are very capable, very knowledgeable and very efficient at providing quality services.”

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery advised AllianceBernstein Investment Management Australia on preparing and issuing product disclosure statements for four of its funds.

Notable practitioners

Austin Bell has a wealth of experience advising fund managers on all aspects of funds, including formation and restructuring. **Strengths:** “I’m always impressed by his responsiveness, care and concern to deliver excellent legal services.”

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates is noted for its respected team with strong cross-border capabilities. The practice demonstrates experience assisting clients on the formation of venture capital funds, with additional expertise in relation to retail funds, especially unit trusts and REITs. The team is also noted for acting on behalf of superannuation funds, advising on regulatory matters and fund investments. The firm’s notable clients include AXA Investment Managers Australia, Centuria Healthcare and Paspalis Asset Management.

Strengths

“They are experts in their field.”

“The team always responds within the provided timelines and has a high level of service.”

Work highlights K&L Gates advised Real I.S. on the sale of the unit trust that owns Geoscience Australia property to funds managed by Charter Hall for AUD363.5 million.

Notable practitioners

Ravi Jayemanne is a lawyer known for his work in the field of superannuation. He regularly advises on transactional and regulatory issues. He is based in Melbourne.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright houses a notable investment funds team with strong capabilities in cross-border investment transactions. The firm frequently acts for asset managers on the establishment of public

and private funds, but also has expertise in relation to real estate funds, venture capital funds and ETFs. The team also handles related tax and regulatory issues. The practice is a growing presence in the superannuation space, advising on the establishment and restructuring of both foreign-domiciled and domestic funds. The firm’s notable clients include Australian Ethical, Copia and Ausbil Investment Management.

Strengths

“They provide extremely knowledgeable and practical advice.”

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Australian Ethical on its superannuation fund merger with Christian Super.

Notable practitioners

Head of banking Tim Mornane in Sydney is a key contact.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Natalie Cambrell (see p.230) of KHQ Lawyers has broad-ranging knowledge of the superannuation space and is frequently instructed on fund mergers and restructures.

Strengths:

“Natalie is able to provide commercial and practical advice on complex legal issues impacting a superannuation business.”

“It is a pleasure to have her as an adviser, and she provides sophisticated, reliable and sensible advice.”

Joanne Dwyer of Jones Day is a highly regarded practitioner who draws on a wealth of experience to act for clients in the superannuation industry. She has extensive expertise in advising on a range of matters, including fund transfers, wind-ups and investments.

Zein El Hassan of KPMG Law has extensive industry experience and frequently provides integrated transactional and regulatory advice to clients in the superannuation and life insurance sectors.

Strengths:

“Zein has a high level of knowledge and experience in superannuation and corporate law. He keeps a calm head in stressful situations.”

John Moutsopoulos of KPMG Law is a respected industry practitioner who is adept at advising fund managers and investors on matters across a range of asset classes and investment structures.

James Wood of Hogan Lovells advises private equity houses and financial institutions on funds-related matters, offering noteworthy experience of multi-jurisdictional mandates.

Strengths:

“James has strong competency in the area of investment funds. He is knowledgeable and commercially minded.”

Life Sciences

Life Sciences
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
Clayton Utz
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
MinterEllison
Band 2
Baker McKenzie
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 3
Ashurst
DLA Piper Australia
Mills Oakley
Band 4
Bird & Bird
Gilbert + Tobin
McCullough Robertson
Piper Alderman
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
McMaster Wayne <i>Wayne McMaster (ORL)</i> ◇
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Gourley Odette <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Nicoletti Teresa <i>Mills Oakley</i>
O'Shea Bernard <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Williams Greg <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Band 2
Collins John <i>Clayton Utz</i>
McLaughlin Benjamin T <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
McVicar Shaun <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Swinn Matthew <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Tyacke Nick <i>DLA Piper Australia</i> *
Band 3
Bouvier Scott <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Cooper Robert <i>MinterEllison</i>
Hay Kate <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Hutton James <i>MinterEllison</i>
Low Jeremy <i>Allens</i>
Mitchell Simone <i>MinterEllison</i>
O'Connell Kim <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Owen Jane <i>Bird & Bird</i>
Sands Patrick <i>K&L Gates (ORL)</i> ◇
White Elisabeth <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Band 4
Biddle Toby <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Boyce Lis <i>Piper Alderman</i>
Choy Flannigan Alison <i>Hall & Wilcox (ORL)</i> ◇ *
D'Aloisio Stuart <i>Ashurst</i>
Fitzgerald Nina <i>Ashurst</i>
Grover Julian <i>Mills Oakley</i>
Jacobson Mandi <i>Hogan Lovells International LLP (ORL)</i> ◇
Kolivos Eugenia <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Lewis Lynne <i>Bird & Bird</i>
McInnes Robert <i>Rob McInnes IP Advisory (ORL)</i> ◇
Miller Ben <i>Maddocks (ORL)</i> ◇
Pearce Naomi <i>Pearce IP (ORL)</i> ◇
Smith Kellech <i>Ashurst</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Iles Emma <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Allens

What the team is known for Allens' widely respected practice offers a comprehensive range of skills to the life sciences industry, based on long experience advising both public and private sector players. Its life sciences team serves clients in the healthcare, pharmaceutical and biotech sectors as well as in areas such as agriculture and food sciences. Its team is in high demand where multiple levels of expertise are required, from corporate, merger, licensing and taxation questions to regulatory compliance, drawing upon the resources of the wider firm where required. The firm is especially renowned for its robust approach to the protection and enforcement of IP rights and active on merger clearance and other competition and consumer law issues. Notable clients include Pfizer, KKR and Telstra Health.

Strengths

"Allens have been amazing. They have been an extension of our own business; they are more colleagues than a third party. They are very well versed in the regulatory environment and are very efficient, experienced and commercial in their advice."

Work highlights Allens advised Pacific Equity Partners on the sale of Lifehealthcare to Australasian healthcare group EBOS.

Notable practitioners

Jeremy Low is based in Sydney and offers a wealth of experience acting for pharmaceutical and healthcare companies, which he frequently advises on major M&A transactions and other corporate issues.

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for The well-resourced Clayton Utz group offers a full suite of life sciences-focused expertise, including patent protection, transactional and competition issues, and is regularly identified as a top choice to guide clients through regulatory regimes. The firm boasts an impressive client roster that includes national and global pharmaceutical, biotech, complementary medicine, medical device and healthcare companies, plus government agencies at Commonwealth, state and local levels. Its expertise also extends to product liability and privacy issues. Notable clients include Bayer, Novartis and Philips Electronics.

Strengths

"The depth of their experience and the strength in their team means they have the capability to provide urgent advice when the situation demands without compromising on quality."

"They are very capable of providing legal and strategic advice on complex matters."

Work highlights Clayton Utz was engaged by US counsel for the Royalty Pharma Collection Trust to advise and give evidence in US arbitration proceedings on certain aspects of Australian patents and competition law central to a major ongoing contractual dispute between RPCT and Gilead Sciences.

Notable practitioners

Greg Williams is generally acknowledged by market sources to be one of the pre-eminent players in the life sciences space, noted for a breadth and depth of expertise that allows him to act across the broadest range of transactional, contentious and regulatory issues. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** "Greg has demonstrated strength and depth of knowledge in all aspects of life sciences. He provides efficient and effective commercial advice to a consistently high standard in a cost-effective manner and is readily contactable." "I have been impressed by the practical way in which Greg uses his great depth of knowledge in pharmaceutical law to provide excellent advice, anticipating issues that may arise in a proactive way." **John Collins** is especially well regarded for his work in patent disputes. Based in Sydney, he frequently acts for leading domestic and international players in the pharmaceutical sphere on such matters.

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for The Herbert Smith Freehills team is noted for excellence in the IP field and as a go-to practice for high-stakes patent litigation to High Court level, especially in relation to pharmaceuticals. It is home to an outstanding depth of talent including patent attorneys and lawyers who are also qualified in such sciences as biochemistry, pharmacology and neuroscience. The firm offers life science clients a full suite of expertise from M&A and finance to licensing, R&D agreements and regulatory issues. Herbert Smith Freehills is appreciated for its assignment of discrete, specialist teams to mandates and for access to life sciences expertise, particularly to support IP protection and commercialisation-related objectives, across the firm's global network. Its key clients include Mayne Pharma, Biogen and Millennium Pharmaceuticals.

Strengths

"HSF is an amazing firm. They are extraordinarily proficient, incredibly hard-working and really a delight to work with."

"The people assigned to our matters went above and beyond in their responsiveness."

"Terrific service and turnaround times."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills acted for Biogen in three separate Federal Court proceedings commenced by Biogen relating to the generic entry in Australia of its multiple sclerosis product Tecfidera.

Notable practitioners

Shaun McVicar is a highly regarded Melbourne-based patent litigator who is particularly noted for his work in the pharmaceutical and medical device spheres. **Emma Iles** frequently assists pharmaceutical clients with patent disputes, including infringement, invalidity and opposition proceedings. She is based in Melbourne.

Strengths: "Emma's expertise was fantastic. She was able to distil information into practical, user-friendly explanations."

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons' well-balanced practice operates in the contentious, transactional and regulatory spheres and is particularly noted for its patent litigation offering. The firm is well placed to act for new and established foreign players in the Australian life sciences market, as well as Australian companies looking to enter the Chinese and other foreign markets and innovative companies seeking to establish themselves. Similarly, its team is well equipped to provide life sciences clients with supporting expertise from all branches of a full-service firm with a particularly strong regional presence. Its notable clients include Monash University, L'Oréal and HealthyLife.

Strengths

"They are a pleasure to work with; we are always briefed by them because everything is well prepared. They have a big team and they work well together."

"The corporate governance and commercial advice is excellent."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons acted for the University of Sydney on a claim by its employed researchers that it had failed to properly commercialise intellectual property that was comprised in a clinical trials database.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Swinn maintains an active IP practice in which he frequently acts for pharmaceutical and medical device companies on patent disputes. He is based in Melbourne. **Scott Bouvier** commands widespread respect for his wide-ranging commercial intellectual property practice, which covers contractual, commercialisation and contentious issues. Clients value his knowledge and experience within the life sciences, acting for pharmaceuticals and researchers. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"He is pragmatic and commercial. He engages in solutions-oriented advice."*

Kate Hay focuses much of her practice on the representation of players in the pharmaceutical, bioscience and medical device spheres in key litigation and other IP protection mandates. **Kim O'Connell** operates from the Sydney office, maintaining a close focus on the IP protection and regulation of pharmaceutical, biotech and other healthcare-related products.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for The MinterEllison team offers an outstanding breadth of fully integrated interdisciplinary skills, providing an end-to-end service to clients. In addition to IP and regulatory know-how, the firm's offering includes finance, venture capital, M&A and tax advice. Lawyers and patent attorneys, with an impressive range of technical and scientific qualifications, including those relating to cutting-edge biosciences, act for clients ranging from startups to multinational pharmaceutical and biotech companies, plus many Commonwealth and state-level health departments and agencies, leading hospitals and research institutes, and key life sciences-focused funds. Its notable clients include Invisalign, Accrue Therapeutics and AVet Health.

Strengths

"There is a significant depth of talent at MinterEllison, and their ability to identify and address sophisticated matters succinctly before the issue becomes a problem is a strength."

"Healthcare team members have demonstrated the ability to dissect complicated matters."

"They were quick to respond to questions and provide updates."

"They have a remarkable business-oriented view on IP matters, and in addition to legal assessments they provide valuable advice."

Work highlights MinterEllison advised Accrue Therapeutics on its merger with Entact Bio, a pre-clinical-stage biotech company based in the USA.

Notable practitioners **Robert Cooper** stands out in the market for his particularly well-regarded representation of pharmaceutical sector players in patent-related matters. He is based in Melbourne. **James Hutton** is an established figure in the life sciences space, acting for a variety of clients in the sector on matters relating to transactions and capital raisings.

Strengths: *"He is excellent – incredibly knowledgeable and astute commercially."* **Simone Mitchell** is based in Sydney and handles contentious matters, among which patent-related issues feature particularly prominently, for a number of pharmaceutical and medical device companies. **Strengths:** *"She has very deep knowledge of IP issues in Australia and is very proactive and friendly."*

Band 2

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie fields a multi-skilled group with a well-established reputation in the healthcare industry, in demand for its knowledge of global markets generally and of those in Asia-Pacific in particular, facilitated by its membership of a well-integrated international network and buttressed by extensive in-house experience of employment in the medtech and pharmaceutical industries. Its life sciences team works with global pharma, medical device and healthcare corporates, offering a full suite of services from M&A and competition to IP, regulatory and R&D matters, coordinated, where appropriate, with those provided by international colleagues. The team is active in providing Australian and regional clients with seminars on the latest legal, regulatory and technological developments. Its key clients include GSK, Medtronic and Cochlear.

Strengths

"They never let me down in terms of delivery. Their customer service was exceptional."

"The service and responsiveness we have received has been fantastic."

"Their deep expertise in medical technology and related regulations, industry and regulators, as well as knowledge of our strategies and goals, leads to strong ability in this space."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie acted for global medical device company Cochlear in relation to its acquisition of Oticon Medical.

Notable practitioners

Benjamin McLaughlin is based in Sydney and is widely recognised for his work on behalf of leading healthcare sector players on major trans-

actions. **Strengths:** *"Ben McLaughlin leads a very strong practice. We have been on the other side of deals with him. He is very well known for life sciences."* **Elisabeth White** co-heads the Baker McKenzie Australian life sciences team from the Sydney office, drawing on her long experience in the IP space to advise noted healthcare sector players across a wide range of principally regulatory issues. **Strengths:** *"Elisabeth White is impressive. She seems to have a tireless work ethic and distils very complex issues to very simple terms to help the business understand the issues."*

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth maintains its well-established track record of acting for life sciences clients, offering a comprehensive range of skills, often enhanced by sector-relevant academic qualifications, to global and local pharma, biotech and consumer product companies. The firm tackles both litigious and advisory work, including patent litigation, regulation, competition, and the supply and pricing of medicines. Additionally, it assists clients with related corporate, structuring and M&A and tax issues, drawing where appropriate on the wider resources of the firm. Corrs Chambers Westgarth is further noted for its ability to maintain long-standing relationships with established clients or to attract repeat engagements from more recent ones. Its notable clients include AFT Pharmaceuticals, Mundipharma and Takeda Pharmaceutical. **Strengths**

"It is an experienced team with a deep understanding of our business."

"The lawyers are proactive, easy to contact and provide very good advice."

"They have a good client base, good depth of knowledge and are highly experienced practitioners."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised ISPT on its investment in the University of New South Wales's Health Translation Hub.

Notable practitioners

Odette Gourley offers a wealth of experience of acting for life sciences clients on both patent and trade mark matters, handling both contentious and regulatory issues. She is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"She is definitely a leading practitioner in IP in life sciences."*

"Odette is a great expert and resource." **Eugenia Kolivos** leads the firm's life sciences and intellectual property practices. She is experienced in handling patent portfolios and licensing issues as well as franchising, procurement and outsourcing. **Strengths:** *"Eugenia is very knowledgeable, responsive and a pleasure to deal with."* *"She is a very commercial lawyer who is very able to synthesise complicated issues. Eugenia provides very pragmatic commercial advice, which is appreciated."* *"Eugenia Kolivos is super impressive and someone who you can put in front of any client without hesitation."* *"A trusted adviser with a deep knowledge of our business."*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright's Australian life sciences team forms part of a global offering with a particularly strong practice across the Asia-Pacific region. Its areas of specialism include corporate and M&A, product

liability, IP, litigation and regulatory advice, assisting clients with all facets of the commercialisation of products, and offering particularly noted coverage of the pharma and biotech life-cycles. Its team acts for global pharmaceutical corporates, healthcare and personal product companies and leading medical research institutions. Its key clients include Sonic Healthcare, Hydrogenics and Mind Medicine.

Strengths

"The team at NRF are responsive and provide advice in a timely manner and at a level of detail that is fit for purpose."

"They are up to date with current trends and have widespread experience in commercial initiatives, which they leverage to educate as well as provide robust options highlighting areas of risk."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Sonic, a global provider of medical diagnostics with specialist operations in laboratory medicine, pathology and radiology services, on the formation of a joint venture company with Harrison-AI.

Notable practitioners

Bernard O'Shea is based in Melbourne and is a deeply respected figure in the life sciences space, where he regularly assists an impressive range of clients with both transactional and regulatory issues. **Strengths:** *"Bernard is just brilliant, in my opinion. He is one of the best that I have worked with and always delivers to an exceptional standard."* *"He has an amazing wealth of knowledge through all aspects of the pharmaceutical industry."* *"Bernard is an expert in his field. He is very smart and thinks outside the box, which is very helpful."* *"He is very knowledgeable, professional, helpful and approachable."* **Toby Biddle** heads the team from the Sydney office and stands out for his specialised knowledge of the life sciences product liability scene.

Band 3

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst's well-regarded practice is noted for its strength in the intellectual property space, including patent disputes, licensing and distribution issues and trade mark matters. The firm is a frequent adviser to clients in the pharmaceutical sector, as well as medical device companies and medical research clients. Its team also provides assistance to life sciences clients in relation to competition disputes, transactions and regulatory matters. Its notable clients include Monash University, Combe International and Samsung Bioepis.

Strengths

"They are one of the go-to firms for a piece of major IP litigation in Australia."

"The team consistently demonstrates exceptional service levels and responsiveness, promptly addressing enquiries and providing timely assistance, ensuring a high level of customer satisfaction."

"The attorneys are highly skilled and talented. We have been in good hands and are well supported."

Work highlights Ashurst defended Henkel in trade mark infringement and passing off proceedings brought against it by Reckitt Benckiser.

Notable practitioners

Stuart D'Aloisio is based in Melbourne and is frequently engaged by pharmaceutical and biotech sector clients on patent disputes. **Strengths:** *"He was very calm and collected and explained things very slowly and easily, especially the Australian law specifics. He was also very reliable and easy to talk to."* *"Stuart is very articulate, very talented, capable and reliable."* **Nina Fitzgerald** is based in Sydney and advises clients across financial services, pharma and life sciences on a range of IP and technology law issues. Her expertise is often called upon to help clients manage patent infringement risks and respond to trade mark infringement proceedings. **Strengths:** *"She consistently delivers high-quality work with clear communication, prompt responsiveness and meticulous attention to detail."* **Kellech Smith** acts regularly for biotech, pharmaceutical and medical device companies in patent disputes and also advises on a wide range of regulatory issues. She is based in Melbourne.

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper's impressive team incorporates many members with relevant scientific and engineering qualifications, and acts on transactional matters, contentious and non-contentious IP and non-IP-related litigation, including product liability cases, being particularly active in patent litigation. Its team serves a prestigious clientele, comprising major pharmaceutical and healthcare companies, as well as investors. The firm offers a particularly strong concentration of US market-related experience and draws on the resources of a strong global network able to provide jurisdiction-appropriate expertise across multiple practice areas. Its noted clients include Pfizer, SmileDirectClub and Neurim Pharmaceuticals.

Strengths

"They provide top-notch critical thinking."

"They have a strong team and are able to bring the right expertise to address the specific or unique issues or concepts as needed."

"Everyone we worked with at DLA Piper is incredibly responsive. We always get a prompt response regardless of the time difference."

"They are very good technically; their knowledge of the underlying science is excellent."

Work highlights DLA Piper represented SmileDirectClub in Federal Court proceedings commenced by Invisalign Australia concerning allegations of misleading and deceptive conduct.

Notable practitioners

Nick Tyacke (see p.236) heads the life sciences team from the Sydney office and is particularly well regarded as a patent litigator with an especially high profile in the pharmaceutical sector. **Strengths:** *"Nick is a very effective practitioner and a very good lawyer. He has great attention to detail and I think does a very good job in ensuring the best result for his clients."* *"He is reliable and very customer-focused."*

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for Mills Oakley maintains a specialist practice staffed by lawyers with extensive sector-relevant academic qualifications

and industry experience, covering a comprehensive range of issues and with especially focused expertise in the areas of therapeutic goods regulation, patent litigation and medical cannabis issues. The firm is also noted for its representation of clients involved in the development of new treatments and technologies, prominently including businesses whose products challenge regulatory boundaries and require strong representation to government bodies and in the media, and for advice on commercialisation, competition and product liability questions. Key clients include Drive DeVilbiss, the Australian Institute of Medicinal Cannabis and Epsilon Healthcare.

Strengths

"Their service levels and responsiveness are outstanding. I am always confident I can get in touch and receive a response for urgent matters when I need them."

"They have a very strong grasp of highly technical matters combined with legal expertise, which are both essential."

"They understand what needs to be done legally for our company to succeed."

"They have been excellent in researching the issues, collating expert opinions and constructing documents on time."

"They take the time to fully appreciate context and nuance, the competitive environment and the commercial aspirations before providing thorough and balanced counsel."

Work highlights Mills Oakley was instructed by Firebrick Pharma to appeal a decision by a Delegate of the Minister of Health and Aged Care to refuse Firebrick Pharma's application for registration of its nasal spray in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Notable practitioners

Teresa Nicoletti heads the practice from the Sydney office and is widely acknowledged as a leading figure in the life sciences space, combining legal skills with those derived from a PhD in organic chemistry to advise across the full range of transactional, regulatory and contentious matters. **Strengths:** *"Teresa's strategic and technical capability to guide the project has been outstanding."* *"Teresa is absolutely a leader in her field and one of the most professional lawyers I have ever dealt with."* *"Teresa is a powerhouse and has been instrumental in the results we have achieved. She is a delight to work with as well."* **Julian Grover** is well regarded for his work on IP matters and regularly acts for medical device and pharmaceutical companies on both contentious and non-contentious mandates.

Band 4

Bird & Bird

What the team is known for Bird & Bird is widely recognised for its strong practice, which assists life sciences clients with intellectual property matters, including patent and trade mark disputes. Its life sciences team also acts for clients on competition disputes and product liability matters. Its clients include major pharmaceutical and healthcare companies, universities and research bodies, including First Pharma, Haleon and Troy Laboratories.

Strengths

"They provide expert guidance in the areas where we ask for help and are excellent value for money." "They give very practical advice that is ready to share with the business, not filled with legal jargon or caveats."

Work highlights Bird & Bird advised Elixinol on the management of its global trade mark portfolio.

Notable practitioners

Jane Owen heads the team from the Sydney office and is highly respected for her work in patent disputes and on trade mark matters for life sciences clients. **Lynne Lewis** is a frequent adviser to pharmaceutical and medical device sector clients on IP protection and a variety of regulatory issues.

Strengths: *"Lynne provides an intelligent, personable and prompt service."*

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin's life sciences offering includes advising pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device companies on a host of regulatory and compliance issues relevant to their businesses. The firm draws upon deep expertise in life sciences to advise companies on Australia-specific issues as well as transactions that span various jurisdictions. Gilbert + Tobin is also noted for its reputation in IP litigation. Key clients of the firm include the NSW Ministry of Health, Elanco and Viatrix.

Strengths

"In my area of IP litigation I would say they are generally a force to be reckoned with."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin advised Elanco in relation to ACCC clearance for its announced USD7.6 billion acquisition of Bayer's Animal Health business.

Notable practitioners

John Lee is a key contact.

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson maintains a notable practice assisting life sciences clients with regulatory and transactional matters. Its team often acts for clients on acquisitions, capital raisings and compliance with regulatory requirements. The firm is also active on intellectual property disputes. It represents clients in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, therapeutic goods and medical research spaces. Notable examples include Chimeric Therapeutics, Cerebral Palsy Alliance and Life Sciences Queensland.

Strengths

"They are incredibly responsive. They have done terrific work for us and have always been able to identify strong subject matter experts to meet our needs."

"It is a very skilled team of people. They are very organised and professional."

"McCullough Robertson consistently provide

quality service and their industry knowledge is second to none."

Work highlights McCullough Robertson acted for Bell Potter and Canaccord as the joint underwriters and lead managers on the IPO of Australian biotechnology company Microba.

Notable practitioners

Reece Walker is a key contact.

Piper Alderman

What the team is known for Piper Alderman has a broad offering across life sciences, regularly advising clients on transactional, regulatory and litigious issues in the area. With offices located throughout Australia, the firm is well placed to advise clients of differing size and scope operating in various industries on contract issues, licensing agreements, acquisitions and more. Its key clients include Perx Health, Oculus Biomed and Immutep.

Strengths

"Piper Alderman have always responded to us in a very timely manner. They are friendly and efficient, they look for solutions, and we feel that they have given us very good advice."

"They are able to navigate the complexities of cross-jurisdictional privacy, healthcare and privacy regulations."

Work highlights Piper Alderman acted for Zoetis in defending a class action brought by the owners of horses that were administered with the Hendra Virus vaccine developed by Zoetis. The owners allege the horses suffered side effects from the vaccine.

Notable practitioners

Lis Boyce co-heads the Piper Alderman life sciences team from the Sydney office and often provides advice concerning M&A transactions, capital raising and commercialisation matters for practice area clients. **Strengths:** *"An excellent partner to work with, she is very approachable, communicative and professional." "Lis is always available, ensuring minimal impact to our business. Furthermore, applying her commercial experience when supporting us in client contract negotiations is critical in enabling a balanced view while helping us manage our business risks."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Alison Choy Flannigan (see p.231) of Hall & Wilcox heads the firm's life sciences department. Her expertise includes advising clients on acquisitions, supply chain contracts and capital raising.

Strengths:

"Alison is amazing to work with. Her advice is delivered in a very knowledgeable and consistent manner. She always provides appropriate feedback and support."

"Alison is highly committed, knowledgeable and has undeniable integrity."

"Alison is a dedicated professional with a high level of service and knowledge."

Mandi Jacobson heads Hogan Lovells' team from its Sydney office and is especially well regarded for her knowledge of the life sciences regulatory landscape, which she interprets for clients from the pharmaceutical, medical device and other industries.

Strengths:

"Mandi has an exceptional commitment to her clients, coupled with an ability to understand their products and markets in depth."

"She is quite exceptional – very thorough, very structured and very aware of the industry and our organisation. I see her as a colleague within our organisation, versus an external provider."

"Mandi is an excellent legal partner. Her depth and breadth of expertise has been a great value to our team. She is business-savvy and can help navigate complex legal risks in Australia."

"The depth of knowledge she brings to the table is extensive and much appreciated. It has been a pleasure working with her and her team."

Robert McInnes is well known as a highly experienced Sydney-based independent practitioner in the life sciences sector, particularly with regard to IP licensing.

Wayne McMaster is a well-established and well-regarded independent practitioner who is recognised for his wealth of experience in the market, particularly with regard to intellectual property matters in the life sciences and biotechnology sectors. His long experience includes the management of numerous patent litigation cases, up to and including High Court level.

Ben Miller heads the Maddocks life sciences team from the firm's Sydney office, bringing to the role both academic qualifications in biochemistry and molecular biology and more than 25 years' experience in advising a broad range of life sciences sector clients on an equally varied range of IP-related issues.

Naomi Pearce of Pearce IP has longstanding experience in the life sciences industry, regularly advising clients on a host of contentious and non-contentious issues. She is particularly well reputed in patent litigation proceedings and leverages years of in-house experience at notable pharma companies.

Strengths:

"She has exceptional expertise in IP in life sciences right across the sector."

"Naomi is very strategic."

Patrick Sands of K&L Gates in Melbourne acts frequently on patent-related matters for life sciences clients, representing both pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers. He commands broad market respect for his proficiency in the litigation sphere.

AUSTRALIA: An Introduction to Native Title: Traditional Owners

Contributed by Chalk & Behrendt

Introduction

Australia is navigating major economic and policy challenges, from climate change and energy instability to housing affordability. Solving these challenges will require land, and access across land, for clean energy and critical minerals projects, housing and biodiversity protection. Given the extent and nature of their land holdings and knowledge of country, Indigenous communities will play a critical role in addressing many of these challenges.

At the same time, the legal spotlight will continue to shine on cultural heritage law reform and emerging case law in native title compensation.

Clean Energy and Critical Minerals

Australia is undergoing a clean energy transition and the coming decade will be critical in shaping standards for industry engagement with Indigenous communities. The central issue remains consistent – that Indigenous people are tangibly involved in the planning, development and maintenance of new energy sources.

Indigenous communities are aiming to be proactive in decisions relating to their land interests rather than reactive to third-party proposals. This approach will benefit industry and government as well, but is dependent on funding and appropriate advice being available to enable communities to make informed decisions about how clean energy fits into their land-use planning.

The Federal Government and all states and territories have agreed to develop a First Nations Clean Energy Strategy with the help of the First Nations Clean Energy Network (FNCEN). Roundtables are being held nationwide to seek input from Indigenous communities. A unified policy framework would be welcome.

The FNCEN has developed best practice negotiation guidelines which are essential reading for proponents. A benchmark is equity stakes for traditional owner groups and these have been announced on some major energy projects. Proponents committed to best practice should also explore co-design in recognition of the insight that traditional owners can bring to land issues that exceed what is in environmental regulations. For projects requiring significant land, consideration needs to be given to ensuring traditional connections to country are maintained.

There is also a strong push to grow the critical minerals sector, with the Federal Government announcing a major funding boost in October 2023. The scale of production required to meet the demand for lithium, cobalt, graphite, manganese and other minerals used in energy storage has been rapidly increasing for many years. Exploration and mining proponents should engage traditional owners at the early stages of a project given Native Title Act and cultural heritage law requirements, along with social licence expectations.

On a smaller scale, microgrids will provide energy resilience for many remote Indigenous communities. This is relevant to native title as improved energy reliability will support traditional owners to return to country. Innovative Indigenous-led projects are well under way, although the regulatory framework around standalone power systems continues to be a challenge.

Housing and Development

By area, Indigenous groups are collectively the largest private landowners in eastern NSW, including substantial landholdings in the burgeoning Six Cities Region, with groups in other states and territories also holding substantial land assets. While the protection of country and community remain paramount, the need to use land to provide housing, health, education and wealth looms large for these communities. Many groups have begun to explore their own small- to large-scale land developments, and it seems likely that Indigenous landowners will play an increasingly important role in tackling Australia's housing crisis in the next decade.

Environmental Markets and Management

Environmental markets, such as carbon and biodiversity markets, attempt to mitigate environmental harm through pricing that harm, attributing credit values to it and then facilitating trading in those credits. One example is NSW's Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 which a recent independent statutory review noted "is not meeting its primary purpose of maintaining a healthy, productive and resilient environment, and is never likely to do so." This year, the Federal Government released the Nature Repair Market Bill for comment, to develop a national biodiversity market. Whether the Federal approach overcomes the issues experienced in the NSW market remains to be seen.

The effectiveness of these markets will have a unique impact on Indigenous communities. Many Indigenous communities have rights or ownership over, or a legal claim to, much of the land and waters that governments, developers and conservationists are looking to use for conservation and environmental offsets. At least 51% of Australia's landmass has some form of Indigenous right recognised in it. This land is typically remote or on the urban fringe and is often the only land left with high ecological values in the region. However, decisions about how to use the land are not always straightforward. While some Indigenous groups want to conserve their land, others want to use it to facilitate housing and economic development for their people. As Indigenous groups have an interest in much of the land with high ecological values, these differences are likely to set the scene for the politics of environmental markets in coming years.

The independent reviews of the NSW and Federal biodiversity legislation also raised questions about how Indigenous knowledge of environmental management can be incorporated into policy and practice. Traditional owners' understanding of country is increasingly being recognised as critical to managing bushfire risks, but there is considerably more environmental knowledge that traditional owners can bring. At a project level, proponents should recognise that caring for country is intrinsically connected to culture and questions around environmental management and respect for Indigenous knowledge of land are likely to be ongoing themes in cultural heritage and future act discussions.

Cultural Heritage

In response to the destruction at Juukan Gorge, the Joint Standing Committee on Northern Australia in its second report, released in 2021 (JSC Report), recommended a major overhaul of national

cultural heritage laws. Since then, two large reform efforts have been under way, namely:

- the First Nations cultural heritage law reforms which form part of the Federal response to the JSC Report; and
- Western Australia's ill-fated attempt to update its 1972 Aboriginal Heritage Act with the 2021 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act.

The 2022 Federal Australian Government response to the JSC Report included a promise to reform the law to create standalone First Nations cultural heritage legislation through a co-design process. Initial engagement happened in early 2022. The overwhelming message from this stage was that reform is urgently needed. The second stage of engagement has been ongoing throughout 2023. No end date has been publicly announced and the timelines for consultation have been extended. There will then be a second options paper and ultimately an Options Report, with hopes that legislation may be introduced in 2024.

Western Australia has been the only Australian jurisdiction to implement new cultural heritage laws since the destruction at Juukan Gorge. However, this reform was short lived with the WA Government withdrawing its own legislation – the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 – in response to concerted public and stakeholder criticism. The complexity of the law and how much of the practical detail of its operation was released very close to the commencement date as guidelines, rather than forming part of the act as passed, were particular complications. The result, from the perspective of anyone who wants effective heritage protection on terms that respect human rights, is the worst of both worlds. A desperate need for reform but no political appetite, because of how bruising this experience has been.

Native Title Compensation

Since the High Court first considered the principles relating to an award of compensation under the Commonwealth Native Title Act in 2019, there has been increased interest across Australia in the making of native title compensation claims. There are currently ten active native title compensation claims in the Federal Court – most of which relate to mining acts and all involve a range of issues and challenges for claimants. One of these claims (WAD37/2022: Yindjibarndi v State of Western Australia & Ors) has been identified by the court as being of public interest and an open online court file is available. The opening submissions of the parties have been filed, and earlier this year evidence was heard on Yindjibarndi country before Justice Burley.

Current and historic cases have resolved some of the issues regarding awards of native title compensation. However, procedural matters regarding how claims can or should be made are still being determined by the courts. Broader questions of determining liability and quantum for mining acts across Australia are also yet to be resolved, and represent some of the complex challenges Indigenous groups face in successfully prosecuting their claims – some of these questions may be answered by the Yindjibarndi proceeding.

Looking Ahead

The next few years will be important in defining how Indigenous communities engage with governments, corporations and the courts to activate the economic potential of their land, as well as to protect areas of particular significance. With questions still to be answered, and changes to the regulation of Australian land use and cultural heritage protection expected, a commitment to supporting Indigenous people to enforce their rights and achieve outcomes of best practice for their communities remains vital.

Native Title

Native Title: Proponents
Leading Firms
Band 1
Ashurst
Clayton Utz
King & Wood Mallesons
Band 2
Allens
HopgoodGanim Lawyers
McCullough Robertson
Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 3
DLA Piper Australia
Gilbert + Tobin
Herbert Smith Freehills

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allens

What the team is known for Allens' established, national practice provides a full suite of native title services, covering both contentious and non-contentious issues. It has a strong track record of acting for market-leading energy and resources companies on indigenous engagement and native title trust issues. It is also experienced in advising government clients on native title considerations associated with the privatisation of state-owned assets. Key clients include Energy Resources Australia, Glencore and AngloGold Ashanti.

Strengths

"Allens are a full service, experienced firm. They return calls promptly and are intelligent."

Work highlights Allens undertook native title due diligence for TPG and advised it on native title risk and liability for compensation in relation to the

sale of its fibre optic cable business.

Notable practitioners

Ben Zillmann is a Brisbane-based practitioner who is well recognised in the space for his work advising proponents who are active in the minerals, coal, gas and hydroelectrical industries.

Strengths: *"Ben Zillmann is a terrific practitioner."*

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler's pre-eminent practice is highly respected for its work advising traditional owner organisations and operates across a comprehensive range of land rights, reconciliation and wealth management matters. It offers particularly impressive expertise relating to governance, structuring and employment issues for Aboriginal trusts and bodies, as well as considerable expertise advising on taxation structures and achieving sustainable wealth creation. Arnold Bloch Leibler is actively involved in public policy initiatives and advises

Native Title: Proponents
Eminent Practitioners
Eminent Practitioners
Gishubl Geoff <i>Ashurst</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Denholder Tony <i>Ashurst</i>
Fulcher Jonathan <i>HopgoodGanim Lawyers</i>
Gay Andrew <i>Ashurst</i>
Geritz Mark <i>Clayton Utz</i>
McGann Dominic <i>McCullough Robertson</i>
McKenna Marshall <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Scott Gavin <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Singleton Scott <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Zillmann Ben <i>Allens</i>
Band 2
Aro Tosin <i>Aro & Associates (ORL) ◇</i>
Lawrence Clare <i>Ashurst</i>
Oxyby William <i>Johnson Winter Slattery (ORL) ◇</i>
Band 3
Audeyev Sally <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Boge Mark <i>Thynne + Macartney (ORL) ◇</i>
Davis Liam <i>McCullough Robertson</i>
Debenham Melanie <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Associates to watch
McKillop Libby <i>Ashurst</i>
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

government agencies on their interactions with indigenous groups. Key clients include Trust for Nature, Wantok Musik Foundation and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.

Strengths

“ABL is almost without peer when it comes to complex native title, regulatory and governance matters. They have a very strong depth of talent across teams and the firm.”

“They have a very strong team with good knowledge and understanding of complex matters in the Aboriginal area.”

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler acted for Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal regarding renewable energy agreements on native title land.

Notable practitioners

Peter Seidel has extensive experience of acting for land councils and Aboriginal corporations on applications for recognition of land ownership, as well as across a comprehensive range of governance and tax issues. **Strengths:** *“Peter displays great ethics and loyalty in his work, not just in acting for a law firm, but for his clients.”* *“Peter Seidel is an expert in corporate, native title and charity law. He is provides well-rounded, practical and expert advice.”*

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst is a go-to firm for proponents for advice on complex native title and cultural heritage mandates. With its comprehensive geographical reach, Ashurst maintains dedicated native title expertise in five mainland offices and is additionally active in the Northern Territory and South Australia. Its depth of expertise positions it well to deliver high-quality advice to blue-chip energy, resources and infrastructure companies on both contentious and non-contentious issues throughout the country, including the negotiation of project-specific agreements

Native Title: Traditional Owners
Leading Firms
Band 1
Arnold Bloch Leibler
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Band 2
Bowden McCormack
Castledine Gregory Law & Mediation
Chalk & Behrendt
Jackson McDonald
Band 3
Clayton Utz
Marrawah Law
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Levin Adam <i>Jackson McDonald</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Bowden Sean <i>Bowden McCormack</i>
Castledine Graham <i>Castledine Gregory Law & Mediation</i>
Chalk Andrew <i>Chalk & Behrendt</i>
Hunter Philip <i>HWL Ebsworth Lawyers</i>
Pagsanjan Michael <i>MPS Law (ORL) ◇</i>
Seidel Peter <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>
Band 2
Behrendt Jason <i>Chalk & Behrendt</i>
Lang Cassie <i>Parallax Legal (ORL) ◇</i>
Meale David <i>Chalk & Behrendt</i>
Sheiner Paul <i>Roe Legal Services (ORL) ◇</i>
Band 3
Owens Michael <i>Michael Owens & Associates (ORL) ◇</i>
Watts Melissa <i>M Watts Legal (ORL) ◇</i>

with traditional owner parties and litigation to Full Federal Court and High Court level. The team advises industry groups within the mining space on proposed legislative reforms, changes to state legislation and case law. It counsels Commonwealth and state government bodies on law reform and other practice area issues. Ashurst also offers additional strength in acting for government bodies on issues including law reform, as well as indigenous land use agreements. Key clients include Rio Tinto and Minerals Council of Australia.

Strengths

“Ashurst have long been the most capable firm. Apart from having specialists in each facet of the work, they have instant access to other areas of the law that often impact the issue.”

“The team is very strong, and includes people who have been with them for many years.”

Work highlights Ashurst was engaged by Eastern Maar Aboriginal in negotiations for the grant of a petroleum tenement that extends offshore to a gas processing plant inland.

Notable practitioners

Geoff Gishubl is based in Perth and combines his role as Ashurst’s chief operating officer with continuing involvement in key practice area mandates, notably including those involving the native title aspects of major mining operations. **Tony Denholder** is a highly esteemed Brisbane-based practitioner who is regularly instructed by leading players in the mining and infrastructure sectors. **Strengths:** *“Tony Denholder has maintained and developed his capacity.”* *“Tony’s skills, expertise and integrity are appreciated. He is exceptional.”*

Andrew Gay acts for a range of high-profile mining, energy and infrastructure sector clients on complex native title agreement negotiation and implementation mandates. **Strengths:** *“Andrew Gay is really great, and quite open-minded.”* **Clare Lawrence** is frequently instructed by significant corporates and government entities on native title and heritage matters relating to operations in the resources sector or infrastructure projects. **Libby McKillop** is based in Brisbane and acts extensively for energy and resources, infrastructure and government sector clients in the area where mining law, indigenous land law and cultural heritage issues intersect.

Bowden McCormack

What the team is known for Bowden McCormack’s Darwin-based team focuses closely on the representation of traditional owner representative bodies and businesses. In addition to acting on applications under the Native Title Act, it has extensive experience of advising on the development of projects benefiting Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. The department assists with corporate governance matters, including tax concessions and social and economic development programmes. Bowden McCormack is also capable of providing advice to resources companies and developers seeking to do business on Aboriginal land.

Notable practitioners

Sean Bowden advises a variety of traditional owner bodies, both within and beyond the Northern Territory, across a broad range of land use, commercial, economic development and resources-project related issues.

Castledine Gregory Law & Mediation

What the team is known for Castledine Gregory Law & Mediation is widely acknowledged, Perth-based for assisting Aboriginal groups, resources and infrastructure players, and government agencies with native title and related negotiations. It also advises traditional owner groups on a broad range of issues, including cultural heritage matters, native title claims, indigenous land use agreements and trust structures.

Notable practitioners

Graham Castledine is a highly regarded practitioner who advises a variety of clients on both contentious and non-contentious native title and Aboriginal heritage matters. An experienced advocate before the National Native Title Tribunal and at courts up to High Court level, he is also particularly appreciated for his mediation skills. **Strengths:** *“Graham Castledine is a really, really lovely fellow. He is very well known and respected.”*

Chalk & Behrendt

What the team is known for Chalk & Behrendt’s experienced team handles a wide variety of native title and cultural heritage mandates on a national basis from its Sydney office. It represents traditional owners and land councils on matters concerning land and sea claims and appeals, agreement drafting and disputes between Aboriginal groups, and across a range of economic and community development issues. Its clients include Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council

and New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council.

Strengths

"Chalk & Behrendt are ten out of ten. The principals have immense experience and astute analytical skills which they are able to apply in complex situations."

"They have real depth and breadth of experience across a range of partners and associates."

Work highlights Chalk & Behrendt acted for Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council in NSW Land and Environment Court proceedings to appeal the refusal of Aboriginal land right claims lodged over Peat Island and land in Mooney Mooney.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Chalk is a renowned practitioner in this space, who is noted for his rich experience across a broad range of native title, land rights and cultural heritage protection issues. **Strengths:** *"Andrew has a long history of working for and assisting Aboriginal communities. He does so with cultural competency and heightened social conscience." "He is an expert and is a trusted adviser. He is a safe pair of hands in difficult litigation."*

Jason Behrendt is an Indigenous lawyer with over 20 years of experience and handles both litigation and non-litigation work. He has acted on many successful Aboriginal land claim appeals for native title owners from New South Wales.

Strengths: *"Jason is a top-level communicator. He is highly engaging and extremely professional." "Jason has unrivalled subject matter expertise."*

David Meale has a well-established practice, largely focused on advising indigenous organisations on such matters as governance, project and transactional issues. **Strengths:** *"David is very professional, extremely knowledgeable and consistently accessible."*

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz's impressive offering is noted for providing coverage of proponent, traditional owner and government client requirements. The firm regularly advises blue-chip corporates on the native title and cultural heritage aspects of their largest resources projects and Aboriginal groups on title claim and trustee issues. It has a strong track record advising government at state and Commonwealth levels on ensuring compliance with practice area legislation in regard to nationally significant infrastructure developments. The team is also noted for its thought leadership in the development of legislation, particularly in relation to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act amendments. Key clients include Australian Rail Track, Transgrid and Western Cape Communities Trust.

Strengths

"Clayton Utz know what they are doing. They have a smorgasbord of quality."

"Clayton Utz have strong knowledge, advice, strategy and client management. They are timely, agile and proactive and they have the ability to bring in practitioners of all levels."

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised the Australian Rail Track on all native title and Aboriginal heritage issues in relation to the Inland Rail Project.

Notable practitioners

Mark Geritz maintains a highly respected practice from the Brisbane office, advising a variety of proponent, traditional owner and public sector stakeholders on complex native title and cultural heritage issues. **Strengths:** *"Mark and his team are good quality. They are reliable and a safe pair of hands. Mark is practical and good to deal with."*

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper's Perth-based practice combines a strong Western Australian focus with a full national capability, offering integrated land access and native title services to project proponents in the resources, infrastructure and real estate sectors. It is increasingly active on renewables projects across Australia and frequently assists with native title disputes as well as advising on non-contentious matters. Clients include OZ Minerals and Genesis Minerals.

Strengths

"They have some strong junior staff and excellent special counsel and senior associates who are experts in their respective fields."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised OZ Minerals on its agreement with the Ngaanyatjarra People for the development of the AUD1.7 billion West Musgrave Copper-Nickel Mining project in Western Australia.

Notable practitioners

Katherine Perincek is a key contact for clients.

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin handles the full scope of native title matters, including the negotiation of native title agreements, indigenous land use agreements, future acts and cultural heritage agreements. The team is noted for its considerable experience in the mining and minerals sector as well as acting for forestry and pastoral proponents. It also frequently acts for large natural resources companies. Key clients include Novo Resources and Australian Executor Trustees.

Strengths

"Gilbert + Tobin provide reliable advice for complex and sophisticated matters. They have a deep and broad team that work together well to serve their clients' needs."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin advised the Australian Executor Trustees in relation to the implementation and administration of the Banjima Trusts.

Notable practitioners

Marshall McKenna is a long-established, Perth-based practitioner with a wealth of experience advising clients in the mining industry on practice area issues. **Strengths:** *"Marshall McKenna has extensive native title and land access experience and is a trusted adviser."*

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills' well-respected, Queensland-headquartered group draws on expertise across a range of disciplines to assist clients in the delivery of high-profile resources and infrastructure projects. It provides comprehensive advisory services covering native title, cultural heritage, land access

and approvals issues. The team is also noted for its strong litigation expertise and represents clients in Federal Court and National Native Title Tribunal proceedings. Herbert Smith Freehills has close interactions with many leading industry bodies in the mining, oil and gas, energy and water sectors. Key clients include Main Roads WA and Beach Energy.

Strengths

"They are very pragmatic and business-focused. They always come prepared and know the region very well. They are all very friendly and insightful providing high level strategic advice."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills was engaged by Acciona to provide native title and cultural heritage advice in relation to the development of MacIntyre Wind Farm.

Notable practitioners

Melanie Debenham is a Perth-based partner whose specialist native title, cultural heritage and land access expertise is helpfully complemented by a thorough familiarity with environmental issues and extensive experience of advising on the development of major projects in the mining, oil and gas and energy sectors. **Strengths:** *"Melanie is top of the class in all respects. She provides commercial and pragmatic advice."*

HopgoodGanim Lawyers

What the team is known for HopgoodGanim offers an integrated, national service to project proponents, drawing on extensive expertise in mining, environmental and native title law. It is particularly renowned for its experience in the energy and natural resources sector. HopgoodGanim frequently assists with native title disputes as well as advising on matters arising from native title applications, future act determinations and cultural heritage plans.

Strengths

"They definitely have a very good native title practice."

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Fulcher maintains a highly respected, Brisbane-based practice, advising a range of participants in the natural resources and energy sectors on native title matters impacting on the development of their projects. **Strengths:** *"He is an exceptional lawyer. He is seen a lot acting for proponents and native title parties. Very pragmatic, and a very good negotiator."*

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth Lawyers' well-established offering maintains an impressive reputation in the native title arena. It is recognised for its leading expertise in the representation of native title groups in land use and land access negotiations with project proponents, and has a strong track record of acting for native title claimants, holders and representative bodies on high-profile native title dispute mandates.

Strengths

"They are pre-eminent. I have great respect for them."

Notable practitioners

Philip Hunter is a widely revered practitioner who acts for native representative bodies across a range of issues. **Strengths:** *"Philip Hunter is a very*

impressive practitioner. The *crème de la crème*. He is very well regarded.”

Jackson McDonald

What the team is known for Jackson McDonald’s Perth-based practice combines a strong Western Australian focus with a national reach and is particularly sought after for its highly developed expertise in the areas of native title trusts and indigenous organisation governance matters. It provides indigenous organisations with strategic guidance on economic and business opportunities for the creation of sustainable income streams. The team advises corporations, Aboriginal-controlled trusts, land councils and prescribed bodies on associated investment, tax structuring and business development issues. Key clients include the Perpetual Trustee Company, Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation and Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation.

Strengths

“Jackson McDonald has a team of strong partners and supporting junior lawyers. The firm is very active and engaged in social and global matters, and has excellent commercial awareness.”

“The firm has a sophisticated and diverse practice structure which ensures effective and efficient responses to complex issues.”

Work highlights Jackson McDonald assisted the Mirning Traditional Lands Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC in corporate and commercial matters in relation to a proposed renewable hydrogen project in WA Mirning Country.

Notable practitioners

Adam Levin offers specialist expertise and exceptional experience in the provision of corporate and commercial advice to traditional owner trusts and corporations. His capabilities in the areas of Aboriginal financial benefits management and the design of tax-effective structures are particularly well developed. **Strengths:** “Adam is a great facilitator and can work clients through complex issues to get the best outcomes.” “Adam is very professional and holds very high knowledge, advice and experience.” “Adam was resourceful, responsive and an effective negotiator.”

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons provides strategic advice to blue-chip clients in the energy and natural resources and infrastructure sectors. The team handles the full range of native title issues, including Aboriginal land and cultural heritage agreements and their implementation, benefit management structures and compensation. It is highly experienced in assisting with native title and cultural heritage matters associated with large-scale projects and is frequently instructed by federal and state government entities on a range of Aboriginal land issues. King & Wood Mallesons is further noted for integrating multidisciplinary advice on native title and environmental concerns, access agreements and approvals for resources and infrastructure projects, as well as tenure protection in claim determinations and heritage reforms. Key clients include Transgrid and Origin Energy.

Strengths

“The KWM team is highly regarded in the industry for expert legal services in native title and cultural heritage.”

“The KWM team’s breadth and depth of expertise is exceptional. Not only are the partners leaders in their field but their senior associates and lawyers are diligent, very capable and deliver a lot of value for KWM’s offering in this practice area.”

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons advised BHP Group on native title and heritage matters in relation to its South Australian operations, including the Olympic Dam operations at Roxby Down.

Notable practitioners

Scott Singleton is based in Brisbane and is a renowned practitioner in the native title space, being particularly noted as an exceptional negotiator of agreements between traditional owner groups and the proponents of major energy, resources or infrastructure projects. **Strengths:** “Scott Singleton is very experienced and has been doing it for a long time. He is a pleasure to deal with, and the work quality has always been good.”

“Scott’s main strength is his ability to give commercial and practical advice. He is also technically very good, but exceptional at being able to translate that into practical usefulness.”

Sally Audeyev is particularly well qualified to provide integrated advice on matters with mixed native title and environmental elements to mining industry clients and government bodies. She is based in Perth. **Strengths:** “Sally is technically exceptional. Her strength is in the heritage area. She is very, very good in that area.”

Marrawah Law

What the team is known for Marrawah Law is a Queensland-based boutique, focused on the interaction of native title and cultural heritage considerations with major property transactions and energy and resources-related developments in the state. The firm acts extensively for Queensland and Commonwealth government agencies, often on mandates which focus on the protection of the interests of indigenous peoples, or on the enhancement of their economic development. The team also acts for a number of Aboriginal corporations and selected private-sector companies. Its areas of key expertise include regulatory approvals for land deals, construction activities or project developments and the conclusion of community benefit agreements.

Notable practitioners

Leah Cameron is a key contact for clients.

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson regularly represents proponent clients, including leading players in the mining and gas sectors. It advises on indigenous land use and the right to negotiate agreements, cultural heritage management strategies and future act and compensation issues. The firm is noted for its strength in advising on consents for carbon projects and the interaction between obtaining carbon credits and native title rights. It also advises state and local government agencies. Key clients include Seqwater and the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Strengths

“Their knowledge and ability to navigate complex issues and provide concise and timely advice is invaluable.”

“McCullough Robertson has a very strong capability not only in law but also in relationship building and complex networking.”

Work highlights McCullough Robertson provided advice to Ravenswood Gold regarding various native title and cultural heritage issues and led the engagement strategy with two native title groups for mining tenement grants.

Notable practitioners

Dominic McGann is based in Brisbane and is particularly noted for advising both government and corporate clients on the native title aspects of major developments in the energy and resources sector. **Strengths:** “Dominic’s knowledge and awareness of the operating environment and the politics at play is highly valued. He is proactive in providing quality, timely advice.”

Liam Davis advises extensively on the interaction of native title and cultural heritage issues with the development of large projects. He is based in Brisbane. **Strengths:** “Liam is really great to work with. His responsiveness and availability is very good and much appreciated. The quality of his deliverables is very high.” “Liam Davis has good knowledge when it comes to native title; he knows how to approach native title work.”

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright regularly advises inbound investors and other developers on native title, cultural heritage and land rights issues arising in relation to large-scale energy and infrastructure projects. It houses expertise on the legislative framework around indigenous affairs, including the changes to cultural heritage laws in Western Australia and New South Wales. It also offers additional expertise in complex litigation, including in relation to indigenous land use agreements and compensation claims. Key clients include Rio Tinto and Stockland Australia.

Strengths

“Norton Rose Fulbright has a good overall understanding of legal precedents as well as the application of this to project development.”

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright was engaged to manage the cultural heritage engagement for Stockland Australia’s Queensland residential property portfolio.

Notable practitioners

Gavin Scott is based in Brisbane and is a highly experienced adviser to high-profile actors in the natural resources sector across a comprehensive range of native title and cultural heritage matters. **Strengths:** “Gavin is very easy to communicate with. He has great passion for what he does, which is native title. He is an absolute expert.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Tosin Aro of Aro & Associates adeptly advises a comprehensive range of actors in the native title space on diverse issues, including matters of cultural heritage and the development of major infra-

structure or energy and resources projects.

Strengths:

"Tosin Aro is a good operator."

"Tosin was very responsive, professional and sophisticated in his approach to our work, drawing from his experience with other companies and projects, and his relationships with traditional owner groups."

"A sophisticated thinker."

Mark Boge of Thynne + Macartney in Brisbane is known in the market for his expertise in handling future act and court claims for pastoralists and also offers noted experience of supporting agribusiness clients in land use agreements and other native title-related issues.

Cassie Lang of Parallax Legal is based in Brisbane and advises a wide range of clients, including traditional owner corporations and government agencies, on key native title and cultural heritage compliance issues.

Strengths:

"Cassie Lang is a really good negotiator and is good at distilling issues and getting to a result."

"She is one of the best lawyers in the space. She is exceptional."

Michael Owens of Michael Owens & Associates offers decades of experience advising on a range of practice area issues, including indigenous land

use agreements, cultural heritage management plans and access agreements. He is also active in counselling Aboriginal enterprises on corporate governance and other commercial development matters. He is based in Queensland.

Strengths:

"He is a well-known lawyer who acts for native title holders."

William Oxbey of Johnson Winter Slattery in Brisbane is a practitioner whose expertise extends across a wide range of contentious and non-contentious native title and cultural heritage matters. He has extensive experience acting for proponents on mandates concerning native title tenure validity and land use agreements, as well as disputes and compensation claims considered by the National Native Title Tribunal.

Strengths:

"William provides proactive service in a highly responsive manner. He provides advice on complex and sophisticated matters in a timely fashion. He has a very commercial lens relevant to the resources sector in his advice."

Michael Pagsanjan of MPS Law in Adelaide has a wealth of experience in advising on a range of native title and cultural heritage agreements, and also offers notable expertise concerning native title compensation claims.

Strengths:

"Michael is exceptionally good. He is doing some outstanding work."

Paul Sheiner of Roe Legal Services in Perth acts principally for traditional owner groups, including both native title holders and claimants, and brings over 20 years' experience in the space to the table, including noted successes in title determination and agreement enforcement cases and in the conclusion of agreements between Aboriginal groups and leading resources sector players.

Strengths:

"Really excellent in the native title space: he sits in his lane and does not pretend. From a native title perspective, he is great."

Melissa Watts of M Watts Legal is known for her work in the native title space, particularly in relation to mining.

Strengths:

"Melissa's knowledge of mining and native title law is exemplary and her ability to navigate complex issues and stakeholders to achieve positive and timely outcomes is unparalleled."

"Melissa has a deep and broad understanding of law and subject matter but also provides on-the-spot, savvy commercial advice."

Real Estate

Band 1

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz is highly regarded and sought after by corporations and government bodies. It has extensive experience handling complex property matters, including structuring acquisitions, disposals and investments, and portfolio management, for major developers, funds and Asian inbound investors. Its real estate team maintains an extensive practice in retail, commercial and residential developments as well as large-scale urban renewal projects. The team is experienced in advising on affordable and social housing developments for government entities. Its notable clients include Charter Hall, Blackstone and BP Australia.

Strengths

"We have received high-quality legal services. The fast turnaround of legal documentation was critical to the success of the project."

"Clayton Utz is often at the forefront of any legislative changes or case law decisions."

Work highlights Clayton Utz acted for Health Infrastructure on its property acquisition strategy for the Ambulance Infrastructure Program in New South Wales.

Notable practitioners

Julie Levis is an experienced practitioner who

is highly regarded in the market and noted for her ability to advise on urban renewal projects.

Strengths: *"She is an established authority."*

Nikki Robinson is a leading figure in the real estate market, frequently assisting public sector clients on transactional matters relating to major developments. **Strengths:** *"Nikki is an excellent operator. She has fantastic technical capability matched with excellent client skills and commercial nuance."* **Andrew Norman** is known primarily for his focus on REIT developments, his clients including institutional property investors and real estate funds, whom he advises on acquisitions as well as property disposals. **Andrew Steele** acts for clients in both the public and private sectors, whom he advises on property acquisitions and sales, as well as developments, and has substantial experience working on matters in the leisure and healthcare sectors. **Strengths:** *"He is not just a lawyer, but he thinks holistically about a project – he will become a business adviser and immerse himself in the deal."*

David Wilkie is an established practitioner who frequently acts for clients on the acquisition of developments in the residential, business and industrial areas. **Strengths:** *"He is very talented and commercial."* **Alison Kennedy** is known for her work on land acquisition matters for infrastructure projects as well as residential developments. **Strengths:** *"At all times, Alison is*

extremely capable and responsive." **Carrie Rogers** is recognised as an esteemed practitioner in the real estate market. She assists clients with the acquisition of office buildings and business sites.

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth is a respected national practice with expertise in residential, social housing, healthcare and retirement properties, housing a well-reputed urban infrastructure practice. Its deep bench of experts provides clients with a start-to-finish service on development matters, and includes an accomplished leasing practice that services many of Australia's largest companies. The property team assists REITs and private equity outfits regarding property portfolios and the acquisition of trusts and assets. The firm's significant clients include Blackstone, Investa Property and Stockland.

Strengths

"Not only are the team extremely personable but the attention to detail, commerciality and understanding of our own internal approvals and processes is what sets the team apart from other firms."

"I have the utmost confidence that when working with Corrs, they have the technical resources and expertise available to deliver legally accurate and

Real Estate
Leading Firms
Band 1
Clayton Utz
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Herbert Smith Freehills
King & Wood Mallesons
MinterEllison
Band 2
Allens
Arnold Bloch Leibler
Ashurst
Baker McKenzie
Band 3
Lander & Rogers
Maddocks
Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 4
Colin Biggers & Paisley
Dentons
Gadens
Gilbert + Tobin
Jackson McDonald
Mills Oakley
Band 5
DLA Piper Australia
Hall & Wilcox
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
K&L Gates
Lavan
McCullough Robertson
Thomson Geer
Band 6
HopgoodGanim Lawyers
Johnson Winter Slattery
Moray & Agnew
Squire Patton Boggs
<small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>
<small>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</small>

commercially astute advice in extremely complex transactions.”

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth acted for Bolton Clarke on its acquisition of Allity Aged Care, which has 43 aged care homes in four Australian states.

Notable practitioners

Peter Calov acts for a variety of clients, including major property companies, on developments, acquisitions and disposals. **Strengths:** “He is a fantastic negotiator and statesman who we often have running our negotiations.” **Nathaniel Popelianski** has a wealth of experience across the gamut of real estate matters, including acquisitions and developments of residential and commercial projects. **Strengths:** “He provides advice in a clear and succinct manner that is understood by all divisions of the business and is an asset to have in any major transaction.” **Paul Carrick** often acts for private equity outfits and investment groups on the acquisition of commercial properties. **Strengths:** “Paul has an incredible ability to home in on the key points and bring calm when a situation is tense and emotional. He is extremely commercial and has an uncanny ability to simplify complex legal matters.” **Natalie Bryant** is well regarded for her practice, which centres on advising on a number of property developments and urban renewal projects. **Strengths:** “Natalie is

Real Estate
Senior Statespeople and Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Dixon-Smith Stuart King & Wood Mallesons
Gray Ken Arnold Bloch Leibler
Levis Julie Clayton Utz
Eminent Practitioners
Briggs Virginia MinterEllison
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Calov Peter Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Couch Julie Herbert Smith Freehills
Mitchell Chris King & Wood Mallesons
Robinson Nikki Clayton Utz
Sinn David Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 2
Back Michael Herbert Smith Freehills
Bayliss Mark King & Wood Mallesons
Cowie Nicholas Herbert Smith Freehills
French Michael Norton Rose Fulbright
Hodder Jane Herbert Smith Freehills
Holthouse Victoria Allens
McLeish David Allens
Melick Roy Baker McKenzie
Menz Simone King & Wood Mallesons
Poeta Frank Herbert Smith Freehills
Popelianski Nathaniel Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Poynton Anthony MinterEllison
Simpson Luke Herbert Smith Freehills
Trevaskis Peter Johnson Winter Slattery
Wells John Lander & Rogers
Band 3
Cameron Max MinterEllison
Carrick Paul Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Dickson Graeme Baker McKenzie
Graves Michael Allens
Holuigue Nick Maddocks
Lucas Justin Norton Rose Fulbright
Norman Andrew Clayton Utz
Savage Felicity King & Wood Mallesons
Steele Andrew Clayton Utz
Tan Pauline Ashurst
Band 4
Beekink Peter Lavan
Bell David King & Wood Mallesons
Blue Christopher Herbert Smith Freehills
Brown Samuel K&L Gates
Bryant Natalie Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Busa Sebastian Baker McKenzie
Cornwall-Jones Jason Ashurst
Deane Andrew Ashurst
Deluca Carla MinterEllison
Gaddie Lisa Lander & Rogers
Gerkens Randall K&L Gates
Lyons Robin MinterEllison
McCarthy Tyrone Arnold Bloch Leibler
McKee Michael Norton Rose Fulbright
Moen Simon Jackson McDonald
Stawyskyj John Ashurst
Stilianos Dora Baker McKenzie
Wilkie David Clayton Utz
Band 5
Andrews Jennifer Dentons
Bannister Natalie Hall & Wilcox*
Black Carl King & Wood Mallesons
Cari Gia Arnold Bloch Leibler
Conlon Kristan McCullough Robertson
Degotardi Jennifer Hall & Wilcox*
Dorney Kristy Hall & Wilcox*
Hempel Amanda Gilbert + Tobin
Ho Caroline Baker McKenzie
Howley Dannelle Squire Patton Boggs
Kennedy Alison Clayton Utz
Kennedy Andrew Gadens
L’Orange Tim Mills Oakley
Masters Emily King & Wood Mallesons
Mathers Tim Ashurst
Purbrick Julie MinterEllison
Rich Adrian MinterEllison
Rogers Carrie Clayton Utz
Scipioni Lui Gadens
Stephen Elias Gilbert + Tobin
Up-and-coming individuals
Chislett Tim Allens
Ellenby David Corrs Chambers Westgarth

a pleasure to work with. She is knowledgeable and commercially minded. She always seeks the best and most efficient solution to a problem and readily makes her time available.” **David Ellenby** is well regarded as an up-and-coming lawyer in the real estate area. He often advises property developers on acquisitions and government bodies on social housing initiatives. **Strengths:** “David is fantastic for client service and providing strategic advice.”

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills offers end-to-end real estate services to leading property companies across Australia. Its real estate team possesses depth and quality of expertise in mixed-use, commercial and residential property matters in addition to corporate, tax and finance expertise. The team is experienced in handling many of Australia’s largest real estate deals. Its clients include major players in the domestic real estate market, including leading funds, real estate and development companies, and significant global investors operating

throughout the country, with such notable clients as Lendlease, M&G Real Estate and Frasers Property.

Strengths

“We appreciate HSF’s pragmatic and strategic approach when providing advice. The team has good commercial acumen and understands the business deliverables.”

“We tend to use HSF in very complex transactions, particularly where the structure is outside the norm. They have experts in a number of areas to provide the right solution.”

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised Dexu Property and Frasers Property on the approximately AUD3 billion redevelopment of land known as the Central Place Sydney project.

Notable practitioners

Julie Couch is a well-established figure in the market and is noted for her experience acting on leases and major urban developments.

Strengths: “Julie Couch handles very complex leases really well.” **David Sinn** is widely respected as a leading real estate lawyer. He frequently acts

for major property groups in relation to acquisitions and developments and is particularly noted for his work on matters involving real estate trusts. **Strengths:** “David makes very complex matters easy to navigate. He’s a savvy and commercial lawyer.” **Michael Back** is a highly experienced practitioner who frequently acts on property acquisitions. His clients include REITs and major real estate groups. **Nicholas Cowie** counts real estate groups and property developers among his clientele. An established figure in the market, he often acts on residential developments and property acquisitions. **Strengths:** “Nick demonstrates an incredible attention to detail and work ethic.” **Jane Hodder** is an experienced figure who is well respected for her expertise with regard to property developments and transactions. Her clients include developers, property groups and funds. **Strengths:** “Jane does very complex work. She can handle very tight timeframes and has always been able to get us across the line.” **Frank Poeta** has a strong reputation for his expertise in property matters and is widely regarded as one of the top real estate practitioners in Western Australia. He often acts on commercial and mixed-use developments. **Strengths:** “Frank is an excellent adviser with a strong understanding of the market in which he advises. He provides commercial advice which is outcomes-focused.” **Luke Simpson** is a well-respected figure who assists clients on property acquisitions and commercial developments. **Strengths:** “Luke is very successful in Brisbane and is a real authority in the market.” **Christopher Blue** acts for property companies and investment groups in relation to the acquisition, development and sale of major property developments in Brisbane.

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons is a full-service national offering with expertise in the commercial, residential, industrial and hotel sectors. Its real estate team acts for an impressive array of national and multinational property clients on major urban renewal projects, high-end property transactions and associated financing, structuring and development matters. The team has extensive expertise in inbound investments including foreign investment regulations. The firm boasts established relationships with REITs, private equity groups and other major investors in Australia and key Asian jurisdictions with high-value property portfolios. Its notable clients include Mirvac, Goldman Sachs and Mitsubishi Estate.

Strengths

“We find the KWM team to be of a uniformly high standard, with a strong focus on commercial outcomes.”

“KWM’s market knowledge is exceptional. They provide comfort to us on commercial issues and are an excellent guide on what is acceptable and seen in the market.”

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons acted for Charter Hall on its acquisition of a 50% interest in the AUD2 billion two-tower Southern Cross tower complex in Melbourne from Brookfield and Blackstone.

Notable practitioners

Stuart Dixon-Smith is widely regarded as a top practitioner in the real estate space who boasts extensive experience in this area. He is noted for his activity advising on major property acquisitions and developments. **Chris Mitchell** is widely regarded as one of the leading property lawyers in Australia and frequently assists clients on major property developments. **Mark Bayliss** maintains a solid practice acting for real estate groups on the high-value acquisition and sale of properties in New South Wales. **Strengths:** “Mark Bayliss is very commercial and has a good working knowledge of property transactions.” **Simone Menz** is particularly noted for her work assisting clients in relation to major property developments and transactions. She serves a varied clientele, including real estate trusts and property developers. **Strengths:** “Simone understands the business and our risk profile. She will always have the right lens to apply to us.” **Felicity Savage** is a frequent adviser to clients on mixed-use developments and urban regeneration projects. **Strengths:** “Felicity is able to take on very complex transactions because she is fantastic at thinking about the end goals.” **David Bell** is a well-regarded figure in the Brisbane property law market. He acts for clients on property acquisitions, disposals, leaseings and developments. **Strengths:** “David makes an effort towards what we are seeking to achieve. He is an experienced practitioner with excellent legal skills, but it is his outstanding client service that really sets him apart.” **Carl Black** is a respected practitioner based in Perth who has a wealth of experience acting on transactions relating to substantial property developments. **Emily Masters** leverages her expertise in property law to advise clients on sizeable commercial and residential developments, as well as capital transactions.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison boasts an integrated service that has consolidated planning, construction, projects and infrastructure expertise to provide a full-service offering which handles the gamut of real estate investments and transactions. Its team has notable strength in the retirement village sector and an established reputation for advising government departments and banks. The firm spreads its talent throughout Australia’s major cities and is active on urban renewal projects across the country. It has a strong presence in the place activation space and also able to offer high-volume stream leasing and conveyancing. Its notable clients include Lendlease, Development Victoria and Mirvac.

Strengths

“They have really added value to the project because they understood the strategy, the risk profile and our financial risks.”

“They are innovative in their approach to solving their clients’ problems.”

Work highlights MinterEllison acted for Homes Victoria, the Victorian government’s social and affordable housing agency, on many aspects of its policy platform, the Big Housing Build, including the purchase of private-sector stalled property developments and the scalable transfer of approximately 4,000 dwellings to community housing associations.

Notable practitioners

Virginia Briggs is the CEO and managing partner of MinterEllison, with experience as a leading lawyer in the real estate market, often advising clients in relation to major property developments and high-value acquisitions and sales. **Anthony Poynton** is a well-regarded figure in the market who acts for clients on high-value property sales and developments. **Max Cameron** is widely respected as an established and experienced practitioner based in Melbourne. He is noted for his expertise in retail and residential developments as well as leasing matters. **Carla Deluca** is noted for her broad real estate practice, covering joint ventures, developments, sales and leasing issues. **Strengths:** “Carla goes out of her way to understand a client’s needs and requirements. She is pragmatic, commercial, prudent and a pleasure to deal with.” **Robin Lyons** is a notable practitioner in the Brisbane market who is recognised for his deep experience advising clients on various matters relating to retirement villages. **Julie Purbrick** acts on large projects, including residential, retirement villages and mixed use, for major developers. **Strengths:** “Julie is very generous with her time and is great at connecting us with other people in the industry.” **Adrian Rich** acts for property developers and investors on large residential, mixed-use and commercial real estate transactions. **Strengths:** “Adrian is a consistently strong performer.”

Band 2

Allens

What the team is known for Allens provides a full-service offering to Australian and overseas investors on high-value investments. The firm assists corporate and public sector clients with acquisitions, disposals and leases including the real estate aspects of infrastructure projects. It boasts a distinguished real estate funds practice, with additional expertise in financial structuring and tax. Its team is engaged by property development groups on complex development matters and advises government bodies on public real estate issues. Allens also possesses significant experience across the retail, commercial and residential sectors. Its notable clients include Mirvac, Centuria Capital and Goodman Property.

Strengths

“They are clearly across the details and very knowledgeable. They understand the key technical issues but also the commercial ones, and help strategise solutions.”

“They always tailor their advice and make sure that we understand it.”

Work highlights Allens represented Australian Unity in the acquisition and development of a number of health and aged care facilities throughout Australia.

Notable practitioners

Victoria Holthouse is well regarded for her work assisting investment funds on the acquisition and sale of high-value properties. **Strengths:** “Victoria is an incredibly strong and experienced property partner.” **David McLeish** is well experienced in development, acquisition and leasing matters,

frequently acting for property groups and funds **Michael Graves** counts private equity and real estate groups among his clientele, as well as government entities, which he advises on acquisitions, leasing and developments. **Strengths:** “Michael is clearly across the details, understands the technical side and is very good at translating this into commercial advice.” **Tim Chislett** is an up-and-coming partner who acts for clients on acquisitions and developments. He is commended by clients and market sources for his collaborative approach to projects. **Strengths:** “He has a nice manner, is confident in his knowledge of the industry and is good at negotiating.”

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler is well respected for its comprehensive offering covering commercial property acquisitions, joint ventures, developments and disposals as well as related matters such as stamp duty and planning. It serves an impressive clientele of domestic and international property developers, investors and trusts, including both publicly listed entities and large private companies. The firm has a well-integrated partnership with access to high-quality resources for property financing, construction and taxation. Notable clients include Charter Hall, Beck Property Group and Citiplan.

Strengths

“They are very commercial and progressive in their thinking.”

“They understand the issues involved in complex transactions.”

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler advised Gurner and Qualitas on their first build-to-rent development in Melbourne. The project is valued at AUD350 million.

Notable practitioners

Ken Gray frequently acts for clients on the acquisition and disposal of properties, as well as on leasing. **Tyrone McCarthy** frequently assists property groups with their investments, handling property acquisitions and disposals. **Strengths:** “Tyrone provides commercially aware advice, which provides a level of assurance and confidence on the close-out of major transactions.” **Gia Cari** regularly advises developers and property funds on commercial, retail, industrial and mixed-use property issues. **Strengths:** “Gia’s availability to respond and advise on any situation is outstanding. She is able to advise on every commercial term.”

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst handles the full range of real estate work, operating on disposals, acquisitions and developments in the hotels, tourism and infrastructure sectors. The firm assists a diverse portfolio of clients, frequently acting for the Commonwealth and state governments in addition to offshore trusts and investment funds. Its team demonstrates the ability to advise on large urban redevelopment matters. Its notable clients include Crown Resorts, Woolworths and Logos.

Strengths

“The Ashurst real estate team in Australia has deep knowledge and experience across all aspects of real estate transactions, whether they are direct

or indirect real estate transactions or development deals.”

“The firm is excellent, the partners are accessible and the advice is timely.”

Work highlights Ashurst advised Capitaland on the acquisition of 50% of Greenwood Plaza and 101-103 Miller Street in North Sydney.

Notable practitioners

Pauline Tan heads the practice from the firm’s office in Sydney and frequently acts for REITs and property groups in relation to acquisitions and disposals. **Strengths:** “Pauline is one of the most technically excellent lawyers I have had the pleasure of working with.” **Jason Cornwall-Jones** is well respected for his practice acting for developers and property and investment groups on acquisitions, sales and developments. **Strengths:** “Jason goes above and beyond with regard to his service. He has breadth of experience and cuts through in an effective manner.” **Andrew Deane** is a well-regarded practitioner who is noted for his work on acquisitions, divestments and development matters. His clients include property groups and corporate and government bodies. **John Stawyskyj** has a prominent track record assisting clients on joint ventures, property investments, leaseings and developments. **Tim Mathers** assists clients on property acquisitions and disposals as well as development and leasing matters.

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie boasts a talented team noted for its skill in structuring real estate matters for onshore and offshore investors, funds and trusts. It coordinates regional and global real estate advisers for leading Australian corporates. The real estate team is well known for its experience in the hotel and leisure sectors, and for advising luxury and retail brands regarding their real estate networks and facilities. The firm handles structured real estate transactions and possesses a well-regarded residential and mixed-use developments practice. Its notable clients include Fabbrostone, Neoen Australia and TFE Hotels.

Strengths

“The team are always responsive and aim to provide a high-quality and timely service across all teams and legal fields.”

“Baker McKenzie is a highly credentialled and professional organisation. They have the ability to leverage internal specialist partners to handle all real estate issues.”

Work highlights Baker McKenzie acted for the Victorian Government on the establishment of Moderna’s first international mRNA manufacturing and fill/finish facilities at Monash University in Melbourne.

Notable practitioners

Roy Melick is well experienced with regard to capital transactions, acting for clients on property acquisitions and disposals. **Strengths:** “Roy has incredible market knowledge and insights that completely benefit his clients.” **Graeme Dickson** is notable for his focus on acting on matters relating to hotels and resorts, advising on joint ventures, real estate transactions and leasing. **Strengths:** “Graeme always provides sensible legal advice to the client after taking the time to understand their

needs and wants. He can quickly identify risks and propose solutions for the benefit of the client.”

Sebastian Busa is noted for his work acting for clients on property purchases and sales. **Strengths:** “Sebastian possesses a very high level of sophistication and ability in the complex commercial real estate space.” **Dora Stilianos** acts for clients on a variety of real estate matters, including developments, leaseings, hotel management agreements and property acquisitions. **Strengths:** “Dora provides timely legal advice across a range of property matters. Her ability to provide easy-to-understand advice on complex issues and matters is a real strength.” **Caroline Ho** is known for her work on real estate transactions, frequently assisting clients with property acquisitions and disposals, as well as leasing matters. **Strengths:** “Caroline is a strong lawyer who understands the market as well as our specific commercial requirements.”

Band 3

Lander & Rogers

What the team is known for Lander & Rogers has a robust team, recognised for its experience handling acquisitions and disposals, developments and leaseings across Australia from its Melbourne and Sydney offices. Its real estate team acts for a range of high-profile clients, including investors, government entities and developers. It assists major companies with the management of their national tenant portfolios, advising both landlords and tenants in relation to retail leasing matters, with a focus on risk management. The firm also counts a number of food and beverage companies and supermarkets among its clients. Its notable clients include Straits Real Estate, Kmart and Linage Logistics.

Strengths

“Service levels are strong and immediate. This is a point of difference with Lander & Rogers – you can get access to partners across all levels of work.”

Work highlights Lander & Rogers acted for Charter Hall in connection with the acquisition of six childcare centres across Queensland and South Australia.

Notable practitioners

John Wells heads the practice from the firm’s office in Melbourne and is well regarded for his experience acting on a range of property transactions, including acquisitions and disposals. **Strengths:** “John is commercially savvy and does not press legal positions for the sake of it. He is well-liked in our team.” **Lisa Gaddie** acts for clients on property acquisitions and divestments for a range of projects, including commercial and mixed-use developments.

Maddocks

What the team is known for Maddocks offers a comprehensive service to a range of public and private sector clients, including foreign investors and major local developers. The firm is especially well regarded for its experience advising government entities on social housing, infrastructure and urban renewal projects. Its real estate team regularly handles residential, commercial and industrial developments in New South Wales and

Victoria, as well as operating on matters in Canberra and more broadly in Australia. It possesses a strong practice advising Asian investors on Australian property transactions. The firm's notable clients include Stockland, Beulah and WinterbourneWind.

Strengths

"They have listened to everything I have said and put that in place—they have been a great value-add."

Work highlights Maddocks advised Beulah on its 'STH BNK' multi-use development in the Melbourne CBD, which is set to become the tallest tower in Australia.

Notable practitioners

Nick Holuigue is reputed for his experience in handling complex property acquisitions and leaseings in relation to large residential, retail, commercial and mixed-use properties. He also assists clients on development projects. **Strengths:** *"Nick is an excellent lawyer who is very knowledgeable and always helpful."*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright operates across Australia on onshore and offshore real estate investors. The real estate team acts on residential, mixed-use, agricultural and renewable energy sector transactions for international clients based in Asia and North America. The group handles infrastructure and student accommodation-related real estate matters and capital partnering for domestic and foreign investors. The firm draws on its global presence to assist clients on international matters. Its notable clients include AMP, Goodman and Blackstone.

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised the State of Queensland on the redevelopment of Gabba cricket ground in preparation for the 2032 Olympic Games in Brisbane.

Notable practitioners

Michael French heads the practice from the firm's Brisbane office and frequently acts for clients on property acquisitions and developments.

Strengths: *"He understands client needs and provides tailored commercial advice and insights. He is a very experienced negotiator and delivers great outcomes for clients."* **Justin Lucas** is an experienced figure in the market who is able to advise clients on leaseings, acquisitions, disposals and developments. **Michael McKee** frequently assists clients in relation to large development projects and has a notable track record of handling significant real estate transactions.

Band 4

Colin Biggers & Paisley

What the team is known for Colin Biggers & Paisley offers a full range of real estate services, including commercial acquisitions and disposals, strata developments and property advisory. The firm is present in the hotel, tourism and hospitality market, operating on acquisition, management and development matters. The real estate team efficiently handles commercial and retail leasing and high-volume paperless conveyancing. The law firm is adept at handling work for interna-

tional clients such as inbound Chinese investors. Its notable clients include Pellicano Group, Sekisui House and Salta Properties.

Strengths

"The firm is extremely capable of providing balanced advice as well as being cognisant of clients' commercial drivers."

"They work expeditiously to meet tight deadlines and are strong advocates for their clients."

Work highlights Colin Biggers & Paisley advised Sekisui House on its AUD1 billion mixed-use urban renewal project 'West Village' in West End, Brisbane.

Notable practitioners

Rhett Oliver is the head of department and a key contact for clients.

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons maintains a well-regarded team that offers a breadth of expertise to both domestic and overseas clients. Its real estate team handles sales and acquisitions of industrial, commercial and retail properties as well as leasing matters. The team is also active on development and strata renewal mandates. It has leading capability in electronic exchange of contracts and the development of paper-free property transactions for high-volume transactions. The firm's notable clients include Urban Renewal Authority, Elanor Investors and GPT Group.

Work highlights Dentons advised KPMG as the receiver on the sale of a number of grain storage and processing properties across South Australia and Western Australia.

Notable practitioners

Jennifer Andrews frequently acts on developments, acquisitions and disposals of retail and industrial properties, as well as on leasing matters. **Strengths:** *"Jennifer is an excellent lawyer whose wise counsel is often sought out."*

Gadens

What the team is known for Gadens presents a full-service offering, active across the gamut of real estate issues. The firm caters to an expansive list of developers, contractors and investors. Its efficient nationwide leasing practice serves notable governmental and corporate clients, including large-scale leases and high-volume leasing. The real estate team has a strong presence in the retail, commercial and hotel sectors, operating on acquisitions and developments. The team is experienced in managing shopping centre portfolios located across Australia. The firm is able to provide clients with an online leasing platform. Its notable clients include AMP, Cbus Property and Primewest.

Strengths

"Gaden's property team is well resourced with the experience and know-how to service projects."

"The team provide well-thought-through advice that is clear and concise. They understand the commercial strategy and are very responsive."

Work highlights Gadens acted for Marquette Investments Managers on the AUD420 million purchase of two commercial office buildings located at 12 Creek Street, Brisbane from Dexus Funds Management.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Kennedy acts for property groups and funds on acquisitions and disposals in a variety of sectors including residential, retail and health-care. **Lui Scipioni** is noted for his work advising clients on development and leasing matters in the retail and residential spaces. **Strengths:** *"Lui is extremely responsive to our needs."*

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin is noted for its strength in commercial, industrial and retail leasing, acting for both landlords and tenants, including in support of major M&A transactions. The firm is increasingly active on capital transactions, including property acquisitions and sales, and advises investors into Australian agricultural, commercial and industrial property markets with regard to their transactional and portfolio management needs. Its property team demonstrates further ability to assist with the real estate aspects of transportation and energy projects. Its notable clients include Altis Property Partners, GIC and Aware Real Estate.

Strengths

"Their ability to deal with complex statutory, structural and conflict issues has been clearly evident."

"They give generally sophisticated and well-considered advice."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin advised Plenary Group on its successful bid for the UNSW Health Translation Hub, a commercial and medical research building within the Randwick Hospitals Campus.

Notable practitioners

Amanda Hempel heads the practice from the firm's office in Sydney and acts for a variety of clients on the acquisition or disposal of property assets, as well as leasing issues. **Strengths:** *"Amanda is professional, courteous and a great communicator. She is an absolute pleasure to work and partner with on our property matters."* **Elias Stephen** is a partner in the firm's real estate and projects group. He regularly represents real estate clients in property transactions and development agreements.

Jackson McDonald

What the team is known for Jackson McDonald is an acclaimed Perth-based firm serving a substantial list of private and public sector clients. Its real estate team acts on many of Western Australia's most significant property acquisitions and developments. The team covers the full gamut on retirement villages and aged care projects. It assists high net worth individuals with structured property transactions and governmental agencies with large development projects. The property team also practises on anchor tenant retail leasing, acting for and against major retailers. Its notable clients include Stockland, Centuria and the City of Fremantle.

Strengths

"Jackson McDonald is highly regarded in our sector and performs very strongly."

"They are very thorough with their advice and explain all the risks associated with the transactions."

Work highlights Jackson McDonald advised the City of Joondalup, a local authority located 20 km

north of the Perth CBD, on various agreements with DevelopmentWA, including the transfer of land, for the development of a new ocean marina.

Notable practitioners

Simon Moen represents a range of government and private sector clients in relation to developments and urban renewal projects. **Strengths:** *"Utilising Simon for my property legal advice provides me with a competitive advantage in the property sector."*

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for Mills Oakley offers clients expertise across the range of real estate areas, encompassing developments, acquisitions, disposals and joint ventures. It has a strong presence in the residential, retail and commercial sectors, and its clients include real estate developers, asset management companies, property investors and government departments. The team handles large leasing portfolios for commercial, industrial and retail businesses. The firm is able to provide web-based and technological solutions for clients. Its notable clients include LOGOS, ESR and Investa Property.

Strengths

"The team know the market and the commercial impact very well, therefore their advice is very valuable."

"They have the ability to cut to the important matters and provide sound strategies and recommendations to reach an outcome."

Work highlights Mills Oakley acted for the City of Brisbane Investment Corporation on the sale of a A-grade office building at 9 George Street, Parliament.

Notable practitioners

Tim L'Orange heads the firm's practice in Sydney and is known for his experience advising clients on sales, acquisition and leasing matters.

Band 5

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper is frequently engaged on large-scale property acquisitions and disposals, with impressive credentials for advising foreign investors on Australian real estate investments. Its property team has a strong track record handling substantial leasing deals and, with notable expertise in real estate financing, also counts major funds among its clients. It also advises international and domestic developers on residential projects on the east and west coasts of Australia and is experienced advising on the property aspects of energy projects. The firm operates across high-end and mid-market deals for major corporates and real estate investors. Its notable clients include AM Alpha, PAYCE and Polestar.

Strengths

"They're very responsive and provide useful advice, particularly on tenant issues."

"DLA Piper can handle sophisticated anchor tenant matters. The team is very commercial and can always propose good solutions to settle conflicts."

Work highlights DLA Piper acted for QuadReal in a joint venture with Lendlease for a AUD300

million build-to-rent accommodation in Brisbane, Australia.

Notable practitioners

Les Koltai is a key contact for clients.

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox acts for a varied clientele, including REITs, government bodies, investment groups and retailers. The real estate team is noted for its work on leasing transactions and portfolio management, and also assists clients with property and land acquisition. The team is active in the social housing and healthcare arenas. Its notable clients include Greater Geelong City Council, Indigenous Business Australia and Regis Aged Care.

Strengths

"The firm are quick to respond, proactive in their attention to matters when deadlines are approaching, and generous in their support for non-work matters."

"They understand my business and always advise on the best commercial way forward."

Work highlights Hall & Wilcox advised Australian Unity's Healthcare Property Trust on the AUD220 million acquisition of nine residential aged care facilities in a sale-and-leaseback deal with Bolton Clarke.

Notable practitioners

Natalie Bannister (see p.230) often advises property developers and public sector clients on real estate transactions, including compulsory acquisitions, portfolio management and real estate projects. **Strengths:** *"Natalie is a strong operator with a high level of commercial acumen."* **Jennifer Degotardi** (see p.231) operates from the firm's Sydney office and is recognised for her work advising government sector clients, for whom she acts on leasing and portfolio management matters, as well as assisting private sector clients on capital transactions. **Kristy Dorney** (see p.232) is well regarded for her expertise across real estate and advises on leasing deals and property acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Kristy has been incredible to work with and is a trusted adviser."*

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth Lawyers is an established practice, fielding real estate expertise from offices in each of Australia's states and territories. The firm frequently acts on matters in the residential and industrial sectors, as well as on matters relating to commercial properties. Its expertise covers the full range of real estate law, including developments, acquisitions, disposals and leasing issues.

Notable practitioners

A key contact is David Marriott.

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates is a well-reputed global firm capable of handling the full spectrum of real estate matters, with expertise in development, leasing and investment management. Its real estate team advises governmental, construction, property and infrastructure companies on infrastructure and building management agreements, pre-commitment leasing and sale of land for development sites. Its notable

clients include Aesop, Telstra and Brisbane Airport.

Strengths

"All team members were experts in their roles and clearly of different backgrounds, bringing richness to the experience. It made an impression."

"The firm seems well in touch with market movements and always takes a commercial position where appropriate."

Work highlights K&L Gates acted for Lendlease on its AUD93.5 million acquisition of heritage-listed 19 O'Connell Street, a government building constructed in 1924, from the State of New South Wales.

Notable practitioners

Samuel Brown advises in relation to property acquisitions, as well as leasing issues and land-related matters. **Strengths:** *"Samuel is well known, has good knowledge of our requirements and provides a good level of service."* **Randall Gerkens** is noted for his work on developments, capital transactions and leasing matters, counting major property groups among his clients. **Strengths:** *"Randall is exceptional at the detail, but far more important is his steady guiding hand towards a successful outcome."*

Lavan

What the team is known for Lavan maintains a strong reputation in Western Australia, acting on large residential, retail and commercial land development projects for public bodies, investment groups and developers. The team possesses considerable expertise in syndicated acquisitions and disposals, as well as strata title developments, and has practices in the agriculture and hospitality sectors. The property team also provides expertise in leasing matters for a range of commercial clients. Its notable clients include Blackburne Property, Aigle Royal Developments and Greenpool Capital.

Strengths

"They have demonstrated excellent technical legal knowledge and an experienced commercial understanding of contractual issues."

"They have handled complex issues well and have provided sound advice."

Work highlights Lavan acted for Blackburne Property on all the property aspects of its mixed-use apartment development in Western Australia, located on the historic Subiaco Markets site.

Notable practitioners

Peter Beekink acts for a varied clientele, including property and investment groups, on property and land acquisitions, development projects and leasing matters. **Strengths:** *"Peter has an incredibly strong service commitment. He is always on hand to respond and takes time to go a level beyond in understanding both our organisation and the individual personnel within."*

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson serves a range of international and domestic clients such as foreign investors, developers, asset management companies and agribusinesses. Its property team has experience with structuring transactions involving hotels and agribusinesses as well as mixed-use, residential

and industrial projects, and urban and greenfield developments. The team is adept at advising government clients on major development projects. Its notable clients include Central Gold Coast Resort, Cedar Pacific and DP Energy Australia.

Strengths

"The quality of advice has been excellent. They are always responsive and understand the urgency if required."

Work highlights McCullough Robertson advised DP Energy Australia on the development of a suite of leasing and acquisition precedents for Queensland, New South Wales and Victorian wind and solar farms, including options for lease, rent deeds and forms of easements.

Notable practitioners

Ian Hazzard is a key contact for clients.

Kristan Conlon handles a range of real estate issues particularly in relation to projects and corporate matters. She advises across property development, leasing and transactions.

Thomson Geer

What the team is known for Thomson Geer boasts a strong team that regularly advises domestic and international investors, including inbound investors from Asia, with regard to property acquisitions. It is also accomplished at assisting corporate and government clients on developments, purchases and disposals in the residential, energy and agribusiness sectors. The team is also noted for its stream and retail leasing capabilities. Its notable clients include Infrastructure New South Wales, CSR Building Products and ICD Property.

Strengths

"They enjoy the challenge of more complicated issues and provide sound commercial advice and recommendations on how to break these down and simplify so that sensible outcomes can be achieved."

"The team's capability and structure is professional and efficient. There is never a fear of a knowledge gap. Any member of the team can work on our transactions and meet our needs."

Work highlights Thomson Geer advised Telstra on the acquisition of its licensees in around 170 leases.

Notable practitioners

Chris Kelly is a key contact for clients.

Band 6

HopgoodGanim Lawyers

What the team is known for HopgoodGanim Lawyers has a respected practice with experience acting across Australia on commercial leasing matters. The firm further demonstrates the ability to advise clients on property acquisitions, developments and sales. Its team is frequently instructed on matters relating to commercial and retail, residential and mixed-use projects. Its clients include property groups and developers.

Notable practitioners

A key contact for clients is Don Battams.

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery acts for a clientele hailing from a range of sectors including technology and finance. Its real estate team assists clients with substantial real estate transactions, frequently acting on property acquisitions and disposals as well as developments relating to commercial and residential projects. The firm operates from offices in Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Perth. Its notable clients include Microsoft, Peabody Energy and Elanor Investors.

Strengths

"They are fully aware of the commerciality of our business, and their advice is aligned with our strategic priorities."

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery advised Pipeclay on the sale of a portfolio of four industrial properties based in Sydney and Brisbane.

Notable practitioners

Peter Trevaskis co-heads the practice from the firm's office in Sydney and is a well-regarded figure in the market, noted for his experience in property acquisitions, disposals and leasing.

Strengths: *"Peter is very practical, commercial and gets the deal done."*

Moray & Agnew

What the team is known for Moray & Agnew advises clients on property acquisitions, joint ventures and developments. With offices located across Australia, the firm's real estate team serves property developers, financial institutions and governmental departments. Its notable clients include Amplifon Australia, Pelligra and the Doma Group.

Strengths

"In all instances they have provided timely and constructive advice that has led to superior commercial outcomes."

"Moray & Agnew have provided exemplary service in their knowledge of complex situation."

Work highlights Moray & Agnew advised Pelligra on the acquisition of Dandenong Plaza, a 54,000 sq m shopping centre located in the suburb of Dandenong in south east Melbourne.

Notable practitioners

David Gandolfo is a key contact for clients.

Squire Patton Boggs

What the team is known for Squire Patton Boggs maintains a well-regarded national practice group noted particularly for its strength in Western Australia. Its property team frequently acts for clients on property acquisitions and sales as well as leasing matters and hotel management agreements. The team also advises on development and urban renewal projects and is active on matters relating to commercial, retail and residential developments. It assists clients in both the public and private sectors. Its notable clients include Brookfield Property, Alkane Resources and the Far East Consortium.

Strengths

"They were patient, considerate and incredibly helpful in resolving complicated property issues."

"They don't get bogged down in drafting things that have no impact and focus on issues which have commercial ramifications."

Work highlights Squire Patton Boggs advised Roberts Jones on the sale of a 17-hectare development site in Western Sydney to a data centre operator.

Notable practitioners

Dannelle Howley is a distinguished real estate lawyer who advises clients on capital transactions and property acquisitions. **Strengths:** *"Dannelle Howley has a laser focus on identifying what the real risks are and therefore comes up with solutions focused on addressing the true concern."*

Restructuring/Insolvency

Restructuring/Insolvency	Restructuring/Insolvency
Leading Firms	Eminent Practitioners
Band 1	Eminent Practitioners
Ashurst	Atkins Scott Norton Rose Fulbright
King & Wood Mallesons	McClymont Ross Ashurst
Band 2	Leading Individuals
Allens	Star individuals
Arnold Bloch Leibler	Emmett Dominic Gilbert + Tobin
Clayton Utz	Marshall James Ashurst
Gilbert + Tobin	Zwier Leon Arnold Bloch Leibler
Herbert Smith Freehills	Band 1
MinterEllison	Dobson Roger Jones Day
Norton Rose Fulbright	Hughes Michael MinterEllison
Band 3	Kinsey Samantha King & Wood Mallesons
Baker McKenzie	Klineberg Tim King & Wood Mallesons
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	McCoy Orla Clayton Utz
Johnson Winter Slattery	O'Brien Maria Baker McKenzie
Band 4	Palmer Steven Norton Rose Fulbright
Dentons	Sackar Timothy White & Case LLP (ORL) ♦ *
Hamilton Locke	Watkins Brendon MinterEllison
Jones Day	Band 2
K&L Gates	Apáthy Paul Herbert Smith Freehills
Mills Oakley	Ball Jennifer Clayton Utz
Band 5	Belyea Cameron Clayton Utz
Colin Biggers & Paisley	Bowden Peter Gilbert + Tobin
Gadens	Cheetham Cameron Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Maddocks	James Paul Clayton Utz
Thomson Geer	Pappalardo Alf Allens
Band 6	Poole Nick Clayton Utz
Hogan Lovells International LLP	Prestwich Chris Allens
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers	Sexton Genevieve Arnold Bloch Leibler
Lavan	Sloan Michael Ashurst
McCullough Robertson	Smith Peter Johnson Winter Slattery
* Indicates individual with profile.	Smythe Nikki Herbert Smith Freehills
♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Troiani Tony King & Wood Mallesons
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Walter David Allen & Overy LLP (ORL) ♦ *
	Whittle Matthew Allens
	Band 3
	Blaxill Philip Allens
	Cini Tania Allens
	Clifton Mark Herbert Smith Freehills
	Delaney Sam Corrs Chambers Westgarth
	Edwards Zina Hamilton Locke
	Harris Scott Hogan Lovells International LLP
	Hedge Scott Colin Biggers & Paisley
	Lewin Stuart Mills Oakley
	Murray Caitlin MinterEllison
	Opperman Jason K&L Gates
	Pan Philip King & Wood Mallesons
	Poulos Emanuel Ashurst
	Proudman David Johnson Winter Slattery
	Salman Jason Ashurst
	Scarcella Joseph Johnson Winter Slattery
	Stragalinos John Dentons
	Band 4
	Abberton Joe Lavan
	Bates Justin Dentons
	Borland Ariel Mills Oakley
	Chambers Andrew K&L Gates
	Clemente Camilla Ashurst
	Dean Michelle Corrs Chambers Westgarth
	Edwards Nick Hamilton Locke
	Funston Danielle Maddocks
	Goldman David Norton Rose Fulbright
	Higgins Katie Jones Day
	Up-and-coming individuals
	Walrut Bernie Ashurst

Band 1

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst's market-leading national practice is active on many of the country's most high-profile restructurings and turnarounds. The team regularly acts for creditors, debtors and insolvency appointees in major restructurings and also demonstrates substantial experience in insolvency litigation. Additionally, Ashurst offers excellent international expertise and has a strong offering in the acquisition of distressed debt in Australia's secondary debt market. Its key clients include Boart Longyear, KordaMentha and Toll Holdings.

Strengths

"They're highly capable whilst maintaining a personable approach."

"The best in Australia. They have good partners with strong associates. They are always available for urgent issues."

Work highlights Ashurst advised FTI Consulting on the administration of Sun Cable.

Notable practitioners

Ross McClymont is a highly respected, Melbourne-based practitioner who acts for prominent clients in a variety of sectors, including renewables and waste management. His areas of experience range from distressed debt and loan-

to-own strategies to advising on supply chain restructurings. **James Marshall** is a renowned practitioner in the practice area who regularly acts for corporates and other stakeholders in relation to the highest-profile restructurings and distressed acquisitions. **Strengths:** "He's the best in class." "James is a well-known litigation lawyer in the restructuring area and has a very strong practice nationally." **Michael Sloan** is particularly experienced in advising clients active in sectors which include the financial services and infrastructure spaces on significant insolvency matters, ranging from workouts to liquidations. **Strengths:** "A technically very strong and pragmatic insolvency legal adviser." **Emanuel Poulos** maintains a well-regarded practice from the Sydney office and is recognised by market sources for his work on complex insolvency proceedings. He is regularly instructed by insolvency practitioners on formal insolvencies, including liquidations and receiverships. **Jason Salman** is a well-regarded, Perth-based practitioner in the restructuring and insolvency space with notable expertise in advising clients on distressed acquisitions. **Camilla Clemente** is based in Sydney and regularly acts on insolvency-related mandates for insolvency practitioners and distressed companies, offering particular expertise in the handling of contentious proceedings, including litigation

and arbitration. **Bernie Walrut** has a growing reputation in the sector, advising liquidators and administrators. He also assists distressed companies on transactional and restructuring matters. **Strengths:** "The best young lawyer in his field."

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for The King & Wood Mallesons team is in demand for its extensive experience acting for a broad range of clients across the mining and resources, construction, manufacturing and retail sectors. The firm regularly advises on multi-jurisdictional and high-profile restructuring and insolvency mandates, including those involving Chinese aspects. Its clients include major banks, insolvency practitioners in their roles as appointees, and distressed companies. The team works closely with other practice groups in the firm, such as banking and finance, M&A and private equity, to provide a seamless service to clients on distressed investment restructuring, and offers a wealth of experience handling insolvency litigation at all levels of the Australian court system. Its key clients include National Australia Bank, KordaMentha and Multiplex.

Strengths

"They have the capacity for large, complex and national work, which shows why they are a top firm."

"I could not ask for a better-suited team to advise on risks and handle a broad range of issues."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons acted for Deloitte as the administrators and deed administrators of WBHO Australia and its subsidiaries, including Probuild.

Notable practitioners

Samantha Kinsey is based in Melbourne and acts for clients from a variety of sectors, advising corporates, banks and insolvency appointees in domestic and cross-border matters that are often contentious. **Strengths:** *"Samantha is a real star. She's pragmatic with a calm, measured approach to problems and very creative in thinking of ways to solve them."* **Tim Klineberg** is based in Sydney and regularly advises distressed companies, trustees and appointees on a variety of issues, notably including company administration and schemes of arrangement. **Tony Troiani** is a widely acclaimed lawyer with a wealth of experience in the handling of a comprehensive range of restructuring and insolvency mandates, his track record in the contentious sphere being particularly notable. **Strengths:** *"Tony has a great legal mind and is a deep, creative thinker."* **Philip Pan** is based in Brisbane, where he offers substantial experience in the representation of a clientele that includes administrators, liquidators and distressed companies in complex domestic and cross-border mandates. **Strengths:** *"He has an extensive background in complex matters and is able to translate this into the advice he gives."*

Band 2

Allens

What the team is known for Allens houses a complete restructuring and insolvency offering, fielding experts in workouts and debt trading as well as insolvency litigation and securities enforcement actions. The team operates in a number of sectors including mining, infrastructure and financial services. The firm has extensive experience advising clients, including creditors, borrowers and insolvency practitioners, on high-profile and multi-jurisdictional restructurings and insolvencies. Its key clients include PwC, ISPT and Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Strengths

"They add value by being proactive in providing strategic advice for the current legal risks and for commercial observations that help with prevention. They are a business partner, given the amount of commercial advice they give."

"The highest-grade minds with a strong commercial and agile focus."

Work highlights Allens advised PwC as the court appointed receivers and managers of the assets and undertakings of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

Notable practitioners

Alf Pappalardo is a well-regarded Brisbane-based practitioner who is frequently instructed by both creditors and debtors on restructuring proposals and has substantial experience assisting clients on formal insolvencies. **Strengths:** *"He's very astute and applies his extensive practical and commercial experience. His collaborative and flex-*

ible approach with his clients is incredibly valued and appreciated." **Chris Prestwich** is based in Sydney and acts for clients who include lenders, insolvency practitioners and corporates from an impressively varied range of industries, focusing closely, though by no means exclusively, on contentious matters. **Strengths:** *"He is very strategic and able to manage high levels of complexity and detail."* **Matthew Whittle** is a busy and popular Melbourne-based lawyer who is regularly instructed on significant receiverships, liquidations and restructurings, bringing to the table extensive experience in litigated matters and the handling of those involving SMEs. **Strengths:** *"He is thorough, diligent and across all the details. Equally, he is adept at providing a commercial and practical lens to complex issues that help us come to practical solutions."* **Philip Blaxill** is a Perth-based lawyer who advises clients on restructuring and insolvency matters in a number of sectors, including mining and aged care. He is particularly active on litigated matters and on those involving distressed borrowers. **Strengths:** *"Philip has a great reputation in Perth for insolvency litigation."*

Tania Cini is an experienced, Melbourne-based practitioner who regularly advises creditors and insolvency practitioners in relation to financial distress issues arising from a variety of industries and business sectors, including manufacturing, property, resources and transport. Interviewees are quick to identify her capabilities as a litigator. **Strengths:** *"Tania promptly and calmly provides effective and commercial legal advice when it is most needed."*

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler maintains strong relationships with insolvency practitioners, who value its approach to contentious and sensitive matters. The team handles significant work in distressed scenarios and counts a range of stakeholders, including creditors, appointees and distressed companies, among its clientele. Arnold Bloch Leibler focuses closely on complex, high-profile insolvencies and restructurings, including those involving appearances before the federal and state Supreme Courts. The firm is active in a range of sectors, notably including natural resources and retail. Its key clients include Honda Australia and Arrium.

Strengths

"They provide clear, concise unequivocal advice."

"They are innovative and creative in coming up with legal structures and solutions."

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler advised Pure Asset Management as a creditor on the voluntary administration of Ellume.

Notable practitioners

Leon Zwier is widely acknowledged as a market leader in the restructuring and insolvency space and regularly acts on high-profile and complex mandates. **Strengths:** *"He's a first-rate lawyer in this specialised area."* **Genevieve Sexton** is based in Melbourne and is well known in the market for her deft handling of restructurings and regular representation of distressed companies, buyers of insolvent businesses and appointees, including receivers and administrators. **Strengths:** *"A quality operator,*

who is very astute and quick to pick up the issue."

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz's comprehensive national offering maintains its long-standing strength in contentious insolvency. The law firm also handles restructuring and workouts and acts for both lenders and corporate borrowers with regard to financial restructurings and distressed financing. The team advises banks, insolvency firms, investment funds, corporate clients and government clients on high-profile litigation and restructures. Clayton Utz has a broad range of industry expertise, with a particular focus on the construction and property development, retail, energy and natural resources, and financial services sectors. Its key clients include WBHO Construction Proprietary, Deloitte and FTI Consulting.

Strengths

"They think ahead with the strategy and consider the possible solutions. They're very strong and have shown that they can handle complex matters."

"The Clayton Utz team are clearly experts in this area, and we have great trust in the legal advice given."

Work highlights Clayton Utz acted for FTI Consulting partners on the administration and sale process of Collection House.

Notable practitioners

Orla McCoy is based in Sydney and regularly advises on high-profile insolvency matters, acting for administrators and receivers as well as government bodies. **Strengths:** *"Orla is one of the best in her field. She's a great lawyer, a safe pair of hands you want on a case."* **Jennifer Ball** maintains a broad and highly regarded practice in the restructuring and insolvency space. She acts for clients in sectors ranging from mining and industrial manufacture to construction on a variety of significant matters, including distressed financing and shareholder litigation. **Cameron Belyea** is based in Perth and is particularly active in the energy and natural resources sector, regularly advising administrators and corporate boards on restructurings, including deeds of company arrangement and safe harbour planning. **Strengths:** *"He has a very strong command of restructuring and receivership under Australian law. He's very organised and a clear communicator."* **Paul James** is a well-regarded practitioner who regularly acts across a wide range of insolvency matters, such as voluntary administrations and liquidations, for a variety of clients, including banks and insolvency firms. **Strengths:** *"He is very succinct and gives straight-forward advice that can cut through confusion."* **Nick Poole** is recognised for his experience operating on non-contentious restructuring matters. He is regularly instructed by insolvency appointees such as liquidators and voluntary administrators as well as corporate borrowers on substantial restructurings in various sectors, including retail, construction and energy. **Strengths:** *"He's a very strong and respected practitioner."*

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin assists banks, borrowers, investors and directors as well as major insolvency practitioners in all aspects of high-profile insolvency administra-

tions and liquidations as well as workouts and restructurings. The firm has notable expertise in representing investment funds and bondholders in various distressed situations. The team also advises on distressed debt investing, corporate distress, and related disputes and applications. Gilbert + Tobin is active across a variety of sectors including retail, manufacturing, and energy and resources. Its key clients include Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) and KPMG.

Strengths

"My experience with Gilbert + Tobin is that they are very good at coming up with novel solutions and not regurgitating the same old stuff."

"They pride themselves on getting to the bottom of issues, providing great commercial advice and implementing that advice."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin represented APA Group on the restructuring of its AUD773 million acquisition of Basslink, including Basslink's approximately AUD526 million secured bank debt.

Notable practitioners

Dominic Emmett is based in Sydney and is generally considered to be positioned at the forefront of the restructuring and insolvency market, being regularly instructed on high-profile mandates by appointees, creditors and corporate borrowers. **Strengths:** *"One of the best restructuring lawyers in all of Australia."* *"Dom has consistently operated at the forefront of the restructuring industry in Australia for many years. His depth of experience and approachable manner result in a willingness to repeatedly choose Dom and the G+T team for sophisticated restructuring and insolvency matters."* **Peter Bowden** is a highly regarded practitioner who acts for creditors as well as administrators, liquidators and receivers on complex restructurings. **Strengths:** *"Peter is a tremendous lawyer."* *"Peter's technical skills are only bettered by his commercial acumen."*

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills stands out for its global reach and expertise in corporate restructures and turnarounds. The team has extensive experience across a range of industries including real estate, retail, manufacturing, resources, financial services and tourism, and has a strong secured lender practice, acting for banks and corporate investors. The firm possesses noteworthy expertise in turnarounds and complex workout mandates and is also able to assist appointees with regard to formal insolvency proceedings. Its key clients include Allegro Funds Management, Deloitte and NAB.

Strengths

"Most impressive is their breadth of capability and ability to proactively identify and address issues that can often be outside their narrowly defined work."

"They have a strong presence on multiple deals, so they know the market in-depth and the standard accepted by most participants."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills acted for SRG Global on its acquisition of WBHO Infrastructure out of voluntary administration.

Notable practitioners

Paul Apáthy enjoys a strong reputation in the

market for his expertise in the special situations investment space and representation of a clientele that includes investment funds and distressed corporates on turnarounds, restructurings and the sale of distressed debt, and secured lenders on both informal and formal insolvency mandates. **Strengths:** *"He's a good operator – he loves the law and the commercial cut and thrust."*

Nikki Smythe is a Sydney-based specialist in the handling of distressed debt, special situations lending and structured finance issues and acts for a variety of funds, banks and other investors on matters in both Australia and the broader Asia-Pacific region. **Strengths:** *"Nikki is pragmatic but very direct and has a very clear ability to identify issues and provide solutions."* **Mark Clifton** is based in Sydney and is particularly noted for his expertise in formal insolvencies, regularly acting for banks, companies and appointees on administrations, liquidations and contentious insolvency matters. **Strengths:** *"He manages to cut through to the answer or advice directly, accelerating the process effectively."*

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison offers specialist expertise in the handling of complex insolvency matters, including liquidations, administrations and debt restructurings. The firm acts for a plethora of public bodies and insolvency practitioners on a diverse range of insolvency-related mandates and also has extensive experience in unwinding managed investment schemes. Additionally, MinterEllison assists corporates in financial distress. Its key clients include Ernst & Young, Rio Tinto and NAB.

Strengths

"They are very responsive, extremely investigative and have great attention to detail – they are fantastic technical lawyers."

"Minter Ellison has an enormous depth of knowledge and commercial experience, which means we not only receive accurate advice but also a good understanding of market practices and trends."

Work highlights MinterEllison advised KPMG as liquidators of appointed to Australian Institute of Professional Education.

Notable practitioners

Michael Hughes is based in Sydney and enjoys a noteworthy reputation for his work on complex restructurings and insolvency matters, and regularly acts for appointees on various significant mandates, including deeds of company arrangement and liquidations. **Strengths:** *"Michael brings an impressive balance of pragmatic technical capability and experience."* *"He is well regarded and respected by the insolvency practitioners and the banks. He is one of the best lawyers in Sydney in this area."* **Brendon Watkins** maintains an acknowledged position as a leading restructuring and insolvency lawyer who acts for appointees and distressed companies on a diverse range of mandates such sectors as education, property development and retail. **Strengths:** *"He is an unbelievably loyal advocate for getting an outcome for you. His enthusiasm to deliver for his client is second to none."* *"Because of his experience, we know we will be safe with him. He has seen it and done it all before. It feels like he can handle any-*

thing." **Caitlin Murray** is based in Sydney and acts extensively for insolvency practitioners, financial services providers and creditors across a wide range of insolvency-related mandates, including liquidations in various sectors and disputes. **Strengths:** *"Caitlin has deep experience in insolvency and commercial litigation, which she utilises across multiple sectors, whether acting for liquidators, creditors, banks or regulators. She is skilled at both being across the details and managing a team."*

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright offers a great depth of expertise in corporate restructures, turnarounds and insolvencies, and strong cross-border capabilities. The firm is also noted for its ability to assist on contentious insolvency matters. The team acts on high-profile corporate collapses and restructurings for global corporations, supported by expertise in distressed debt sales and refinancing. Norton Rose is regularly instructed by banks, non-bank lenders and insolvency practitioners, and frequently acts for clients in the mining, retail and financial services sectors. Its key clients include Asian Development Bank, General Motors and KordaMentha.

Strengths

"They are highly pragmatic, highly commercial and always on time, and give top-tier advice."

"They're super responsive, helpful and empathetic when matters are complex."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright were appointed by the Asian Development Bank to advise the Government of Bhutan on its insolvency reform.

Notable practitioners

Scott Atkins is a distinguished lawyer in the restructuring and insolvency space with extensive experience advising creditors and corporates in relation to distressed scenarios. **Strengths:** *"He is very helpful, responsive and knowledgeable."*

Steven Palmer maintains a highly esteemed, Melbourne-based practice advising creditors, borrowers and appointees on distressed situation, restructuring and formal insolvency-related mandates and winning particular praise for his pragmatism and strategic analysis. **Strengths:** *"Steve Palmer is most impressive – a great leader, business partner and adviser."* **David Goldman** maintains a well-regarded, Sydney-based practice which combines notable expertise regarding contentious insolvency matters with extensive experience acting for clients on both formal and informal restructurings.

Band 3

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for The Baker McKenzie team stands out for its ability to bring regional and global resources to bear on complex cross-border corporate insolvencies and restructurings. The firm also maintains an established domestic practice, acting on large liquidations and receiverships. Baker McKenzie's litigation expertise ensures consistent strength in contentious insolvency matters for a client list that includes credi-

tors, debtors and insolvency practitioners. Its key clients include Commerzbank, Garuda Indonesia and Sevens Global Investments.

Strengths

"The team is highly experienced and brings the right sector expertise to the transactions."

"They are commercially aware, and therefore, they've been proactive in going beyond pure insolvency advice to deal with the specific problem."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie defended the former directors of Virgin Australia in a class action brought by the purchasers of unsecured notes issued by Virgin Australia.

Notable practitioners

Maria O'Brien is renowned for her expertise in relation to substantial insolvency litigation proceedings and regularly acts for administrators and liquidators.

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for The Corrs Chambers Westgarth practice is especially noted for effective handling of securities enforcement litigation and distressed debt refinancings. The team deploys industry-specific knowledge on restructurings, insolvencies and workouts in the mining, real estate, logistics and financial services sectors. Its clients include overseas hedge funds and private equity houses, as well as companies in distress and leading insolvency advisers and banks. Its key clients include Infrastructure NSW, McGrathNicol and Laing O'Rourke.

Strengths

"They're very good – very commercial, very driven and very attentive to client needs."

"Their expertise, ability to articulate complex situations and timely advice have been key in extracting favourable outcomes."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised the Commonwealth Bank of Australia on its secured financial exposure to the 'Kids Club' group of companies.

Notable practitioners

Cameron Cheetham represents distressed corporates, appointees and investors in distressed investments and restructurings, offering notable experience in the handling of cross-border mandates for investment funds. **Strengths:** *"Cameron is very well regarded, highly competent and enjoyable to work with."* **Sam Delaney** is based in Sydney and is regularly instructed by companies and banks on risk advisory and restructuring mandates. He is recognised for his strong litigation skills. **Michelle Dean** advises on disputes involving voluntary administrations, debt recoveries, restructures and distressed investments. **Strengths:** *"Her approach is responsive, helpful, thorough, and sensitive to reputational elements. I highly recommend Michelle for her wise and experienced legal counsel."*

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery's skilled practitioners handle all aspects of restructurings, workouts and insolvency matters, frequently acting for appointed liquidators and administrators as well as lenders and investors with regard to distressed situations. The team possesses further experience advising distressed

debtors and appointees with regard to restructurings and insolvency litigation, including asset recovery, removal applications and tax-related proceedings. Its key clients include New Hope Corporation, Grocon Group and PwC.

Strengths

"They have an experienced team that listens and cares about their clients. They are always very attentive, and I always feel client satisfaction is of paramount importance to JWS."

"They think about the different opportunities, problems and nuisances and whether it's commercial to pursue or not."

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery represented PwC as liquidators of the Gunns Group in a dispute concerning 73 unfair preference claims against numerous creditors. In its decision, the High Court confirmed the abolition of the peak indebtedness rule.

Notable practitioners

Peter Smith offers nearly 30 years' experience in the insolvency space and is particularly well known for his handling of litigation arising out of receiverships and liquidations, including the prosecution or defence of negligence actions against individual executives and accountants. **Strengths:** *"His strength is his ability to deal with complex issues."* **David Proudman** is based in Sydney and acts for private equity houses, lenders, corporates and appointees on a range of informal and formal restructurings, regularly receiving especial praise for his expertise in the latter category. **Joseph Scarcella** is based in Sydney and acts on a comprehensive range of insolvency-related mandates, including administrations, enforcements, restructurings and workouts, enjoying a particularly high profile for his work in the contentious sphere. **Strengths:** *"He's able to strategically limit the risk to ourselves. His seniority enables him to get to the core of the issue quickly and strategically come up with a solution."*

Band 4

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons fields respected practitioners offering broad distressed debt, restructuring and insolvency expertise to major banks, insolvency practitioners and trustees. The team handles all stages of financial distress, administrations and liquidations and, thanks to the firm's global network, is well placed to handle multi-jurisdictional bankruptcies. The firm is able to assist clients on litigation as well as non-contentious matters. Its key clients include BNY Mellon, KPMG and PwC.

Strengths

"They're strong at drawing on the expertise and involvement of specialists from across the firm."

"They give good, reliable insolvency advice."

Work highlights Dentons advised McGrathNicol, as receivers managers of Mainland Property, on the realisation of a real estate portfolio comprising 100+ residential and commercial sites located in and around Mission Beach in North Queensland.

Notable practitioners

John Stragalinos is based in Melbourne and offers

considerable experience in the representation of administrators, liquidators, secured lenders and investors in a variety of administrations and restructurings. **Strengths:** *"He's well rounded and experienced across a range of matters and challenges encountered in restructuring and recovery work. His work is well thought out and handled in a professional manner."* **Justin Bates** maintains strong expertise in acting for secured lenders in various distressed scenarios, including administration sales, workouts and distressed debt sales.

Hamilton Locke

What the team is known for Hamilton Locke fields a versatile practice, acting on a broad spectrum of formal and informal restructuring issues. The law firm represents a range of clients including appointees, corporate borrowers and creditors. Its team advises on receiverships, administrations, liquidations and workouts, with noted experience in advising individual directors on liability and contentious issues.

Strengths

"Hamilton Locke has practical experience in complex financings, restructurings and cross-border structures."

"They are extremely bright and entrepreneurial but without the ivory tower."

Work highlights Hamilton Locke advised QIAGEN on debts owned pursuant to convertible notes and a licence and commercialisation agreement with Ellume.

Notable practitioners

Zina Edwards is based in Sydney and brings to her principally restructuring-focused practice extensive international experience in advising an impressive variety of financial services providers and non-bank lenders on restructurings, turnarounds and portfolio sales. **Strengths:** *"She leads her team from the front, resulting in accurate drafting and structuring first time and on time. Zina isn't afraid to take the time to pick up the phone to understand client problems and pioneer tailored solutions to these problems."* **Nick Edwards** maintains a broad restructuring and insolvency practice from the Sydney office, tackling both contentious and non-contentious mandates for creditors, debtors, insolvency practitioners and individual executives and handling issues arising from sectors as diverse as those of fashion, resources and the media. **Strengths:** *"Nick is a creative thinker and is able to come up with complex solutions cost-effectively."*

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day offers a range of services across the restructuring and insolvency spectrum, both on a consensual basis and through formal insolvency proceedings, including schemes of arrangement, receiverships, liquidations and administrations. The team is particularly focused on cross-border insolvency and restructuring matters, including the use of the US Bankruptcy Code to gain relief in Australian insolvencies. Its clients include creditors and appointees, and the firm advises on debt restructuring as well as insolvency litigation. Key clients include KordaMentha, Wexted Advisors and McGrathNicol.

Strengths

"They are a well-connected team with international expertise and very collaborative. A great experience."

"They're pragmatic and strong commercially and technically."

Work highlights Jones Day represented Korda-Mentha, as the former scheme administrator of Tiger Resources, in proceedings before the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Western Australia concerning the validity of its 444GA order.

Notable practitioners

Roger Dobson commands respect for his extensive experience in insolvency matters and maintains a market-leading restructuring and insolvency litigation practice, advising a clientele that includes receivers, investors and public bodies. **Strengths:** *"Roger is one of the most experienced and capable restructuring advisers in Australia."* **Katie Higgins** is based in Sydney and represents funds and other creditors as well as corporates in a variety of mandates involving workouts and sales of distressed businesses, attracting particular recognition for her debt restructuring work.

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates's broad practice advises on corporate collapses and workouts, creditor restructures, administrations and liquidations, as well as debt recovery, including securities enforcement. The team is able to draw upon wider expertise from the firm's global presence and to scale up its offering to service multi-jurisdictional mandates. The firm acts for a broad clientele, including major domestic and international banks, trustees and asset purchasers as well as appointees. K&L Gates is active in a range of sectors including financial services, wealth management and construction. Its key clients include American Express, Westpac and KPMG.

Strengths

"The team has the capacity to adapt and act quickly, which is pivotal for insolvency-based situations."

"I have always found them to be very responsive and good at adhering to time frames and expectations."

Work highlights K&L Gates acted for dVT Group as liquidators of Luxtown, including recovery litigation.

Notable practitioners

Jason Opperman is based in Sydney and is respected in the market for his long experience and dependability. He acts for banks, appointees and companies across a range of distressed situations, including informal and formal restructurings and liquidations. **Andrew Chambers** acts for a variety of clients, including appointees, on a range of contentious insolvency issues, and offers particularly notable experience where tax-related insolvency matters are concerned. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is an experienced litigation lawyer with a commercial approach."*

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for Mills Oakley covers a wide range of restructuring and insolvency-related issues, including priority and perfection disputes, employee entitlement arrangements, debt

and equity restructures and the administration of managed investment scheme interest. The firm is active in a range of sectors including finance, construction and manufacturing. The team is further noted for proficiency in debt recovery and security enforcement litigation. Its key clients include Grant Thornton, KPMG and FTI Consulting.

Strengths

"Their strategy is very pointed to a commercial solution instead of a strictly legal one. What really impressed me was their determination to push for a result and knowing what approaches to take."

"They are very good at multiple types of restructuring, insolvency and commercial advisory matters."

Work highlights Mills Oakley advised FTI Consulting on the liquidation of numerous labour-hire companies known colloquially as the Shi Group after the ATO discovered significant tax evasion.

Notable practitioners

Stuart Lewin is based in Melbourne and acts for leading insolvency practitioners, financial services providers, insurers and companies across a broad range of predominantly contentious issues. **Strengths:** *"He works like a graduate – he is as hungry as the day he started. He is a fighter and a sophisticated one at that."* **Ariel Borland** acts for a range of clients, including appointees, creditors and other stakeholders, on a variety of both contentious and non-contentious insolvency mandates. **Strengths:** *"Ariel is excellent – very intellectual."*

Band 5**Colin Biggers & Paisley**

What the team is known for Colin Biggers & Paisley advises a varied clientele comprising directors, corporations, investors and restructuring professionals. The team handles a broad range of insolvency issues, including administrations, liquidations and complex litigation in the property, construction and investment management sectors. The team is frequently instructed by appointees with regard to formal insolvency proceedings. McGrathNicol, Scentre Group and Hayes Advisory are among the firm's key clients.

Strengths

"They are impressive and have good capacity."

Work highlights Colin Biggers & Paisley acted for Scentre Design & Construction in proceedings brought by the liquidators of the Hastie Group over liabilities.

Notable practitioners

Scott Hedge is a respected Sydney-based practitioner who regularly represents administrators, liquidators, receivers and distressed companies in a comprehensive range of restructuring and insolvency issues, notably including contentious mandates. **Strengths:** *"He's fantastic in a crisis. He is very good at protecting our interests from risk and litigation."*

Gadens

What the team is known for Gadens offers a broad range of experience catering predominantly to the SME market. The firm provides insolvency advice to banks, corporates, administrators and

liquidators and handles related litigation. Gadens handles mandates in a diverse range of industries, including retail, property, and food and beverages. The team often acts on the insolvencies of investment funds and distressed companies and also assists banks with recovery actions. Its key clients include Dye & Co, ANZ and FTI Consulting.

Strengths

"They are very attentive, and any concerns we have are covered thoroughly. They also bring to attention any consideration of risks."

"They have a strong foundation in insolvency advice and litigation."

Work highlights Gadens advised Cor Cordis as the liquidators for Sargent Security, including bringing proceedings against the company's former invoice financier, Bibby.

Notable practitioners

A key contact is James Roland.

Maddocks

What the team is known for Maddocks offers deep experience across liquidations, workouts and related disputes. The firm's expertise covers a range of industries, including the real estate, construction and finance sectors. The legal team is able to assist on financial restructurings as well as formal insolvencies, acting for major banks, distressed corporates and insolvency practitioners. The firm frequently advises company boards on safe harbour arrangements. Its key clients include Deloitte, Commonwealth Bank of Australia and STA Travel.

Strengths

"The team understands the key issues and suggests options. They are open to thoughts and happy to workshop an approach."

"They are always ready to recommend a commercial solution and assist in avoiding unnecessary litigation."

Work highlights Maddocks advised Deloitte as the former voluntary administrators and liquidators of STA Travel and IEP and as the voluntary administrators and deed administrators of STA Travel Academic.

Notable practitioners

Danielle Funston often acts for administrators and liquidators on debt restructures, deed of company arrangements and distressed transactions. **Strengths:** *"We appreciate how Danielle interfaces with other areas of Maddocks to deliver a holistic solution. She takes a commercial approach and has a great understanding of our needs."*

Thomson Geer

What the team is known for Thomson Geer offers well-established capabilities in restructuring and insolvency matters surrounding secured credit as well as director liability. The team maintains an especially notable track record in the representation of financial services sector clients, and handles all aspects of restructuring and insolvency matters for creditors, shareholders and insolvency practitioners in the SME space, as well as acting on behalf of distressed companies. Its key clients include Evolution Traffic Management and Dye & Co.

Strengths

"They have shown themselves to be more than

capable of addressing difficult issues.”

“They understand our risk appetite and do well to tailor advice to that.”

Work highlights Thomson Geer advised the directors of Salt Lake Potash on a proposed deed of company arrangements and the creation of a creditors trust for the company and its six subsidiaries.

Notable practitioners

Peter Harrison, based in Sydney, is a key contact.

Band 6

Hogan Lovells International LLP

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells’ solid practice advises clients on a wide range of insolvency matters, including voluntary administrations, liquidations, debt restructuring and risk advisory. The firm acts for appointees, distressed companies, funds and other stakeholders. Its team is well placed to assist clients on cross-border mandates. Key clients include BDO Australia, RSM Australia and McGrathNicol.

Work highlights Hogan Lovells advised Kansai Electric Power on its majority ownership stake in the Bluewaters Power Station, including its exposure and restructure of the facilities provided, the coal supply agreements and power purchase agreements.

Notable practitioners

Scott Harris is based in Sydney and acts for appointees, creditors and distressed companies on a range of informal and formal restructuring and insolvency mandates. **Strengths:** “Scott is fantastic under pressure. He’s also great at making big strategic calls and giving very significant legal advice.”

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth Lawyers is regularly instructed by insolvency practitioners with regard to corporate liquidations, receiverships and administrations. The team also

provides advice to creditors of insolvent entities as well as to distressed companies and their directors. The law firm is noted for its geographic reach, fielding expertise from many of the major cities across Australia.

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Kramers heads the practice and is a key contact.

Lavan

What the team is known for Lavan’s experienced team offers expertise in various insolvency-related matters in Western Australia. The firm acts for appointees, company directors, creditors and other market participants on restructurings. Its team is able to assist clients with insolvency disputes as well as non-contentious issues, and particularly experienced in the handling of matters linked to the resources sector. Its key clients include Austroid Corporation, KPMG and Jinji Resources Finance.

Strengths

“The team is sophisticated, experienced, efficient and agile. The firm frequently acts for large international investors as well as local investors, insolvency practitioners and financiers. Turnaround times are uniformly quick, and advice starts with the commercial objective and moves to the legal tools available rather than letting the legal tools dictate the range of available outcomes.”

“They were really good at letting us know the lie of the land in Perth and fantastic at reporting progress. They were extremely pragmatic and commercial.”

Work highlights Lavan acted for Clanay on its acquisition of Waikiki Private Hospital pursuant to the terms of a deed of company arrangement.

Notable practitioners

Joe Abberton is well reputed in the Perth market for a range of restructuring and insolvency work. He advises investors, creditors and insolvency practitioners across transactions, debt restructuring and recovery as well as administrations and liquidations. **Strengths:** “Joe is tenacious and

tactical, with a strong knowledge of insolvency. He is extremely responsive, thinking of the best way to find the best outcome for clients. He never gives up.”

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson maintains a busy practice receiving regular instructions from liquidators, administrators, receivers and distressed companies. Its team acts on a range of matters, including formal insolvency proceedings and voluntary administrations as well as acquisitions of distressed assets and safe-harbour planning. The firm offers particular strength in the agricultural, financial services and resources sectors. Its key clients include McGrathNicol, Elution Metals and PwC.

Work highlights McCullough Robertson advised PwC as the external administrators and liquidators of Royal National Capital Alliance.

Notable practitioners

David O’Farrell is a key contact for clients.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Tim Sackar (see p.235) is a highly regarded, Sydney-based lawyer who is regularly instructed on large and complex insolvencies and restructurings by insolvency practitioners, corporate borrowers and creditors.

Strengths:

“One of the best restructuring lawyers on the Australian market.”

David Walter (see p.236) of Allen & Overy LLP in Sydney regularly advises appointees, creditors and debtors in distressed scenarios and is an experienced handler of both formal insolvency and informal restructuring processes.

Strengths:

“David’s pragmatic and calm approach, responsiveness and commercial insight are invaluable.”

Shipping

Shipping
Leading Firms
Band 1
Clyde & Co
HFW
Band 2
Cocks Macnish
Colin Biggers & Paisley
Holding Redlich
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
Mills Oakley
Thynne + Macartney
Band 3
Hall & Wilcox
Sparke Helmore
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Hetherington Stuart <i>Colin Biggers & Paisley</i>
Springall Robert <i>HFW</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Hunt Frazer <i>Mills Oakley</i>
Hurley Joe <i>HWL Ebsworth Lawyers</i>
Vallely Gavin <i>HFW</i>
van Buuren Ernest <i>Clyde & Co LLP</i>
Band 2
Cocks Timothy <i>Cocks Macnish</i>
Farnsworth Geoff <i>Holding Redlich</i>
Fisher Michael <i>Thynne + Macartney</i>
Lynch Maurice <i>Mills Oakley</i>
Taylor Michelle <i>Sparke Helmore</i>
Thompson Maurice <i>Clyde & Co</i>
Thompson Stephen <i>HFW</i>
Tulloch Andrew <i>Colin Biggers & Paisley</i>
Band 3
Brasington Hazel <i>Ashurst (ORL) ◇</i>
Brewer Hazel <i>Squire Patton Boggs (ORL) ◇</i>
Cecil Nathan <i>Holding Redlich</i>
Hockaday Matthew <i>Thynne + Macartney</i>
Maitland Ian <i>Wallmans Lawyers (ORL) ◇</i>
Martens Jesper <i>HWL Ebsworth Lawyers</i>
Sacré Chris <i>Hall & Wilcox *</i>
Saraceni Pat <i>Clifford Chance (ORL) ◇</i>
Shaddick Simon <i>HFW</i>
Thompson Stephen <i>Colin Biggers & Paisley</i>
van der Reyden Nic <i>Clyde & Co</i>
Wilmshurst Danella <i>Norton White (ORL) ◇</i>
Wyatt Jonathan <i>Kennedys (ORL) ◇</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Craney Peter <i>Kennedys (ORL) ◇</i>
Lamart Naraya <i>Wotton + Kearney (ORL) ◇</i>
Nair Ashwin <i>HFW</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Clyde & Co

What the team is known for Clyde & Co serves a variety of international clients across numerous shipping and related marine sectors in Australia, including the cruise industry, commodities transportation, and offshore oil and gas. The shipping team can boast notable expertise advising on

international sales and ocean carriage of goods contracts, and is also active in the marine insurance space representing a number of P&I clubs and offshore risk insurers. The firm is prominent in the litigation of substantial shipping disputes, including class actions and criminal investigations, partnering where appropriate with litigation funding companies. Its integration with the global Clyde & Co network ensures a seamless service in multi-jurisdictional claims. Hamburg Sud, UD Group and UIL are key clients.

Strengths

“Clyde & Co has excellent technical depth and breadth. It is innovative in bringing the right people to a matter.”

“Clyde & Co is regularly instructed to handle some of the most complex and sensitive disputes.”

Work highlights Clyde & Co acted for Murphy Operator, Tobari and SPW as claimants in a class action against Gladstone Port Corporation for environmental damage arising from vessel dredging in the port of Gladstone.

Notable practitioners

Ernest van Buuren is a qualified master mariner who has long been regarded as one of Australia’s most distinguished shipping lawyers. He is an experienced adviser to clients from across the Asia-Pacific region on the full range of operational, regulatory and contentious shipping issues, including criminal investigations. He is based in Brisbane. **Strengths:** *“Ernest runs a large and complex cross-border practice, but unlike many other partners I have worked with, he is always across the detail of and has in-depth knowledge of his clients’ goals.”* *“Ernie is a deeply thoughtful and trusted adviser. He has exceptional technical skills and is able to bring together large teams to achieve a common goal. He has invested time in understanding our business.”* **Maurice Thompson** is head of practice in Melbourne and brings nearly 30 years’ experience in the shipping space. His practice covers the full spectrum of shipping matters, with particularly notable expertise in advising on high-stakes disputes and the operation of offshore oil and gas facilities. **Strengths:** *“Maurice Thompson is a big name and very well connected in the marine world.”* **Nic van der Reyden** is based in Sydney and focuses principally on contentious matters, acting for ship owners, charterers, logistics companies and insurers across an exhaustive array of both wet and dry issues. Experienced both as a litigator and as an arbitration counsel, he is particularly familiar with issues concerning offshore supply vessels and FPSOs. **Strengths:** *“Nic is very efficient at seeking commercial resolutions.”* *“Nic van der Reyden is an astute lawyer with excellent attention to detail.”*

HFW

What the team is known for HFW’s comprehensive Australia-wide coverage includes transactional and contentious shipping matters for all major sector players, as well as large-scale commodities exporters in the energy and resources and agriculture industries. Its shipping team works with a broad range of clients, including ship

owners, insurers, financial institutions and shipyards, such as Swire Shipping, Journey Beyond and Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, and provides a comprehensive offering in the offshore energy sector. Its clients benefit from the team’s membership of one of the world’s largest international maritime practices.

Strengths

“HFW’s capability to handle complex and sophisticated matters is second-to-none. They are truly a one-stop shop firm, with all the necessary expertise in one firm.”

“HFW’s personnel have a wide range of skills and in-depth knowledge of their subject matter. Service levels are excellent.”

Work highlights HFW acted for The Shipowners’ Mutual Protection and Indemnity Association in a personal injury claim brought by a passenger injured on board a cruise in the Port of Melbourne before the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Notable practitioners

Robert Springall is a consultant in Melbourne and enjoys a strong reputation in the shipping market. He handles a range of contentious shipping issues, including charter party and bill of lading disputes and questions of alleged pollution. He is particularly well known for his handling of hull insurance matters. **Gavin Vallely** in Melbourne heads the practice. His expertise covers the full range of wet and dry litigation as well as non-contentious matters, including cargo disputes and investigations. His practice incorporates particularly extensive experience in the handling of cross-border issues, including arbitration. **Strengths:** *“Gavin Vallely is up there with the best and has always provided top legal advice, while remaining very commercial. He is able to handle the most complex arrest proceedings and litigation.”* *“Gavin is an expert in his field and always great to deal with.”* **Stephen Thompson** in Sydney acts on both commercial and contentious matters, being particularly well known for his handling of commodities-related issues and matters affecting the operators of cruise lines. **Strengths:** *“He’s been doing some really great work on some arrest cases; he’s very good.”* **Simon Shaddick** has an impressive practice which encompasses wide range of shipping and maritime law cases. He is frequently sought to advise insurers, logistics service providers and ship managers, among many others. Shaddick has in-depth experience of offshore issues such as FPSO decommissioning. **Strengths:** *“Simon Shaddick demonstrates a deep perception of the issues.”* *“Simon never fails to provide excellent legal advice and has saved the day on a number of occasions. He is my go-to lawyer for complex and contentious arrests.”* **Ashwin Nair** is based in Perth, where he focuses on marine casualty and risk management, often advising P&I clubs, owners and underwriters on shipping accidents. **Strengths:** *“Ashwin Nair is very knowledgeable and commercial.”*

Band 2

Cocks Macnish

What the team is known for Cocks Macnish is widely commended for its coverage of the West Australian shipping market, including both contentious and transactional matters, and the representation of P&I clubs. The firm offers extensive Federal Court litigation experience and specialised expertise concerning the seaborne carriage of livestock. The team has noteworthy expertise in the issues affecting the establishment and operation of offshore oil and gas fields. Its key clients include P&I clubs, maritime transport companies, ship owners and charterers.

Notable practitioners

Timothy Cocks is a highly experienced shipping practitioner who enjoys a strong reputation in the Western Australian market, particularly for P&I claims. As well as P&I clubs, he is experienced in representing hull underwriters and shipbuilders, advising on both commercial and contentious issues. **Strengths:** *"He's got a high profile in Western Australia."*

Colin Biggers & Paisley

What the team is known for Colin Biggers & Paisley boasts specialist marine insurance law experts in Australia, who act on cargo, hull and liability claims, and in recovery actions against carriers. Its shipping team is also active on port infrastructure matters and on maritime personal injury cases. The team attracts an array of leading domestic and international insurers as well as owners, importers and exporters, such as United Salvage, Engage Marine and Mediterranean Shipping. Colin Biggers & Paisley also acts on transactional matters, including ship sale, purchase, charter and operational contracts. Its practice extends to advising shipping lines on industrial relations and employment arrangements for crew, as well as port asset acquisitions.

Strengths

"Colin Biggers & Paisley provides excellent legal advice, but also understands the commercial considerations at play. They immediately understand the issues."

"CBP is extremely responsive and always creates the perception that we are an important client whose needs are prioritised."

Work highlights Colin Biggers & Paisley acted for Dan in a vessel arrest matter, liaising with the Admiralty Marshal to obtain court orders for vessel movements.

Notable practitioners

Stuart Hetherington in Sydney is highly respected for his impressive track record in the industry. He remains a busy and active contributor to thought leadership in the space. He also continues to contribute insights from his wealth of experience in dry shipping mandates with members of his team. **Strengths:** *"Stuart has an unmatched level of marine and transport legal expertise, and we consistently reply on his excellent advice."* **Stuart is incredibly well respected.** **Andrew Tulloch** is a partner in Melbourne and has a particularly deep knowledge of marine insurance issues, including litigation matters. He also advises on a variety of trade and transport issues. **Strengths:** *"Andrew*

has always been prompt in his advice and always aware of everything marine. He always provides in-depth and extremely helpful advice." **Stephen Thompson** is based in Sydney and focuses closely on transactional, regulatory and other issues in the shipping, port and supply chain spheres. He is also noted for his work assisting clients with contentious shipping issues. **Strengths:** *"Stephen is an excellent adviser and invaluable asset for our business. He's always available, responsive and measured about the correct next steps. I always feel he's considerate of our needs."* *"He's an excellent lawyer in all respects."*

Holding Redlich

What the team is known for Holding Redlich provides a full legal service in respect of maritime and transport matters in Australia, with notable expertise in charter party work, ship arrests and commodities issues, as well as the representation of insurers and insureds. The firm advises international shipping companies and port owners and operators on regulatory and transactional matters, including the acquisition of services and expansion of infrastructure. The team is also experienced advising on international maritime arbitration matters.

Notable practitioners

Geoff Farnsworth is based in Sydney and commands a high level of market respect for his shipping sector expertise. He largely focuses upon the resolution of contentious issues, including admiralty and cargo claims and ship arrest cases. He also advises on ship sale and purchase and regulatory mandates. **Strengths:** *"We recognise Geoff as the best in class marine and transport commodities legal service provider."* *"Geoff has some great insights in the area."* **Nathan Cecil** is a partner in Sydney. He advises on commercial, regulatory and contentious issues in the shipping space, acting for a clientele which includes both domestic and foreign ship owners, charterers and P&I clubs. He is particularly well known for his expertise in the field of compliance.

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth has a long-established legal practice handling the full range of trade and maritime issues. The firm is recognised for its reputation in the NSW marine insurance market. Its shipping team is capable of working on all wet and dry issues and backed by the resources of a national full-service firm. The team is also noted for the representation of P&I clubs and its expertise in cargo claims and maritime pollution matters. HWL Ebsworth draws on a team of internationally experienced experts in shipping law. Key clients include Tasmanian Ports, Maersk and SubCom.

Strengths

"HWL Ebsworth provide absolutely brilliant client service. They are always available and are very dedicated."

"They are heavy hitters; I would class them as a Rolls-Royce firm."

Work highlights HWL Ebsworth acted for the Admiralty Marshal of the Federal Court of Australia in relation to two judicial sales, those of the

'Island Escape' and 'Yangtze Fortune'.

Notable practitioners

Joe Hurley is practice head and a leading maritime lawyer in Sydney. He acts across the full range of issues in the practice area, including both wet and dry matters as well as both contentious and non-contentious mandates. **Strengths:** *"Joe Hurley is a very wise and highly effective advisor who is very strategic in responding to issues."* *"Joe Hurley has a lot of understanding of shipping lines and can offer targeted advice; he brings a high level of understanding, focused resources and a sense of continuity."* **Jesper Martens** is a special counsel in Sydney. He acts for leading industry players on a wide range of shipping matters, notably including charter party, bill of lading and ship arrest-related disputes. **Strengths:** *"Jesper is very adept at resolving even the most complex of cases."* *"Jesper has high-level technical know-how and is a highly effective operator. He's always responsive to our immediate needs."*

Mills Oakley

What the team is known for Mills Oakley represents leading players in the marine and general insurance spheres in the Australian market, including international insurers and claims agencies, such as AIG Insurance, AXA XL and Zurich Australia, as well as freight forwarders and logistics service providers. The firm has further capabilities in acting on investigations and class actions. The team is also noted for assisting with maritime disputes, including vessel ownership and construction issues.

Strengths

"They are highly engaged and responsive. One of the major reasons we rely on them extensively is their commercial awareness."

"We value Mills Oakley as best-in-field marine insurance lawyers, with strong practical, legal and commercial experience across the range of marine cargo, hull and machinery and marine liability matters."

Work highlights Mills Oakley acted for the Port Authority of New South Wales in a matter involving three abandoned vessels in the Port of Yamba, advising on a strategy for vessel removal.

Notable practitioners

Frazer Hunt is a partner in Sydney and offers experience in the representation of most Australia-based marine insurers and of many from Europe and the UK. **Strengths:** *"Frazer is one of the best in the marine industry in the APAC region; I'd recommend him highly."* *"Frazer is now at the top of his marine and transport insurance legal game."*

Maurice Lynch is a special counsel in Sydney with expertise in contentious shipping mandates, including cargo claims, vessel arrests and investigations. **Strengths:** *"Maurice is able to provide best-in-class marine and transport legal solutions."* *"We really enjoy working with Maurice. He is prompt and intelligent, and understands the way to get to the best result for his clients."*

Thynne + Macartney

What the team is known for Thynne + Macartney is a greatly respected player for Queensland-centred shipping matters, particularly for P&I-related issues. Its team is highly experienced in casualty

mandates, including associated wreck removal and environmental issues. The firm is also noted for its coverage of cargo damage claims and chartering disputes.

Notable practitioners

Michael Fisher is practice head in Queensland and focuses principally on commercial and contractual issues in the maritime sphere, covering both their contentious and non-contentious aspects and acting prominently for leading ship owners and insurers. He has further experience in oil pollution clean-up and wreck removal. **Matthew Hockaday** is based in Queensland and is an experienced litigator in shipping-related disputes, particularly those concerning marine casualty incidents. He has further capabilities in clean-up and environmental responses as well as compensation claims.

Band 3

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox is a highly respected firm for shipping matters in Australia. The team has an extensive knowledge of marine insurance in relation to a wide range of matters such as cargo claims, hull damage and personal injury, among many others. It is also well versed in carriage of goods, ship arrest and salvage matters. Members of the team have experience acting in litigation and arbitration.

Strengths

"They have a strong shipping team who are easy to work with, professional and accessible."

"They offer very good delivery to budget and pay close attention to it."

Notable practitioners

Chris Sacré (see p.235) in Sydney has extensive experience in marine insurance mandates and focuses much of his practice on matters concerning the carriage of goods and cargo claims. He regularly assists clients in the energy and natural resources industries. He also represents marine insurers, ship owners, charterers and cargo owners in disputes. **Strengths:** *"I find his style, commerciality and legal knowledge to be top class. I noted that he was very legally sharp and astute." "Chris is really great: he's flexible, responsive and gives really succinct advice. He feels dependable."*

Sparke Helmore

What the team is known for Sparke Helmore has a solid maritime and transport practice which is highly sought after by clients including ship owners, charterers, importers and exporters and logistics companies. The team offers expertise in a wide variety of matters such as shipping casualties, admiralty litigation, carriage by sea and

marine insurance. The firm also has impressive knowledge of environmental issues. Key clients include the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Liberty Global Insurance and Subsea.

Strengths

"Sparke Helmore has an experienced team and is a go-to for complex matters. They always deliver within agreed time frames."

"They are our preferred choice for complex maritime matters, with prompt and easy-to-understand advice."

Work highlights Sparke Helmore advised the Government of Sri Lanka on wreck removal and environmental damage in relation to the 'X-Press Pearl' disaster, as well as on potential recovery claims.

Notable practitioners

Michelle Taylor is based in Brisbane and focuses primarily on the litigation of shipping-related disputes, being particularly well known for her experience in the maritime casualty sphere.

Strengths: *"Michelle Taylor is knowledgeable and professional." "Michelle is extremely thorough, knowledgeable and helpful. She also has really detailed knowledge of appropriate experts to make sure we are delving into the right areas and questions."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Hazel Brasington of Ashurst is based in Melbourne and is well versed in the full range of shipping mandates, from transactions to casualty incidents. She is particularly active in the area where shipping and international trade issues intersect, offering noted experience in the handling of cross-jurisdictional disputes, including those submitted to arbitration.

Hazel Brewer of Squire Patton Boggs focuses primarily on the litigation of shipping-related disputes, being particularly well known for her expertise in dry disputes, including charter and insurance mandates, as well as freight and logistics-related transactions.

Strengths:

"Hazel is vastly experienced in her field and is always ready and willing to provide advice and guidance. She is held in high regard in the shipping industry."

"Hazel has always responded promptly, understands the commercial implications and can ensure the legal advice makes sense, delivering outcomes in a timely manner."

Peter Craney of Kennedys practises all aspects of maritime law from both Sydney and Melbourne. He has a significant amount of experience in marine insurance matters acting for a wide variety of clients, including insurers, charterers and logistics companies.

Strengths:

"Peter has developed a strong reputation and is positioning himself as one of the leading specialists in his field."

"Peter is very knowledgeable in shipping. I'm very satisfied with the level of knowledge."

Naraya Lamart is a partner at Wotton + Kearney in Brisbane. She is praised by market commentators as an up-and-coming lawyer in the Australian shipping market. She has experience advising seafarers and logistics companies on transactional and regulatory shipping matters.

Strengths:

"She's a very sharp lawyer."

"Naraya is a rising star; she writes succinctly and tailors her advice to me."

Ian Maitland of Wallmans Lawyers is based in Adelaide and has practised in the transport sector generally, and the shipping sphere in particular, for some 20 years, being especially well known for his representation of marine insurance clients.

Pat Saraceni heads the Clifford Chance shipping law team in Perth and focuses her own practice on a comprehensive range of maritime disputes, often cross-border in context and complex in nature. She has notable recent experience in the intersection between maritime and environmental law.

Strengths:

"Pat is tremendously hard-working and an able lawyer specialising in the shipping space. She's a pleasure to work with."

"Pat has strong awareness of the commercial implications of any discussion."

Danella Wilmschurst of Norton White in Sydney is noted in the market for the strength of her cargo claims practice, and she has further experience in bill of lading and charter party disputes. She acts for ship operators and insurers as well as natural energy and cruise industry clients.

Strengths:

"A very experienced lawyer."

"Clients like working with Danella as she is down to earth and practical. She's fantastic and incredibly responsive."

Jonathan Wyatt of Kennedys is based in Perth and has a very well-regarded marine law practice with a particular focus on marine insurance matters. He has wide-ranging knowledge of hull claims, war risk policies and cargo issues, among a vast array of others. Wyatt regularly acts for insurers, vessel owners and P&I clubs.

Strengths:

"Jonathan is particularly astute in providing a high level of customer service and ensures his team also provides the same by ensuring that they are aware of the intricacies of the matter."

"Jonathan is the premier go-to individual in respect of marine insurance matters."

Sports Law

Sports Law
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
Hall & Wilcox
K&L Gates
Band 2
Bird & Bird
Lander & Rogers
MinterEllison
Leading Individuals
Band 1
O'Reilly Tony <i>Kardos Scanlan (ORL) ◇</i>
Ross Martin <i>Hall & Wilcox *</i>
Band 2
Hawkins Richard <i>Bird & Bird</i>
Lynch Amelia <i>Lander & Rogers</i>
Poulton David <i>MinterEllison</i>
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>
<i>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Band 1

Allens

What the team is known for Allens offers a comprehensive, top-flight service to sports organisations and corporate clients. Its leading commercial and IP practice provides licensing, brand protection and ambush marketing advice for clients competing in and hosting major sporting competitions, and the firm offers complementary expertise in broadcasting and media rights. It also advises on anti-doping and other disciplinary issues and has a longstanding involvement with key international and Australian sports bodies, including the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Allens' clients include event and venue owners, marketing agents, promoters and equipment manufacturers as well as teams and personalities, notable names including the Australian Olympic Committee, News Corp and Tennis Australia.

Strengths

"Allens are excellent; they are effectively devoted to providing excellent service. They are very impressive at training young lawyers. I get partner-level access and 24/7 service."

"They listen to what we ask, they know how the sports world works and they know the pressures we are under. They have an understanding of what our stakeholders are going through."

Work highlights Allens advised Foxtel on its broadcasting rights agreement with the AFL for the 2025-2031 seasons.

Notable practitioners

Miriam Stiel and Gavin Smith are key contacts.

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox is much sought after for its expertise advising sports bodies and sponsors on event and venue sponsorship. It has an impressive track record of assisting national sports organisations with governance reforms and IP licensing mandates, and its disputes practice offers specialist exper-

tise in sports-related employment matters. Hall & Wilcox's longevity of involvement in the sports law area ensures an impressive list of clients and in-depth understanding of working with sports organisations, including national leagues and governing bodies, elite events hosts and organisers.

Strengths

"They are outstanding. Most of our work requires a quick turnaround with shifting priorities. I trust the Hall & Wilcox team to work directly with the business to achieve outcomes."

"They are very good to work with and are constantly delivering on the business needs, including at times under tight timelines."

Notable practitioners

Martin Ross (see p.235) heads the practice and is active across the full range of its activities, often assisting clients on issues relating to media rights, sponsorship agreements and regulatory compliance. **Strengths:** *"Martin has a great rapport and demeanour and is very proactive."* *"Martin is always a pleasure to work with. He explains things clearly, often in different ways to get the point across, and is patient and flexible."* *"Martin is a highly valued partner for our business."* *"Martin is an absolute professional with incredible industry and subject matter knowledge. He has made a significant contribution to the ability of our organisation to deliver on its strategy."* *"Aside from being a very nice person, he turns work around for us in an incredibly fast rate. He's a trusted adviser for us, a go-to person for large-scale complicated commercial transactions. We trust him wholly."*

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates fields a well-rounded team, active across a wide range of sporting sectors and offering expertise in matters ranging from advice on constitutional reforms and employment and immigration issues, to appearing for both sporting organisations and players at disciplinary tribunals and appeal boards. The law firm also advises on commercial activities such as the negotiation of franchising deals, and is particularly noted for its adeptness at handling intellectual property and trade mark matters. K&L Gates's clients include numerous national and international sporting organisations, such as the Australian Football League, Cricket Australia and Melbourne Victory Football Club.

Strengths

"K&L Gates are truly trusted advisers who understand our business, our values and our objectives, and provide legal services that closely align with our priorities. I am content that they have the breadth of skills and resource to assist us, whatever the size of the matter."

"The team are fantastic - incredibly responsive, reliable and pragmatic. The advice given is always on point and tailored to our specific needs. They have such a good understanding of our business that they are almost an extension of our in-house legal team. Their ability to quickly get across complex matters and provide sound counsel is always impressive."

Work highlights K&L Gates advised LK Property

Group, owner of the Australian National Basketball League, on new digital assets, non-fungible tokens and the metaverse.

Notable practitioners

Chris Round is a key contact for clients.

Band 2

Bird & Bird

What the team is known for Bird & Bird maintains this Australian arm of its global sports law practice, which is well placed to provide coordinated advice on cross-jurisdictional issues, particularly within the Asia-Pacific region. It acts for global, national and regional sporting governing bodies, and for private sector companies operating within or interacting with the sports sphere across a broad range of issues, including commercial and media rights, betting, sponsorship and regulatory questions. Bird & Bird also advises on the management of individual sporting events and on contentious matters, and it counts among its clients such names as Rugby Australia, Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile and Asian martial arts promoter ONE Championship.

Strengths

"The team have extensive knowledge of the local sport industry and its challenges. They have proven adept at managing a number of complex and sophisticated matters, and the experiences of the Bird & Bird staff are extensive, with a range of complementary skills."

"We very highly rate Bird & Bird's ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters, and have been especially pleased with their ability to do so at short notice and with quick turnaround times."

Work highlights Bird & Bird advised IMG Arena on legal and practical measures in the Australian market to protect the exclusivity of betting rights to matches and other sporting events.

Notable practitioners

Richard Hawkins is an established figure in the sports law scene, frequently acting for sporting organisations across a wide range of sports and being particularly noted for his expertise in rugby and tennis. **Strengths:** *"Rich Hawkins is great with both internal and external clients. He has great knowledge and is commercially focused."* *"Rich Hawkins is an astute commercial lawyer with extensive experience in the Australian sports law market. He always makes himself available to provide practical guidance and advice."* *"He's calm, smart and commercial. Being a former GC has given Rich an insight into what in-house counsel need from private practice firms. His advice is always clear and he works with us to understand what we need."* *"He is a highly experienced and technically adept lawyer with first-class drafting skills. Rich has a calm but confident style which is reassuring for clients. He is the go-to legal adviser in the sports and media spaces for complex and highly important matters that need a trusted and respected adviser."* *"He is a pleasure to work with at all times."*

Lander & Rogers

What the team is known for Lander & Rogers is a popular choice with sports organisations for its breadth of experience on governance and constitution drafting together with policy advice. The law firm handles a range of commercial contract negotiations, including leasing and licensing agreements in respect of sports facilities. It also advises clients on integrity matters, notably in defence of prosecutions brought by racing authorities. Lander & Rogers advises government agencies, national and state sporting organisations and professional sports teams as well as recreation departments and agencies, and event operators.

Notable practitioners

Amelia Lynch advises overarching bodies and individual teams from an impressive variety of disciplines across a wide range of contractual, organisational, regulatory and potentially contentious issues, bringing to her work the benefits of experience acquired through longstanding connections with major Victorian sporting organisations. **Strengths:** "I've been impressed with Amelia Lynch."

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison has a strong reputation for advising on events organisation, stadium agreements and facilities licensing

agreements with multiple sports bodies. It is also equipped to handle sponsorship arrangements, regulatory and compliance matters, IP and broadcasting issues and reputation management, drawing upon the broader resources of the national firm as and when appropriate. The law firm possesses specialist knowledge of the racing and football codes and a premier disciplinary investigations capability. Significant clients include Collingwood Football Club, National Rugby League and the Australian Olympic Committee.

Strengths

"They are able to respond to scenarios in their totality, identifying issues and consequences that can impact different aspects of a client's business, reputation and operations. They offer excellent client service, with effective communication and expectation management."

"They have a great team who are well coordinated, well led and have a deep knowledge of sporting law."

Work highlights MinterEllison advised Development Victoria on the AUD1 billion+ Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games villages and venues.

Notable practitioners

David Poulton advises across a wide range of practice area issues, including questions related to insurance, corporate risk and media-linked disputes. He is particularly well regarded for his

in-depth knowledge of the football and racing spheres. **Strengths:** "David is a market leader in sports law. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of all matters sporting and is a safe guiding hand in all integrity-related matters." "David is a trusted adviser to our business who offers pragmatic solutions to legal issues and brings his vast experience to bear to some niche industries and circumstances often requiring fast but nuanced consideration." "David is pretty clearly the leader in the field for this disciplinary advice work and representation work for the industry."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Tony O'Reilly of Kardos Scanlan commands widespread market respect as one of Australia's most prominent sports lawyers. In addition to advising on a wide range of contentious issues, from disciplinary proceedings through to the litigation or arbitration of major commercial and regulatory disputes, he also offers noted experience in the compilation of governance rules and codes of conduct.

Strengths:

"He's a well-known sports lawyer who has been doing it for a long time. He's a good lawyer with a good reputation."

Tax

Tax
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
Ashurst
King & Wood Mallesons
MinterEllison
Band 2
Arnold Bloch Leibler
Baker McKenzie
Clayton Utz
Johnson Winter Slattery
Band 3
Allen & Overy LLP
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
DLA Piper Australia
Gilbert + Tobin
Hall & Wilcox
Jones Day
K&L Gates
Norton Rose Fulbright
White & Case LLP

Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1**Allens**

What the team is known for Allens advises both domestic businesses and global corporations on a broad range of tax issues. It is home to a number of market-leading practitioners with specialised expertise in the banking, resources and infrastructure sectors. The firm members are recognised as experts on the full range of tax issues, from income tax and GST to inbound and outbound investment and exit tax issues. The firm also possesses a leading tax disputes practice, regularly engaged to advise on audit and litigation matters. It frequently assists clients on tax issues relating to major M&A transactions and restructures. Its key clients include Shell, Rio Tinto and Australian Tower Network.

Strengths

"Allens has demonstrated an acute ability in helping us navigate the complex tax legislation in Australia, including providing sound and practical advice in dealing with tax authorities."

"Allens delivers market-leading expertise and talent. They are able to adapt their team to the circumstances. They always have the right people for the job."

Work highlights Allens advised Sunsuper on the tax aspects of its AUD200 billion merger with QSuper, including seeking stamp duty relief in multiple jurisdictions.

Notable practitioners

Martin Fry is based in Melbourne and offers extensive expertise in tax matters, covering both the tax elements of corporate transactions and a wide range of disputes, including those concerning anti-avoidance in transfer pricing. **Strengths:** "He can think strategically but also has good commercial acumen and strong communication skills, which enables him to provide value-adding, risk-assessed advice and communicate in a way which is easy to understand despite the complexity of the subject matter." **Craig Milner** is a well-established practitioner who offers advice on a range of corporate tax matters, including mergers and acquisitions, funds establishment and funds listing. He is adept at acting for clients on matters relating to both direct and indirect taxation. He is based in Sydney.

Adrian Chek is based in Sydney and advises on a wide range of practice area concerns, including capital gains tax, GST and indirect taxation, but is best known for his specialist stamp duty expertise.

Toby Knight is particularly active in the field of tax controversy and audits, and is regularly instructed

Tax
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Gelski Richard <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>
King Paul <i>MinterEllison</i>
Leibler AC Mark <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>
Eminent Practitioners
Clough Michael <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Perez Michael <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Tadmire Niv <i>Jones Day</i>
Band 2
Fry Martin <i>Allens</i>
Harding Clint <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>
Kellock Ian <i>Ashurst</i>
MacIntyre Amrit <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Phair Barbara <i>Ashurst</i>
Snowden Richard <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Varrasso Adrian <i>MinterEllison</i>
Band 3
Blackwood Cameron <i>PwC Australia (ORL) ◇</i>
Chang Vivian <i>Ashurst</i>
De Zilva Aldrin <i>White & Case LLP*</i>
Deveson Nathan <i>MinterEllison</i>
Feros Peter <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Heezen Scott <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
McClafferty Darren <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Milner Craig <i>Allens</i>
Sherman Tim <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Sokolowski Paul <i>Arnold Bloch Leibler</i>
Sommer Andrew <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Tse Jerome <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Walker John <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Wong Ka Sen <i>Allen & Overy LLP*</i>
Band 4
Chek Adrian <i>Allens</i>
Cridland Matthew <i>K&L Gates</i>
Grieve Stewart <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>
Guild Rhys <i>MinterEllison</i>
Howe Betsy-Ann <i>K&L Gates</i>
Jewell Rhys <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Kainthaje Prashanth <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>
Kanagaratnam Muhunthan <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Kinsella Chris <i>Holding Redlich (ORL) ◇</i>
Knight Toby <i>Allens</i>
McCormack Jock <i>DLA Piper Australia*</i>
McElwain Carmen <i>MinterEllison</i>
Murray Peter <i>Keypoint Law (ORL) ◇</i>
Parkyn Katrina <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Paynter Hugh <i>Herbert Smith Freehills (ORL) ◇</i>
Reinhardt Greg <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Spalding Andrew <i>Mills Oakley (ORL) ◇</i>
Wavde Sanjay <i>Ashurst</i>
Wood David <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Smith Adam <i>DLA Piper Australia*</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

by prominent clients, including multinational businesses and high net worth individuals, on a variety of issues. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** “I find Toby very easy to work with. He has a relaxed approach, which I like, and always highlights areas of concern in a very measured way. He also shares his very vast knowledge.”

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst’s versatile team acts for major banks, global corporations and public bodies across a broad range of tax advisory services. It has a notable track record of advising on the tax structuring of major M&A and financial services transactions as well as cross-border transactions and national infrastructure projects. The firm is also equipped to handle tax litigation matters, representing multinational clients in a variety of tax disputes. Its key clients include Oxford Properties Group, Macquarie and Woolworths Group.

Strengths

“There is a great depth of knowledge within the team. They have a very analytical approach, and advice is well thought out.”

“The team has very strong technical knowledge and the ability to discuss matters in a succinct and easy-to-understand manner.”

Work highlights Ashurst advised ANZ on the tax aspects of its acquisition of Suncorp Bank from Suncrop Group via the acquisition of 100% shares in SBGH.

Notable practitioners

Ian Kellock is a highly respected Melbourne-based practitioner, recognised for his expertise in direct tax and adept at advising clients on international and corporate tax matters, including mergers and acquisitions, investments and share trades. **Barbara Phair** is based in Sydney and advises clients on the tax aspects of various non-contentious matters, including mergers and acquisitions, capital raisings and development projects, particularly in the real estate and infrastructure sectors. She also has extensive experience of advising on stamp duty. **Vivian Chang** regularly advises clients on taxation in transactional matters and ATO audits. She is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** “She has a depth of tax knowledge and widespread experience. She is great at problem-solving and maintains strong client relationships.” **Sanjay Wavde** focuses closely on the taxation implications of M&A and infrastructure transactions, and also advises extensively on funds management and international tax issues.

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons provides a complete commercial tax offering in Australian, Chinese, English, European and Hong Kong law, and a highly experienced tax litigation practice that acts on many of the largest disputes in corporate Australia. The firm fields a market-leading team with a deep bench of tax specialists, and maintains an enviable client list comprising global companies and major domestic businesses in the telecommunications, real estate, infrastructure, resources, health and financial services sectors. It is also active in the sphere of tax policy debate and fully abreast of cutting-edge multinational tax issues. Its key clients include Woodside, Telstra and Glencore.

Strengths

“They are the best tax firm in Australia. KWM fields a full team of specialists who can cover all needs.”

“They are very high quality. All of the partners I’ve dealt with are excellent. They are very commercial and attentive.”

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons acted for Woodside on the tax aspects of its merger with BHP Petroleum, including tax consolidation, regulation and risks.

Notable practitioners

Michael Clough is a market-leading specialist in contentious tax matters, with a range covering issues arising from both the domestic and the international M&A and capital markets spheres and extensive experience at Supreme, Federal and High Court level. He is based in Melbourne.

Strengths: “Michael is excellent at seeing the real issue.” **Michael Perez** is a highly esteemed Melbourne-based practitioner who specialises in substantial tax disputes, regularly acting in both litigation and alternative dispute resolution processes in contention with the ATO. He frequently represents both international businesses and high-profile domestic clients in the energy and resources and banking sectors. He also offers strong expertise in GST, income tax and stamp duty. **Richard Snowden** is recognised in the market for his extensive expertise regarding taxation in the financial services industry, counting major Australian banks and government entities among his clients. He is based in Sydney. **Scott Heezen** maintains a respected, Sydney-based practice, focused on taxation in the property and REIT space, with further expertise in the tax structure of corporate acquisitions. **Darren McClafferty** is based in Melbourne and advises clients in the financial services and insurance sectors on a variety of tax-related matters. He has additional expertise in acting for corporate clients on the taxation aspects of mergers and acquisitions. **Tim Sherman** is based in Sydney and advises clients on a range of tax matters in the corporate world, including those related to mergers and acquisitions, capital raisings and restructures. His clientele includes prominent private equity houses and bond issuers. **Strengths:** “He’s got a lovely ability to explain things simply. He’s very personable and cooperates well – he gets the job done.” **Jerome Tse** is a well-respected, Sydney-based practitioner who, in addition to specialising in tax controversies, handles a range of other issues, including transfer pricing and anti-avoidance matters. **Strengths:** “Jerome is a strategic manager of tax controversies with good instincts and impressive industry.” **Katrina Parkyn** maintains an active practice in indirect tax. She advises clients from a variety of sectors, including telecommunications and funds management, on both the income tax and stamp duty elements of significant corporate matters, such as acquisitions and divestments. **David Wood** is based in Melbourne and offers a wealth of experience across a broad range of transactional, advisory and contentious matters. His expertise extends from advising on the tax elements of corporate takeovers to advising taxpayers, such as major infrastructure companies and financial institutions, on disputes with the ATO. **Strengths:** “David is a good operator, a specialist in tax controversy and a pleasure to work with.”

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MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison’s full-service tax offering spans direct, indirect, and

federal and state taxes and operates on behalf of a broad client base, ranging from global corporations to high net worth individuals and public bodies. Its team consists of both tax lawyers and accountants, giving it the capabilities of a multi-disciplinary practice. It has a large tax controversy team with experience acting on significant disputes on behalf of both taxpayers and the ATO. It acts regularly on cross-border tax mandates for international clients, offering focused expertise concerning transfer pricing issues encountered by multinational corporates. The firm's key clients include Mylan Australia, Commissioner of Taxation and Landcom.

Strengths

"They have a strong team that can interpret complex technical tax legislation. The various members of the broader tax team are brought in as required to provide specialist assistance."

"The team is technically very strong across many disciplines and has a wealth of experience to draw from also, which makes them our go-to for complex issues."

Work highlights MinterEllison represented Mylan Australia in a dispute with the ATO regarding the denial of interest deductions for the loans taken out to fund its acquisition of Alphapharm.

Notable practitioners

Paul King is a highly regarded Sydney-based senior figure in the Australian tax law space, with decades of experience advising clients on corporate tax issues, particularly those in the property and finance sectors. **Adrian Varrasso** is based in Melbourne and is widely respected for the substantial expertise he boasts in a variety of tax-related corporate transactional contexts.

Strengths: *"Adrian has strong commercial and technical acumen and is also balanced in his approach to tax risk and very mindful of his client's risk appetite and approach to engagement – he doesn't push in a direction you do not want to go down."* **Nathan Devo** has a well-established practice advising clients on significant transactions. Based in Sydney, he is particularly well regarded for his expertise concerning indirect tax, stamp duty and other state tax issues. **Rhys Guild** maintains an active practice in indirect tax from the Sydney office, offering particular expertise in the GST sphere. He is regularly instructed by clients in a variety of sectors, including resources, property development and social housing. **Carmen McElwain** focuses principally on contentious – or potentially contentious – taxation issues, bringing to her work the valuable advantage of having been regularly instructed by both the ATO and taxpayers on significant disputes, audits and regulatory arrangements. She is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** *"Carmen has a good reputation in the tax dispute area."*

Band 2

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler represents a broad range of corporate and private wealth clients and has a robust team of dedicated tax practitioners who are well versed in both transactional and contentious tax matters. The

firm regularly advises on trusts, deceased estates and the structuring and reorganisation of affairs to ensure they are tax-efficient. It has an expertise in taxation issues for charities and in structural arrangements for philanthropic foundations. The team provides advice on audits and disputes as well as in relation to commercial transactions. It is also equipped to advise on international taxation issues. Its notable clients include Superhero, Netflix and AGL Energy.

Strengths

"The ABL tax team make the complex look simple."

"They provide highly sophisticated advice and have a great understanding of the law and ATO."

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler advised Zip Co on the tax aspects of its agreement to acquire Sezzle.

Notable practitioners

Mark Leibler AC is a highly prominent, deeply respected, veteran tax lawyer with decades of experience in the representation of high-profile businesses and individuals. He is based in Melbourne. **Clint Harding** is based in Sydney and is highly experienced in acting for clients on the taxation elements of a variety of transactional matters. **Strengths:** *"Clint grasps things very quickly and is all over tax issues and doing things in the most tax-effective way."* **Paul Sokolowski** is active

on a variety of tax-related issues, acting for clients ranging from international corporates to high-profile private individuals. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** *"He has outstanding tax knowledge but is also very commercial at the same time."*

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie acts for domestic businesses and global corporations on the tax and duty elements of corporate and financial transactions. The firm also advises on tax strategy and offers impressive global reach for multi-jurisdictional mandates. The technical expertise of the firm spans income tax, stamp duty, land tax, GST and employment-related taxes. The team also possesses expertise in transfer pricing and wealth management. It is well placed to resolve disputes, with extensive experience defending proceedings initiated by the Australian Taxation Office. It is active in advising clients on the tax implications of inbound investments and acquisitions. The team's key clients include Real Asset Management, Origin Energy and DoorDash.

Strengths

"Baker McKenzie did a great job identifying the issues and coming up with workable solutions."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie advised Origin Energy on the various income tax considerations relating to their Australia Pacific Liquefied Natural Gas joint venture with ConocoPhillips and Sinopec.

Notable practitioners

Amrit MacIntyre maintains a noted practice largely focused on transactional indirect tax matters, including the tax elements of IPOs, joint ventures, acquisitions and corporate structuring. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"Amit has a remarkable ability to adapt and is agile in his approach. He's always looking for solutions and great outcomes. He's technically excellent and always accessible."*

John Walker is based in Sydney and acts extensively on the taxation of large-scale transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, takeovers, spin-offs and debt restructures. **Strengths:** *"An excellent lawyer and resource for Australian tax matters."*

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz offers the complete spectrum of tax law advice, with noteworthy expertise in advising on international tax, indirect tax, petroleum tax and disputes. Its client base includes ASX 200 corporations, major industrial organisations, private equity firms, state and Commonwealth governments, and high net worth individuals. It offers considerable expertise in tax issues relating to cross-border transactions. The firm has an equally strong expertise in the tax implications of domestic mergers and acquisitions. Its key clients include Pallion Group, AMP and Blackstone.

Strengths

"They have been very impressive with their responsiveness and the depth of their tax knowledge."

"They are thorough, responsive and adaptive to changing instructions and deal complexity. They try to be the adviser we need, not the adviser they think we need."

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised QIC on the key income tax considerations for the establishment of the Queensland Natural Capital Fund.

Notable practitioners

Peter Feros maintains an active non-contentious tax advice practice from the Sydney office. He frequently advises domestic and international corporates and private equity houses on tax structuring of their transactions, including mergers and acquisitions. **Andrew Sommer** focuses principally on indirect taxation issues and is particularly well known for his in-depth GST-related expertise.

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery provides state, federal and international tax advice to domestic businesses and global corporations, with expertise covering both contentious and non-contentious matters. It is particularly adept in multi-jurisdictional M&A mandates and advising clients across the pharmaceutical, property and fast-moving consumable goods sectors on tax disputes. In addition to advising major multinational corporates, the firm also offers tax assistance to high net worth individuals. It also assists clients in tax due diligence reviews and responding to ATO audits. Its key clients include the GEO Group, Godolphin Australia and MTR Corporation.

Strengths

"I value their commitment to making all clients feel like they are their first priority."

"They have a good understanding of different tax structures and the associated benefits for different stakeholders."

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery represented Godolphin Australia in its dispute with the New South Wales Chief Commissioner of State Revenue in the Court of Appeal.

Notable practitioners

Richard Gelski is a highly regarded practitioner

with a wealth of experience acting for clients on a range of advisory and contentious tax-related matters, including negotiations with the ATO and strategic advice. He offers particularly extensive expertise in the handling of transfer pricing matters. **Stewart Grieve** is based in Melbourne and boasts particular expertise advising clients on tax audits and disputes. **Prashanth Kainthaje's** practice covers a diverse range of tax-related issues, including multi-jurisdictional private equity transactions, tax structuring, capital loss rulings and land tax disputes. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** "We always receive proactive, innovative and commercially aware advice from Prashanth."

Band 3

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy operates a flexible practice, providing access to a global network and noted expertise in matters related to covered bonds. The firm has a deep experience in advising on the tax aspects of M&A, asset and equity transactions, reorganisations and restructurings, capital markets issuances and more. It is also able to handle contentious tax mandates. The team provides further tax advisory assistance to clients by way of its alternative resourcing platform, Peerpoint. Its key clients include Asahi, Animal Logic Entertainment and Optus Singtel.

Strengths

"They continually balance the deep tax technical issues with a commercial and pragmatic view."

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised Maersk on its acquisition of LF Logistics for USD3.6 billion, which attracted tax in a number of Asian jurisdictions.

Notable practitioners

Ka Sen Wong (see p.236) has a well-established practice advising domestic and international clients on a wide range of transactional tax matters. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** "Ka Sen understands and unpacks the deep tax technical issues with a commercial and pragmatic view. He has a high awareness that tax law does not operate in a vacuum. He is consistently responsive and keeps clients updated as to deliverable timelines."

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth offers noteworthy strength in the representation of clients in the energy and natural resources sector and specialist expertise in advising on the taxation aspects of M&A and restructuring transactions, and of real estate and housing development projects. The firm advises government entities and a broad range of private sector clients, including both ASX-listed domestic businesses and global corporations, and has growing presence in contentious matters, with experience acting on a range of tax disputes. Its key clients include Accenture, OMERS and Aurizon.

Strengths

"The team always handle complex matters with poise and balance."

"They are very knowledgeable and seem able to handle any task we give them, even if complex."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised Coles Group on the tax aspects of its sale of Coles Express to Viva Energy, including income tax, GST and stamp duty issues.

Notable practitioners

Rhys Jewell is based in Melbourne and acts for corporate and government clients on a range of transactional and advisory tax matters. **Strengths:** "He has good responsive levels and quality of advice."

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper provides a solid offering in transactional tax law for domestic and multinational companies from a wide range of sectors including financial services, technology, natural resources and private equity. The firm is experienced in acting for clients on such matters as R&D tax incentives and ATO reviews as well as the tax elements of restructures, property acquisitions and divestments, and joint ventures. It offers notable expertise in advising multinational businesses on anti-avoidance legislation and developing its presence in the tax controversy space, acting for taxpayers on disputes with the ATO. Its key clients include Ares Management, Reinventure and Flare HR.

Strengths

"DLA is always very responsive when my tax questions are time-sensitive."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Nearmap on the tax aspects of its AUD1.055 billion scheme of arrangement with Thoma Bravo.

Notable practitioners

Jock McCormack (see p.234) is based in Sydney and advises adeptly across an impressively varied range of taxation issues, including transfer pricing and the taxation of large-scale transactions and projects. He offers particular proficiency in providing multinational corporates with strategic advice in an Australian context. **Adam Smith** (see p.235) has a growing reputation in the sector, advising on the tax aspects of M&A transactions, W&I and underwriting.

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin fields a robust team of practitioners who are well placed to assist clients on a variety of taxation issues. The team frequently acts for clients on the tax aspects of major corporate transactions, complementing the firm's leading M&A and private equity practices. The firm also offers a strong tax controversy practice, being able to assist clients on tax litigation before courts at both the state and federal levels, as well as on audits by the ATO. Notable clients include KKR, Telstra and Vulcan Steel.

Strengths

"The team are experts in the field. They are very practical, pragmatic, and commercially savvy."

"The team had a good understanding of not only the tax and legal implications but how to navigate the ATO."

Work highlights Gilbert + Tobin acted for Telstra on the tax aspects of its acquisition of the Digicel Pacific group, which involved advice on tax issues

in multiple jurisdictions, particularly Papua New Guinea, structuring escrow arrangements to cover historical tax exposures and collapsing tax-sensitive licensing arrangements.

Notable practitioners

Muhunthan Kanagaratnam handles both contentious and non-contentious tax issues. He is particularly noted for his strong track record advising on significant M&A matters. **Strengths:** "Muhunthan is very practical, has a good broad base across income tax and can advise based on his experience across a range of M&A matters."

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox's established mid-market tax practice acts regularly on tax transactional, due diligence and Australian Taxation Office audit mandates. The firm represents both corporate and individual high net worth clients, frequently being engaged by clients from, among others, the financial services, insurance and property sectors, and on the panels of a number of tax authorities at both Commonwealth and state levels. It also fields a robust tax controversy offering, with experience of tax-related litigation before courts and relevant tribunals at all levels up to and including the High Court. Its key clients include Australian Taxation Office and Dandy Premix Concrete.

Strengths

"The team is headed by partners, each of whom is skilful, astute, friendly and professional. The skills of those partners are diverse, such that they can provide a full service to clients, whether from the private or the public sector."

"I'm impressed by the firm's ability to juggle complexities against the commercial aspects. My sense is they can 'read the room' and tailor their deliverables according to the level of risk associated with the problem they are solving."

Work highlights Hall & Wilcox advised Dandy Premix Concrete on the tax considerations of the sale of its business to Maas Group.

Notable practitioners

Frank Hinoporos is a key contact for clients.

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day fields a highly experienced team with an excellent offering in tax controversy. It frequently represents multinational businesses, including high-profile names in the natural resources, energy and infrastructure industries, on a broad spectrum of matters involving the ATO. The firm demonstrates expertise in a wide range of issues, including disputes over such issues as global restructures, deductibility of significant costs, multinational anti-avoidance laws, transfer pricing and the disposal of significant assets.

Strengths

"They are very strong in the areas of controversy and complex transactions."

"The depth and strength of their tax team ensure they deliver quality service and timely advice."

Notable practitioners

Niv Tadmore is a Melbourne-based tax controversy specialist who offers over 20 years' experience in the counselling of clients involved in disputes with the Australian Taxation Office. He

also boasts expertise in international taxation, integrity measures or transfer pricing. **Strengths:** *“Dr Niv Tadmire is an excellent tax lawyer. He is technically very strong and commercially and tactically astute.”*

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates maintains a predominantly transaction-focused tax practice which covers both direct and indirect taxation. The firm acts for a range of clients from investment funds and multinational corporates to high net worth individuals. It offers additional capabilities in handling tax disputes and is valued for its international network and ability to advise on the taxation implications of cross-border transactions. Its key clients include Bridge Housing, Magnis Energy Technologies and Five Elms Capital.

Strengths

“As a legal firm, your ability to deliver to customers is paramount to maintaining your business. K&L Gates came highly recommended and lived up to the recommendation.”

Work highlights K&L Gates advised Caleb & Brown on the Australian corporate tax residency of its Cayman fund under Australian domestic law as well as the Australian and USA tax implications of a unit trust feeder for Australian and USA investors.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Cridland is based in Sydney and is widely acknowledged in the market for his eminence both as a practitioner in, and as a leading commentator on, GST-related matters. He is also regularly instructed on a range of front-end indirect tax issues, as well as audits and disputes.

Betsy-Ann Howe regularly advises clients on the tax elements of such corporate matters as notes issuances, divestments and acquisitions, funds and investments. She is based in Sydney.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for The Norton Rose Fulbright practice offers both direct and indirect tax advice and is particularly active on both domestic and international transactional tax matters and the provision of tax advisory services to charitable and not-for-profit institutions. The team acts for a

range of clients, including energy and insurance sector corporates. It is also active across a broad range of domestic tax advisory issues, including income tax, GST and state taxes. The firm's major clients include the Chappell Foundation, Braemac and NSW Rural Fire Service.

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright acted for the shareholders of Braemac on the tax aspects of the sale of all its shares to Exponential Technology.

Notable practitioners

Greg Reinhardt is based in Sydney and maintains a well-established practice advising clients on a variety of non-contentious tax matters. He is particularly active in the charity and public sectors. **Strengths:** *“We’ve been very impressed by Greg and his knowledge.”*

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case's tax team is well-versed in advising on the tax elements of large M&A, particularly in the energy and infrastructure arenas. The team is capable of drawing on its impressive international network to provide holistic tax advice on cross-border transactions. The firm also handles a range of tax controversy and audit matters. In addition, the tax team assist across regulatory compliance, tax planning and structuring. Key clients of the firm include AusNet Services, Transurban and NorthConnex.

Strengths

“The tax team is very experienced and has the breadth of skills required to handle all types of tax issues. The advice is very practical and commercial.”

“White & Case clearly recruit for attitude, acumen and technical ability. The three together are a winning combination.”

Work highlights White & Case acted as the legal taxation counsel to the Sydney Transport Partners consortium on its acquisition of the remaining 49% equity stake in WestConnex.

Notable practitioners

Aldrin De Zilva (see p.231) of White & Case LLP in Melbourne has practised in the tax space for over 25 years and maintains an impressively broad practice, conducted on behalf of both domestic and international clients and ranging from advice on the taxation aspects of large-scale transac-

tions to representation – conducted up to High Court level – in tax-related litigation. **Strengths:** *“Aldrin is a deeply experienced and capable tax professional. He can provide advice that is not only technical but also considers the broader commercial and practical aspects. He is able to think out of the box and provide solutions that are not immediately apparent.”*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Cameron Blackwood of PwC Australia is a Sydney-based transactional tax specialist with a client list featuring high-profile names in the energy and resources and property sectors. He is notably adept at advising on the taxation aspects of both mergers and acquisitions and asset sales.

Chris Kinsella of Holding Redlich in Sydney is active in the tax litigation space, where he frequently represents the ATO. He also provides advice to taxpayers on tax strategy and audits.

Strengths:

“Chris has a lot of expertise, is effective in breaking down an issue and is timely with advice.”

Peter Murray is based in Keypoint Law's Melbourne office and is regularly instructed by corporates on a variety of issues, including ATO reviews, employment tax, restructures and acquisitions.

Hugh Paynter of Herbert Smith Freehills in Sydney focuses on tax controversy issues, advising clients on a broad range of disputes, including those arising in the areas of payroll tax, GST, tax avoidance, ore royalties and R&D grants.

Strengths:

“Hugh provides strategic thought and direction and thinks about matters holistically.”

Andrew Spalding of Mills Oakley is a tax lawyer based in Melbourne with almost two decades' experience advising clients on the tax implications of major transactions.

Strengths:

“Andrew Spalding is tremendous in relation to state taxes.”

AUSTRALIA: An Introduction to Tmt: Media

Contributed by Thomson Geer

This year has again seen significant activity in the media content space in Australia.

Defamation

2023 witnessed a result in what was the longest and most expensive defamation trial in Australia's history. The Nine Network was successful in defending a defamation claim brought against it by former Australian soldier and Victoria Cross winner, Ben Roberts-Smith, in which the court found Roberts-Smith had committed three murders.

At the time of writing, the decision is subject to an appeal by Roberts-Smith.

The decision was lauded by many journalists as a win for free speech and investigative journalism. But others pointed to the extraordinary cost involved in the case as an example of how the law in Australia is not particularly aligned to free speech.

The serious harm requirement introduced in July 2021 was the focus of the courts of Australia and the jurisprudence on this crucial issue continues to develop. There is a growing trend which assumes that if a publication is made in the mainstream media then it will cause serious harm.

The so-called "stage two" of defamation law reform – focusing mainly on digital intermediaries – moved further forward in 2023. It is proposed these reforms will be passed in each Australian jurisdiction and commence on 1 July 2024. However, the courts of South Australia have already indicated they are going to treat these matters differently, so Australia might end up with even less uniformity.

The provisions that will take effect next year include:

1. An exemption from liability for a digital intermediary in relation to the publication of digital matter using a caching service, conduit service or storage service provided by the intermediary (the "passive intermediary exemption").
2. An exemption from liability for a search engine provider in relation to the publication of digital matter included search results and the publication of digital matter comprised of content from other websites to which the results facilitate access by providing a hyperlink. The exemption will only apply to organic search results, not sponsored search results.
3. A new defence for digital intermediaries whereby:
 - a. the defendant must prove: (i) the defendant was a digital intermediary in relation to the publication of the defamatory digital matter; (ii) the defendant had, at the time of the publication, an accessible complaints mechanism for the plaintiff to use;
 - b. if the plaintiff gave the defendant a written complaint about the publication containing certain basic information (including what the matter is and where it can be located), the defendant must prove that reasonable access prevention steps, if steps were available, were taken by the defendant or another person in relation to the publication before the complaint was given or within seven days after the complaint was given;
 - c. the defence will be available to defendants who moderate content by taking steps to detect or identify, or steps to re-

move, block, disable or otherwise prevent access by persons to content that may be defamatory or breach the terms or conditions of the online service.

The defence seeks to overcome the problems with the defence of innocent dissemination (which will continue to operate as it does currently) in the following ways:

- (a) it expressly applies to digital intermediaries;
- (b) it makes clear a complaint including the basic information that is received by a digital intermediary operates as notice of the defamatory matter;
- (c) it provides a specific timeframe for action to be taken to have the benefit of the defence.

The digital intermediaries covered by the defence would generally be considered publishers at general law, including forum administrators and digital intermediaries providing social media platforms or review websites.

The defence may be defeated only if the plaintiff proves the defendant was motivated by malice in establishing or providing the online service by means of which the matter was published.

4. A provision which allows an offer to make amends to include an offer to take access prevention steps. These steps may involve removing the matter or instead blocking, disabling or otherwise preventing access to the matter. This can be offered instead of, or in addition to, either or both mandatory remedial offers. For example, there may be circumstances in which it would not be possible to publish a correction or clarification without republishing the defamatory matter.

Regulation of Digital Platforms

The eSafety Commissioner has continued to drive regulatory activity in the digital space in 2023 under the Online Safety Act 2021 (Cth) and the related Online Safety (Basic Online Safety Expectations) Determination 2022 (BOSE Determination).

Increasing from 212 notifications in 2022, 601 notifications were made to internet service providers on adult cyber abuse and 77% of that content was removed within 24 hours. A further 534 removal requests were successfully made to remove child cyberbullying content from online service platforms.

The eSafety Commissioner showed a tougher stance in 2023 on enforcing transparency and accountability from online service providers, with 13 separate non-periodic reporting notices issued under the BOSE Determination. Companies including Google, TikTok and X Corp were required to report on measures taken to proactively address child sexual exploitation and abuse, among other harmful material.

Throughout 2023, the eSafety Commissioner has continued to work with online industry participants to develop mandatory industry codes, regulating certain classes of illegal and restricted online material. Five industry codes will come into effect on 16 December 2023, for social media services, internet carriage services, equipment providers, app distribution services and hosting services. The codes will predominantly focus on addressing reg-

ulation of child sexual exploitation material and terrorist material hosted by service providers.

Further industry codes and standards are being developed for internet search engine services, relevant electronic services and designated internet services, to come into effect in early 2024.

Privacy and Data

The Commonwealth Government provided its response to the Attorney-General's report on the review of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth), indicating that it has agreed, or agreed in principle, with the majority of the proposals outlined, and committed to introducing the first tranche of legislative reforms in 2024.

Of note, the government has agreed in principle to:

- New rights which will enable individuals to: request the erasure of their personal information (Proposal 18.3);
- challenge the collection, use and disclosure of their personal information (Proposal 18.2); and
- request the de-indexing of internet search results containing their personal information (Proposal 18.5).
- A new direct right of action for individuals (including a group) who have suffered loss or damage as a result of breaches of the Privacy Act (Proposal 26.1).
- A new statutory tort for serious invasions of privacy (Proposal 27.1). This long-anticipated tort would cover conduct outside the scope of the Privacy Act.

In response to a series of high-profile data breaches in the second half of 2022, the government increased the maximum penalties for serious or repeated breaches of the Australian Privacy Principles.

The government has also expanded the extraterritorial reach of the Privacy Act by removing the last limb of the existing "Australian link" test.

In July the Federal Court imposed a AUD20 million fine on Meta's subsidiaries, Facebook Israel and Onavo Inc, for breaching the Australian Consumer Law by misleading users about the way those companies used customers' data.

Four data breach class actions have been commenced against Optus and Medibank. These matters will require courts to assess whether certain technical and operational cybersecurity controls and practices are necessary to comply with regulations that are largely principles-based. The proposed new direct right of action that individuals could bring for a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (above) will facilitate such breach class actions in the future.

Mergers and Acquisitions

There was no significant merger and acquisition activity in the media sector in the last year, although there is some optimism that there might be some activity in this area in 2024.

Technology, Media, Telecoms (TMT)

TMT: Media	TMT: Media	TMT: IT & Telecommunications
Leading Firms	Leading Individuals	Leading Firms
Band 1	Star individuals	Band 1
Banki Haddock Fiora	Bartlett Peter <i>MinterEllison</i>	Allens
MinterEllison	Band 1	Ashurst
Thomson Geer	Norman Leanne <i>Banki Haddock Fiora</i>	Clayton Utz
Band 2	Quill Justin <i>Thomson Geer</i>	Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Ashurst	Band 2	Gilbert + Tobin
Baker McKenzie	Cashen John-Paul <i>Thomson Geer</i>	King & Wood Mallesons
Johnson Winter Slattery	Dawson Sophie <i>Bird & Bird *</i>	Band 2
Band 3	Leder Richard <i>Wotton + Kearney (ORL) ◇</i>	Baker McKenzie
Allens	Lynch Kevin <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>	Herbert Smith Freehills
Clayton Utz	Munsie Justine <i>Addisons</i>	MinterEllison
Gilbert + Tobin	O'Brien Mark <i>Mark O'Brien Legal</i>	Norton Rose Fulbright
Herbert Smith Freehills	Stewart Andrew <i>Baker McKenzie</i>	Webb Henderson
Simpsons Solicitors	Todd Robert <i>Ashurst</i>	Band 3
Band 4	Band 3	Bird & Bird
Addisons	Campbell Peter <i>HWL Ebsworth Lawyers</i>	DLA Piper Australia
Bird & Bird	George Patrick <i>Company (Giles) (ORL) ◇</i>	Maddocks
Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Moxon Simpson Adam <i>Simpsons Solicitors</i>	Band 4
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers	Oaten Brett <i>Brett Oaten Solicitors (ORL) ◇</i>	Hall & Wilcox
Mark O'Brien Legal	Poulton David <i>MinterEllison</i>	Johnson Winter Slattery
* <i>Indicates individual with profile.</i>	Pullen Nicholas <i>HWL Ebsworth Lawyers</i>	K&L Gates
◇ (ORL) = <i>Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>	Saunders Marlia <i>Thomson Geer</i>	KPMG Law
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>	Svilans Paul <i>Mark O'Brien Legal</i>	McCullough Robertson
	Band 4	Thomson Geer
	Bamford Mark <i>Simpsons Solicitors</i>	
	Cade Anita <i>Ashurst</i>	
	Munro Jules <i>Simpsons Solicitors</i>	
	Olsen Marina <i>Banki Haddock Fiora</i>	
	Webb Timothy <i>Clayton Utz</i>	
	Associates to watch	
	Levitan Dean <i>MinterEllison</i>	

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Addisons

What the team is known for Addisons' growing media team counsels media clients on risk, reputation and dispute resolution. It offers pre-pub-

lication advice and guidance on criminal liability, defamation and reputation management, all supported by considerable experience of litigation. Key clients include Seven Media Group, Sky News Australia and Australian Associated Press.

TMT: Telecommunications
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Waters Peter <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Eminent Practitioners
Lattey Renae <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Henderson Angus <i>Webb Henderson</i>
Lim Cheng <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
North James <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Band 2
Brookes Tim <i>Ashurst</i>
Lewis Rachael <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Margossian Ara <i>Webb Henderson</i>
Taylor Martyn <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Band 3
Coady Brendan <i>Maddocks</i>
Fair Patrick <i>Patrick Fair Associates (ORL) ◇</i>
Jones Thomas <i>Bird & Bird</i>
Smith Gavin <i>Allens</i>
Band 4
Bailey Damien <i>King & Spalding (ORL) ◇ *</i>
Barber Shane <i>Bird & Bird</i>
Feetham Mark <i>Thomson Geer</i>
Lloyd Bruce <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Omar Ish <i>Webb Henderson</i>
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Strengths

"The Addisons media and defamation team is close-knit and the talent is uniformly excellent."

"They have a very keen awareness of the impact their advice may have on not just the programmes, but on the feasibility of the deal that underlies each and every programme."

Work highlights Addisons provided pre-publication advice for Australian Associated Press news reporting and responded to complaints and concerns notices regarding news stories.

Notable practitioners

Justine Munsie advises media, entertainment and advertising industry clients on a broad range of contractual, commercial, reputational and regulatory issues. **Strengths:** *"Justine is an experienced, insightful and proactive lawyer with a good instinct for the commercial and personal consequences of litigation that may not be immediately apparent to many."* *"She is the kind of lawyer who is always there for you when you need her."* *"She is a brilliant lawyer. She is always available, articulate, can focus on issues and get straight to the point."*

Allens

What the team is known for Allens takes prominent roles on major TMT-related M&A transactions and advises government and corporate clients on large-scale technology outsourcing projects. It is a preferred practice for fintech and electronic payments mandates as well as data exchange and commercialisation and privacy matters. The law firm also advises Australia's major telecommunications companies on governance and regulatory issues. In the media space, Allens has a respected distribution and broadcasting advisory team which represents major

TMT: Information Technology
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
McGregor Sheila <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Catania Philip <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Lim Cheng <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Saurajen Ken <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Band 2
Allgrove Anne-Marie <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Borgese Anthony <i>MinterEllison</i>
Brookes Tim <i>Ashurst</i>
Caplan Michael <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Gole Tim <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Gunning Patrick <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Jones Peter <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Kallenbach Paul <i>MinterEllison</i>
Lloyd Anthony <i>Ashurst</i>
North James <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Smith Gavin <i>Allens</i>
Band 3
Atkins Caroline <i>Maddocks</i>
Bloch Valeska <i>Allens</i>
Burns Simon <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Goodall Jeff <i>Maddocks</i>
Gray John <i>Hall & Wilcox *</i>
Heller Nicole <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Lawrence Adrian <i>Baker McKenzie</i>
Lincoln Julian <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Ludlow Amanda <i>Ashurst</i>
Lyons Tim <i>DLA Piper Australia *</i>
Newcomb Simon <i>Clayton Utz</i>
Sutton Lesley <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>
Swinson Michael <i>King & Wood Mallesons</i>
Band 4
Abrahams Nick <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Butler Emma <i>Ashurst</i>
de Fonseca Ravi <i>Johnson Winter Slattery</i>
Fraser Hamish <i>Bird & Bird *</i>
Hutchens Alex <i>McCullough Robertson</i>
McMillan Matthew <i>McCullough Robertson</i>
Mulligan Peter <i>Norton Rose Fulbright</i>
Park Michael <i>Allens</i>
Tang Kwok <i>Herbert Smith Freehills</i>
Willis Anthony <i>Maddocks</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Boyle Nicholas <i>DLA Piper Australia *</i>
Dixit Arvind <i>Corrs Chambers Westgarth</i>
Hii Andrew <i>Gilbert + Tobin</i>

players in the acquisition of sports broadcasting and other media rights and in corporate activity, including media joint ventures. Media clients also benefit from the firm's ability to offer a full suite of intellectual property advice. Key clients include NBCUniversal, Sony Music Entertainment and Foxtel.

Strengths

"The people at the firm who worked with us handled complexity and sophistication in the arrangements very well, with professionalism and high levels of commerciality."

"They have very deep experience in our sector, they know the market and have their finger on the market pulse."

"The team are all highly responsive and commercial in the length and detail included in their response,

which is particularly valued by our business stakeholders."

"They are effectively devoted to providing excellent service."

"They are able to understand complexity in an emerging, digitally transforming industry within an intricate web of interested stakeholders."

Work highlights Allens advised Foxtel on key aspects of its broadcasting rights agreement with the AFL for the 2025–2031 seasons.

Allens acted for a consortium comprising Northleaf Capital Partners and InfraRed Capital Partners on their investment in Vodafone NZ's passive mobile network infrastructure business.

Notable practitioners

Valeska Bloch is particularly well known for her work on behalf of start-up tech companies and in connection with disruptive technologies, and also advises extensively on data governance and breach issues and cybersecurity questions.

Strengths: *"Valeska is incredibly responsive and always gives you a call. She is very good at reading the room and tailoring advice, and has a really good knowledge base and insight into key trends."* *"She has a great incident response ability. Valeska is practical, down to earth and very approachable. She is a thought leader in the cybersecurity and privacy space."* **Gavin Smith** is based in Sydney and advises on both IT and telecommunications-related issues, being particularly well known for his expertise in the digital acceleration field where these often intersect. **Strengths:** *"Gavin has excellent knowledge of TMT law and regulation and can handle large and complex transactions."* *"Gavin is very level-headed and incredible at distilling the issues in their simplest form. We rely on his level of commerciality."* **Michael Park** is an experienced TMT lawyer based in Melbourne. He offers particular expertise in data privacy and digital transformation. **Strengths:** *"Michael provides commercial advice and is easy to work with."*

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst is regularly entrusted with high-profile transactional, contentious and regulatory mandates from major telecommunication, technology and media clients in both the domestic and international markets. It acts for IT providers on the negotiation and implementation of complex outsourcing agreements, and is sought after by global technology giants to advise on multi-jurisdictional regulatory issues including privacy and data protection obligations. The law firm has a proven track record advising on large-scale digital transformation projects and the development of telecommunications infrastructure. In media, it advises online, broadcasting and print media publishers on the full range of commercial and litigation matters regarding content, advertising and data, and adeptly handles regulatory and pre-publication issues, with notably strong ability and experience in defamation cases. The team also works closely with corporate colleagues to advise its blue-chip clientele on M&A transactions in the sector. Key clients include ITV Granada Media, the New South Wales Government and Brookfield Asset Management.

Strengths

"Their willingness and ability to tackle the most

ambitious work is great from the client perspective. The quality of the advice and work product in the areas we work together on is unsurpassed."

"The Ashurst team have been incredibly skilled and have provided sound advice that is easy to understand."

"The team is always cognisant of the commercial drivers for deals and is always solutions-focused."

"In terms of scale of expertise it was extraordinary and the quality and responsiveness was amazing. We could not have done without them, they are so well regarded by everyone who worked on the process."

"They strike the perfect balance between being technically astute and commercial pragmatism. They are also delightful to work with."

Work highlights Ashurst advises on all Australian intellectual property matters and provides portfolio management to the leading global publisher Condé Nast.

Ashurst has provided ongoing support to Monash University in relation to a large number of matters and transactions relating to technology and data research.

Notable practitioners

Tim Brookes is highly regarded in the telecommunications and IT spaces for his long experience and assured management of numerous major transactions and their accompanying regulatory aspects. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:**

"Tim is extremely responsive, super considerate of business outcomes and extremely technical. He can distil really complex legal matters to easily understood terms and always tries to achieve really good business outcomes." **Anthony Lloyd** advises clients, often including multinational companies at a strategic level, on a comprehensive range of practice area issues, including transactional, commercialisation and transformational technology implementation matters. He also acts on contentious and cybersecurity issues. He is based in Sydney. **Robert Todd** is a Sydney-based veteran of the media litigation scene, with a particularly strong track record where defamation cases and the representation of major news organisations are concerned. **Strengths:** "Robert is very technical and responsive."

Amanda Ludlow operates across the technology spectrum, with a particularly strong focus on technology-led innovation and digital infrastructure issues. She is based in Brisbane. **Strengths:** "Amanda is a fantastic resource. She is incredibly knowledgeable with strong interpersonal skills and is able to provide advice on complex legal issues in a manner that is easy to understand." "Amanda is focused on client needs and wants, and gives the team large levels of autonomy." **Emma Butler** centres her practice on advising clients on various technology-related transactions. Her clients operate in industries such as insurance, energy and telecommunications. She is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** "Emma has a client-friendly, tailored approach. She is an excellent communicator and is extremely pragmatic within the required legal framework."

Anita Cade is an experienced intellectual property and media lawyer based in Sydney. She regularly advises clients on trade mark infringement disputes and provides regulatory compliance advice to some of Australia's most notable media outlets.

Strengths: "Anita is a particularly outstanding lawyer. She is clever, is an excellent manager and is well organised. She works collaboratively with both clients and barristers."

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for The Baker McKenzie team's membership of a full-service, global network supports deep expertise in the handling of regulatory, contractual and disputes matters for prominent international technology companies and telecommunications providers and the implementation of multi-jurisdictional privacy, data protection and cybersecurity solutions. The practice also offers specialised telecoms infrastructure project, e-commerce and online communications knowledge and is adept at advising clients on blockchain and cryptocurrency matters. The media team, in addition to hosting a well-regarded defamation practice, acting for significant international entrants and established Australian publishers and news groups, advises on media industry M&A transactions and the establishment of new online content delivery arrangements, including online copyright issues. Key clients include Network Ten All Access, Fox Sports Australia and Airbnb.

Strengths

"Baker McKenzie invest heavily in understanding clients, the commercial contract and the relationship more broadly. They provide very thoughtful advice."

"They were always available and responded with expediency and thoughtfulness on all questions."

"They know our business really well and go out of their way to understand everything."

"They never let me down in terms of delivery, their customer service was exceptional."

"They were able to combine the law with commercial practice in a way that made sense. They did not just address the terms and conditions of the contract but were able to consider them in light of the scope of work and financial considerations."

Work highlights Baker McKenzie acted for Fox Sports Australia in a highly publicised matter in the District Court involving a defamation claim by Josh Massoud, a high-profile former Channel 7 NRL reporter, against five media companies. Baker McKenzie acted for Zoe Lee McClure in the class action commenced against Medibank on behalf of individuals who were affected by the Medibank data breach which occurred in October 2022.

Notable practitioners **Anne-Marie Allgrove** is based in Sydney and stands out for her expertise in the handling of transformational technology mandates, including both internal systems developments and out-sourcings, and also advises on a comprehensive range of associated regulatory and security issues. **Strengths:** "Anne-Marie is a very capable and totally thorough lawyer. She provides not only outstanding legal advice but does so against a commercial construct. She has a tremendous capacity for work and always delivers." "Anne-Marie is an excellent lawyer who is very easy to work with. She is very organised and focused in her advice and has a very good understanding of business drivers and requirements."

Andrew

Stewart is widely acknowledged as one of the busiest and most accomplished practitioners in the media space. Notable for the extremely varied range of media organisation he acts for, he offers especially focused expertise in the areas of defamation and copyright enforcement. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** "Andrew's strength is as a thought leader but he is also insightful and effective in getting what we need to get done." "He has a very measured disposition; this can be particularly useful in litigation." **Adrian Lawrence** is based in Sydney and advises clients on major transactional, product launch and partnership arrangements, bringing to his work the insights of a published authority on the law relating to digital and online matters. **Strengths:** "Adrian is a very pragmatic lawyer providing very practical advice." "He has a lot of really good exposure across different industry. He brings the cross-industry perspective, which is very useful to understand how other industries are approaching problems with publishing, privacy and data." "An excellent lawyer, he is down to earth and commercially aware."

Banki Haddock Fiora

What the team is known for Banki Haddock Fiora is a Sydney-based boutique, specialising in media, technology and intellectual property work, with the ability to advise on trade marks, copyrights, disputes and commercial transactions. The firm represents a diverse client base including large online and print media companies and maintains a strong focus on advising on defamation cases and pre-publication advice. Key clients include Fairfax Media, HarperCollins and Radio 2GB.

Strengths

"Banki Haddock Fiora is a unique law firm in that they are a boutique with a top-tier reputation, and a dedicated commitment to the intersection of the culture, media and arts."

"They are thoughtful, communicative and responsive."

"They were always highly responsive, keeping me informed across all developments in my case."

"They provided a first-rate response and worked to our short turnaround periods."

Work highlights Banki Haddock Fiora acted for HarperCollins and Steve Cannane in defamation proceedings brought by Dr John Gilland and Mr John Herron in the Federal Court of Australia.

Notable practitioners

Leanne Norman offers over three decades of experience in the fields of media law generally and defamation in particular, her expertise covering not only the representation of publishers of printed and online material, for which she is especially well known, but also that of broadcast media. **Strengths:** "Leanne Norman is an exceptional lawyer with in depth knowledge in the field of media law. She is a safe pair of hands with experience in complex matters and handles work in a cost-conscious manner." "Leanne is very responsive and thoughtful with a great deal of experience. She is a pleasure to work with." **Marina Olsen** leverages expertise in IP and defamation litigation to represent clients in often high-profile media disputes. She is also relied upon to provide pre-publication advice to notable entertainment studios. **Strengths:** "Marina Olsen is a tenacious media

lawyer who strives for the best results for her clients." *"Marina is superb. She is a safe pair of hands but is also very commercial and market-aware." "Marina is incredibly energetic, very detail-oriented, and really wants to debate with you and engage with real issues."*

Bird & Bird

What the team is known for Bird & Bird is recognised for its expertise in corporate transactions for telecommunications companies and digital businesses, fintech, cloud technology and the related data protection issues. The law firm advises technology and communications companies on leasing and licensing issues as well as data centre and mobile network expansions. It is also experienced in assisting clients with matters relating to satellite-based projects. Bird & Bird's growing media practice is valued by clients from traditional and new media alike for its guidance on defamation, pre-publication, privacy and regulatory matters. Key clients include Rockstar Games, Nine Network and Vodafone.

Strengths

"Across the spectrum at Bird & Bird we have encountered thoughtful and insightful, deeply competent, engaging and committed team players."

"They are very friendly, personable and able to distil quite difficult concepts in a commercial manner."

"Their organisation and seamless capability to cover all of our cases impresses us."

"Time frames were well communicated and consistently met."

Work highlights Bird & Bird advised Vodafone in its joint venture with Optus Mobile, an undertaking which includes the significant roll-out of 4G and 5G networks across Australia.

Bird & Bird acted for Nine Network in the defence of defamation proceedings in respect of two articles and two broadcasts on 'A Current Affair', Nine's flagship prime-time current affairs programme.

Notable practitioners

Sophie Dawson (see p.231) is based in Sydney and handles contentious issues across media, privacy and technology, being particularly well known for her expertise in the areas of defamation, intellectual property and contractual disputes. **Thomas Jones** is a highly experienced, Sydney-based handler of telecommunications sector mandates, advising service providers on numerous aspects of the development of new projects. He is particularly well known for his mastery of regulatory issues. **Strengths:** *"Thomas is an excellent telco adviser and provides excellent support coordinating Bird & Bird support across multiple jurisdictions in this complex area." "Thomas is great value for money. He marries both very deep telco knowledge and competition law experience."* **Shane Barber** advises prominently on telecommunications issues, acting for some of Australia's leading service providers in that sphere and offering especially well-honed expertise where cross-border mandates or the regulatory aspects of network rollout projects are concerned. He is based in Sydney. **Hamish Fraser** (see p.232) advises clients participating in all areas of the IT and communications sector on the full range of commercial, regulatory and intellectual property aspects

of their operations, including major procurement and outsourcing mandates. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"Hamish is responsive, well informed, and easy to work with." "He is very knowledgeable, I can call him up on anything and he will have some understanding already. It is very rare that I will have to bring him up to speed on the basics as he has very good industry knowledge."*

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz is noted in the IT and telecommunications space for its deep industry knowledge and frequent engagement by significant blue-chip clients on business process outsourcing, data and security matters. The law firm handles transactional matters for critical IT services in the financial and government sectors, including infrastructure procurements and migrations to new technologies, and maintains an impressive client base in the telecoms sphere, advising on everything from joint venture arrangements to access and interconnection agreements between carriers and service providers. Clayton Utz also fields prominent media ownership and broadcasting rights expertise, particularly well honed in the sporting field, and a well-regarded transactional practice, advising on strategic acquisitions and tie-ups. It additionally provides full support on regulatory issues and is well placed to access complementary expertise on IP and competition matters. Key clients include Westpac Banking Corporation, the Reserve Bank of Australia and nbn.

Strengths

"The lawyers at Clayton Utz have an excellent understanding of commercial issues, and can work with us to develop practical commercial solutions that also protect our legal interests."

"Clayton Utz resourced our matters very well, provided extremely timely support and with impressive depth."

"The team have deep expertise that is complemented by an ability to quickly understand complex and evolving matters."

"Our business is very time-sensitive, which Clayton Utz are very responsive to."

"Clayton Utz make the most of their broader firm's knowledge pool and the net output is sophisticated advice that is thinking both a few steps ahead of the relevant issue as well as providing cutting-edge advice."

Work highlights Clayton Utz advised the Brisbane City Council on the procurement of technology used to operate and integrate all parts of the Brisbane Metro transport system.

Clayton Utz advised NOVA Entertainment Group on its worldwide trade mark portfolio.

Notable practitioners

Ken Saurajen is based in Sydney and acts for both public and private sector bodies on strategic technology and procurement projects, notably including those exploiting emerging technologies. Also a frequent adviser on software development, licensing and support issues, he is engaged by clients from a wide range of industries, but is particularly well known for his work in the financial services sector. **Strengths:** *"I can't recommend Ken highly enough. He is extremely experienced, with a uniquely considered and calm demeanour that is*

effective in achieving our transaction objectives, particularly in M&A situations. Ken is a prominent top-tier adviser and leader." "Ken is a trusted adviser who provides sound commercial advice on complex technology contracts and I would highly recommend him." "For large contracts, I really trust him. He has excellent oversight of the market in the space and understands the drivers." Simon Newcomb specialises in the handling of technology transactions, being particularly well known for his work on behalf of public sector clients at local, state and Commonwealth government level. An experienced, Brisbane-based manager of complex procurement and outsourcing mandates, he is also well-versed in cybersecurity issues. Strengths: "Simon is extremely knowledgeable in the IT area." Bruce Lloyd is both an experienced competition lawyer and head of the TMT group at Clayton Utz. He is respected for his advice to major telecommunications clients. Timothy Webb combines a strong IP focus with experience in handling disputes to service clients in contentious and non-contentious mandates. Issues related to copyright, patents and trade marks fall under the umbrella of his expertise and he has represented clients before the Federal and Supreme Courts. Strengths: "He is outstanding. His responsiveness is great, as is his eye for detail and knowledge of the law. He exceeds my expectations." "An excellent professional in every aspect. He has an excellent knowledge of IP and trade mark laws and provides an immediate response in every situation." "Tim is always a pleasure to work with."

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth's full-service practice handles a broad range of corporate, contentious and advisory mandates for a stable of local and international clients. It is adept at supporting large technology companies on new product launches, telecommunications providers on regulatory compliance issues and cloud computing providers, social media networks and major e-commerce players on data privacy questions. The practice is also noted for its handling of data breach and cybersecurity matters and large-scale IT system upgrades and outsourcings. It additionally combines an established defamation practice with advice on joint ventures, acquisitions and commercial agreements in the media space, and noted for its expertise concerning digital streaming launches. Key clients include Google, nbn and Westpac.

Strengths

"Corrs consistently provides pragmatic, actionable counsel, which is a pivotal strength of the practice. The pragmatic approach of the Corrs team underscores the practice's deep comprehension of real-world challenges and emphasis on results-oriented guidance."

"They have been consistent, knowledgeable of the subject matter and reliable. They know the media market very well."

"They have an outstanding ability to advise on complex matters, often under intense time pressure, with the right mix of partner involvement and a spread of experience at senior associate level and other lawyers who are involved."

"They are extremely capable and aligned with delivering great service."

"The firm understands both the legal practical aspects of a client's needs but also their commercial needs."

Work highlights Corrs represented Google in a landmark piece of litigation commenced by Epic Games.

Corrs helped TPG Telecom enter into long-term contracts with Telstra for a regional network agreement.

Notable practitioners

Philip Catania is based in Melbourne and advises authoritatively on technology questions, being dual-qualified in both law and computer science, and is particularly well known for his handling of large-scale outsourcing mandates and data privacy questions. **James North** is based in Sydney and, in addition to well-known work on behalf of leading Australian telecoms carriers, is active on transactional and contentious mandates across the IT and telecoms spectrum. **Strengths:** *"James is my go-to as he is extremely reliable and knowledgeable both on corporate and commercial matters in the media industry, and I find him very pleasant to work with."* *"He has always been able to provide, or lead the provision of, easy to follow and pragmatic advice, even on the most complex matters."* **Arvind Dixit** is a member of the firm's TMT practice and relies upon his expertise in privacy law to provide counsel to an array of clients operating in the technology domain. His practice includes but is not limited to advising on outsourcing issues, cyber risk resilience strategy and regulatory compliance. **Strengths:** *"Arvind is excellent to work with. He really listens."*

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper is active on technology sector capital-raising and M&A-related matters as well as outsourcing, digitisation and systems integration projects for large private-sector fintech and insurtech clients. It also assists clients in the public sector with regard to IT procurement matters. The law firm is experienced advising banks and financial institutions on a range of TMT work, including global data and cybersecurity projects, informed by the firm's experience advising on such matters in other key jurisdictions in the USA, Europe and Asia. It is also increasingly active on data breach-related mandates. Key clients include Bank of Queensland, Levi Strauss and Stripe Payments.

Strengths

"Throughout the team the understanding of the client's wishes and the prompt turnaround is unsurpassed."

"Their advice is not purely legal but also takes into consideration commercial aspects."

"Responsiveness was always nearly immediate, the service was great."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Stripe Payments on its approach to marketing consents across a number of jurisdictions.

Notable practitioners

Tim Lyons (see p.234) is based in Melbourne and specialises in the management of supply and outsourcing mandates, offering particularly noteworthy experience of advising the Victorian government on significant projects in that sphere.

Strengths: *"Tim is a very accomplished and strong*

negotiator." *"His ability to maintain a very professional and amicable approach during discussions was outstanding."* **Nicholas Boyle** (see p.230) is based in Sydney and has particular expertise in advising notable financial institutions on technology transformation matters. He is also well placed to act as counsel for clients after a data breach and set out the appropriate response strategy. **Strengths:** *"Nick has always provided great service and has been a pleasure to work with."* *"He is a real guru, an absolute powerhouse in terms of value for money. Nicholas is a very insightful industry expert."*

Gilbert + Tobin

What the team is known for Gilbert + Tobin fields outstanding practitioners in the IT and telecommunications spheres, with a wealth of transactional and regulatory experience on market-leading deals for key domestic and multinational industry clients across multiple industries in the public and private sectors. The law firm is notably active in the procurement of global IT solutions and SaaS outsourcing mandates and prominent in the emerging technologies market, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity and data protection. It is additionally experienced in media regulation and content ownership, licensing and media buying work, including rights deals and commercial initiatives, and adept at assisting with privacy, digital piracy and simulcasting issues impacting on the provision of online media content. Gilbert + Tobin is further noted for corporate advisory and joint venture work for online, broadcast and print media companies and their owners. Key clients include Microsoft, Great Southern Bank and Lendlease.

Strengths

"Gilbert + Tobin's commercial awareness is one of the key reasons we selected G + T for our critical work. They are particularly strong in delivering tailored advice and risk assessment."

"They are absolutely fantastic. They are hyper responsive, very pragmatic and commercial."

"They know our business and context very well, and they have been able to pitch their advice appropriately as a result. They generally offer very pragmatic advice."

"They provide an excellent service extending to general advice and business support. The firm is focused on delivering successful outcomes."

"All of the staff they have brought to the various project teams, regardless of level, have been impressive."

Work highlights G+T advised Microsoft on the Australian competition aspects, including ACCC approval, of Microsoft's proposed AUD96 billion acquisition of Activision Blizzard.

Gilbert + Tobin is advising Transport for NSW on the roll-out of zero-emission battery electric buses and associated smart charging infrastructure for bus services in Sydney.

Notable practitioners

Sheila McGregor is based in Sydney and offers exceptional experience in the handling of IT procurement mandates, particularly where state and Commonwealth government departments and agencies are concerned, and continues to advise on key mandates in this sphere. **Strengths:**

"Sheila is a 'go to' for anything complex or where you need gravitas in the room. She is unshakeable, quick and smart – a pleasure to work with." *"Sheila is a very strong client relationship manager."*

Peter Waters retains his reputation as one of the leading experts across the full range of telecommunications issues, not only in Australia but also internationally. He continues to contribute the insights acquired in his many years' experience in the area to key practice mandates. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** *"Peter has been renowned in the industry for a long time."* *"He is a great regulatory lawyer and is the best in the country for that. He is also very innovative and has a very good service model."* **Michael Caplan** focuses closely

on complex procurement and other contractual arrangements in the IT space and also advises extensively on transactional and data protection issues. Based in Sydney, he is noted for offering expertise covering both Australia and South-East Asia and focused expertise concerning disruptive and other innovative technologies. **Strengths:** *"Michael's service, sophistication, and commercial awareness is what makes him an extremely trusted adviser for our most complex work. His ability to distil complex legal advice and combine it with his understanding of our business and priorities was extremely valuable."* *"I have high expectations with respect to the services provided. Michael is one of the most accomplished lawyers I have worked with during my 30+ year career. On top of that expertise, his stakeholder engagement skills are second to none."* **Tim Gole** is based in Sydney and offers

extensive experience in the representation of high-profile clients, including major public sector bodies and leading financial services providers, on strategic IT outsourcing mandates. **Strengths:** *"He demonstrates a strong knowledge of our business and risk appetite, and has been a primary adviser for our evolution in technology products and services over time. He is a trusted adviser in all senses."* *"Tim is another shining light at Gilbert + Tobin. He is incredibly intelligent and is a great problem solver."* **Simon Burns** is a Sydney-based IT specialist who stands out for his mastery of transactions conducted within the complex and still evolving regulatory environment of the digital and emerging technology space, being particularly familiar with the issues surrounding blockchain and emerging technology. **Strengths:** *"Simon is an exceptional lawyer and is incredible to work with. He has expertise particularly in emerging tech like AI. He has a great ability to understand the commercial context and the complex legal issues we are facing."* *"He is very responsive and provides pragmatic advice focused on achieving successful outcomes."* *"Simon is really great with his time management and delivery of work – he is good at realising what our priorities are."* **Lesley Sutton** is a well-regarded, Sydney-based practitioner in the IT space with extensive experience in the management of large-scale technology procurement projects, where she has often acted

for both suppliers and customers in arrangements involving New South Wales or Commonwealth government bodies. **Strengths:** *"Lesley is a fantastic negotiator, she brings a sense of calm into the room during intense negotiations owing to her incredible knowledge and expertise in her field. She*

is able to guide projects to suitable outcome for all parties." "Lesley has an ability to pick up the technical and operational aspects of the work. Her legal ability is second to none, we can rely on her to pick up all legal issues and cover all bases adequately."

Andrew Hii has a broad practice specialising in technology and IP. He is well placed to advise clients across financial services and telecommunications on commercial and regulatory issues and is noted for his skill in handling the complexities of contract negotiations effectively. **Strengths:** "He is a good operator to work with. He is measured and capable." "Andrew was helpful in providing regulatory compliance advice and was strong in contract negotiations, using his knowledge and expertise to arrive at solutions to finalise arrangements."

Hall & Wilcox

What the team is known for Hall & Wilcox's broad IT and telecommunications practice centres on advising startups, government agencies and established financial institutions on an array of technology contracts and acquisitions. The firm is also noted for its expertise in guiding clients in the implementation of innovative platforms from a compliance standpoint. Clients include the NSW Department of Customer Service, Galaxy Interactive and Varley.

Strengths

"Hall & Wilcox are very knowledgeable in the IP arena. They are very good to work with."

"Hall & Wilcox have excellent bench strength and we can always access the right team with deep knowledge."

"They are excellent to deal with, responsive and thorough."

Work highlights Hall & Wilcox advised the NSW Department of Customer Service as part of the Electronic Signatures Panel in a step towards accelerating the digital transformation of government.

Notable practitioners

John Gray (see p.233) of Hall & Wilcox in Sydney has advised on both transactional and contentious matters in the IT field for over 25 years, being particularly well known for his work on behalf of state government and financial services sector clients. His expertise embraces a versatile range of licensing, data protection and privacy and intellectual property issues. **Strengths:** "He has been utterly brilliant - he is super sharp and he is across everything. I have never seen someone take a team through a document in such a joint commercial and legal manner."

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills is active across the full lifecycle of IT and telecommunications systems, representing clients from global multinationals to start-ups and Australian public sector bodies at both state and Commonwealth level. It advises on IT and business communications outsourcings and other complex contractual arrangements, on the integration of new technologies and on the full range of risk assessment, data protection and regulatory issues. In the media sphere, the law firm advises on high-value M&A, joint ventures and content agreements for leading networks

and publishers. It also acts for Australian broadcasters and media corporations on distribution deals and co-production agreements, and advises on the management and exploitation of media assets, including sponsorships, merchandising, licensing, and assessments of value and risks. Key clients include TikTok, Uber and Google.

Strengths

"Their ability to consider our commercial needs and anticipate them was a highlight of this team's approach."

"HSF are always extremely responsive and demonstrate keen awareness of our internal drivers and deadlines."

"HSF has been a fantastic support on business-critical, time-sensitive matters. Their service levels and responsiveness are second to none."

"They take a client-centric and pragmatic approach which is highly appreciated."

"There is exceptional team strength and capability as well as outstanding communication skills."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised on the Australian Government's support for Telstra's AUD2.4 billion acquisition of Digicel Pacific, the largest telecommunications provider in the Pacific region.

Herbert Smith Freehills acted for Sky Racing on its digital licence agreement, and its agency and commercial premises distribution agreement, with Racing and Wagering Western Australia.

Notable practitioners

Peter Jones is based in Sydney and offers deep experience in the management of both the transactional and the regulatory sides of major technology projects, his expertise being particularly well developed where cloud-based model-related matters and data monetisation issues are concerned. **Julian Lincoln** operates across the TMT spectrum from the Melbourne office, maintaining a particularly close focus on technology transformation and large and complex outsourcing mandates. **Kwok Tang** is based in Sydney and has considerable experience in advising on contract issues across technology, media and telecommunications. He maintains an impressive client base of globally renowned technology platforms operating across various industries.

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

What the team is known for HWL Ebsworth Lawyers fields an established team in the media space, advising on a range of litigation mandates, including the representation of media outlets and publishing houses in defamation cases. The firm is also noted for pre-publication advice and expertise in intellectual property, regulatory and privacy issues in this sphere.

Notable practitioners

Peter Campbell is based in Adelaide and has litigated media-related issues - including defamation, contempt and intellectual property disputes - for over 30 years. **Nicholas Pullen** is a Melbourne-based media specialist who focuses principally on issues impacting on broadcasters, print and online publishers and the advertising industry, being particularly well known for his mastery of defamation issues.

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery provides dedicated defamation and pre-publication advice to prominent print, online, radio and television clients, including multinational media distributors and publishers. The law firm offers noteworthy experience in judicial challenges and injunctions, and also acts for corporate clients on reputation management and their responses to media attacks. It represents clients in media litigation at all levels of the Australian courts system. On the IT and telecommunications front, the firm offers a comprehensive range of practice area services, acting both for leading international suppliers and customers from a variety of industries. Key areas of expertise and experience include partnering with leading US and European law firms to support the technology and telecoms requirements of businesses from those jurisdictions entering the Australian market, and carrying out due diligence investigations into technology sector M&A transaction targets. Key clients include Volvo, Google and Australian Federal Police.

Strengths

"JWS generally takes a pragmatic and commercially minded approach in reviewing contracts and providing advice and has developed a good understanding of the commercial drivers for our business teams and their preferred approaches on legal risk."

"In all instances we have found their expertise, commitment, responsiveness and advice to meet and exceed our expectations."

"They have excellent knowledge of current developments within the industry, including our regulatory requirements."

"They are highly proficient, efficient and always polite."

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery acted for Mark43 in proceedings commenced against the NSW police force in connection with the termination of a AUD1.2 billion contract.

Johnson Winter Slattery defended Are Media in responding to a defamation claim by cosmetic surgeons concerning an article published in Marie Claire Australia.

Notable practitioners

Kevin Lynch is a highly experienced, Sydney-based litigator who acts across a broad range of contentious matters - including defamation, intellectual property and trade practices issues - for high-profile media organisations. **Strengths:** "Kevin is professional, experienced and highly knowledgeable in TMT: media. He is also unfailingly calm and polite." "Kevin is a wise practitioner with excellent judgement, who is always a pleasure to work with." "Kevin was absolutely fantastic to deal with. He was great at handling what was a difficult situation for me and helping to get an outcome that I wanted with as little fuss and back-and-forth as possible." **Ravi de Fonseka** leads a growing IT and telecommunications practice at Johnson Winter Slattery and is a trusted adviser on information technology and data matters. **Strengths:** "Ravi provides a prompt, responsive and efficient service." "Ravi is a standout leader in his engagement, personable communication, empathy for business goals and professional knowledge. He recognises the bigger business goal and works tirelessly with

utmost accuracy to deliver the result." "Ravi is responsive, takes time to understand our needs and goes above and beyond to negotiate on our behalf. He is insightful, practical and pragmatic."

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons fields a highly respected practice that acts on the highest-profile telecommunications and technology transactions in Australia and the broader region. It is noted for handling telecommunications network infrastructure projects and the implementation of core IT systems for such clients as government departments, blue-chip corporates and Australia's largest telecoms and IT service providers, and it has significant experience of advising Chinese telecoms companies on entry into the Australian market. Key clients include Medibank, Telstra and NTT DATA.

Strengths

"KWM are consistently commercial and pragmatic in their advice."

"I always receive fantastic service levels and responsiveness. I know that they will do what it takes to meet requirements and timelines."

"The team has a large breadth of technical knowledge across telco regulatory issues."

"They are really good at developing a full relationship with clients and assisting us with resourcing gaps."

"KWM are very responsive and coordinated in their client education and support."

Work highlights King & Wood Mallesons advised Medibank on all aspects of its response to a cybercrime incident.

Notable practitioners

Renaë Lattey is based in Melbourne and advises market-leading telecommunications industry players on a comprehensive range of transactional, broader commercial and regulatory matters, bringing to her work a particularly deep familiarity with issues in the domestic, regional and global telecoms market. She offers noted experience of having acted for both private and public sector clients in transactional and regulatory interactions between government bodies and telecoms service providers. **Cheng Lim** has a noted track record in the representation of leading telecoms and technology providers on key transactional and regulatory mandates. Based in Melbourne, he is also a prominent adviser on data privacy and cybersecurity questions. **Strengths:** "As a strategic adviser I value his opinion." **Patrick Gunning** stands out for cutting-edge expertise in the technology space which he applies on behalf of public and private sector players, offering particular familiarity with data privacy and protection issues and with the health and gaming sectors. He is based in Sydney. **Strengths:** "He is a technically excellent lawyer and he is very responsive." "His strength is that he is always available to talk to. He can talk about what you can do and is willing to teach you thoroughly." **Rachael Lewis** is based in Canberra and stands out both for her extensive experience in the handling of telecommunications sector transactional mandates and for her in-depth familiarity with the telecoms regulatory environment. **Strengths:** "Rachael is an exceptional legal brain and is our trusted adviser."

"Rachael is very approachable, knowledgeable, engaging and easy to deal with. She has vast experience and is able to look beyond just the issue in front of her to provide a holistic and strategic approach." **Nicole Heller** focuses principally on the management of strategic IT outsourcing and procurement arrangements, bringing to the table long experience of having acted for major banks, retailers and government departments in such transactions. Based in Sydney, she also advises on high-stakes M&A deals with complex IT and IP issues. **Strengths:** "Nicole has a delightful personality. She presents very well with internal business, is very articulate and not overly legal. People have confidence in her." **Michael Swinson** is noted both as an experienced, Melbourne-based adviser on major IT procurement, outsourcing and other key transactions and as one whose grasp of the broader context within which these transactions take place adds significantly to the value of his counsel. **Strengths:** "He is extremely knowledgeable; for a lawyer such as myself with limited understanding of tech he is a pleasure to work with."

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates advises public and private clients on a range of telecommunications issues. The firm fuses transactional and strategic expertise to assist on significant outsourcing projects, joint venture agreements and procurement strategy. Clients of the firm include BlueScope, Alcideon and Origin Energy.

Strengths

"The K&L Gates team handles complex and sophisticated legal matters in a commercial, pragmatic and timely manner."

"The senior members of the K&L Gates team have both in-house specialist sector expertise coupled with private practice, which is highly valuable when providing advice to C-suite clients."

"An excellent international firm, we trust their judgement."

"The team was always reachable, responsive to concerns, and always went the extra mile to accommodate last-minute changes to the scope of work and deadlines."

Work highlights K&L Gates advised a state government department in its procurement of a system implementor and software solution for a digital outpatient management solution, a project which was the foundation project of the department's broader digital transformation project.

Notable practitioners

Cameron Abbott is a key contact.

KPMG Law

What the team is known for KPMG Law handles both telecommunications and information technology mandates for state and private clients. The firm advises on commercial and regulatory matters, privacy and data, digital business transformation, data breach and ICT procurement. Key clients include the Department of the Treasury, Adventist Health Care and Medibank.

Strengths

"We have not yet encountered a challenge that KPMG wasn't able to support or resolve in a timely and professional manner. Across every subject area, we have been supported by extremely expe-

rienced and capable staff at an appropriate level of seniority for the required task."

Work highlights KPMG Law helped the Global EverGreening Alliance structure and negotiate multi-year funding and emissions reduction purchase arrangements with Climate Asset Management's Nature Based Fund for a USD150 million investment in the Alliance's Restore Africa Programme.

Notable practitioners

James Arnott and Veronica Scott are key contacts.

Maddocks

What the team is known for Maddocks fields a well-rounded and integrated TMT team advising on telecommunications regulations and technology contracting matters, including large-scale outsourcing. The law firm has a significant portfolio of government work, acting for Commonwealth and state government departments on software licensing and core infrastructure procurement. It has a notable presence in cyber resilience and data security matters, providing public and private organisations with valued advice on mandatory breach notification laws in Australia. Key clients include Deutsche Bank Australia, Monash University and Adobe Systems.

Strengths

"I would rate the legal firm's ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters as excellent. Throughout my interactions with them, they have consistently demonstrated a high level of competence and proficiency in dealing with intricate legal issues."

"Maddocks have a good understanding of what is happening commercially across a number of different digital and IT markets."

"I have full confidence in their service levels. Their response times are efficient without compromising quality."

"I found them to be knowledgeable and very collaborative."

Work highlights Maddocks acted for Aristocrat Technologies in advising on all aspects of the trial of a first-of-its-kind digital wallet.

Notable practitioners

Caroline Atkins is based in Canberra and specialises in technology procurement matters, being particularly well known for her handling of large-scale mandates for the Commonwealth government in this sphere. **Strengths:** "Caroline is always responsive to requests." "Caroline is an exceptional lawyer and a trusted adviser." "She provided well-rounded advice and has a keen eye for detail. Her communication is outstanding and she has always represented our interests correctly to achieve the right outcome." **Brendan Coady** is particularly well known as an adviser to telecommunications service providers on a wide range of commercial, contractual and regulatory issues. He also advises technology developers, communications infrastructure companies and government agencies. He is based in Sydney. **Jeff Goodall** specialises in the handling of significant procurement and outsourcing mandates for a mix of high-profile corporate and government body clients. Based in Sydney, he also advises on an extensive range of associated implementation and integration issues. **Strengths:** "He is very collaborative and he

is a good negotiator with third parties. Jeff is clear about the outcomes required and is really focused on reaching the outcomes without dragging things out." "Jeff always provides an appropriate level of service and awareness." **Anthony Willis** is based in Canberra and specialises in the handling of significant procurement and outsourcing mandates for a mix of high-profile corporate and government body clients. He also advises on an extensive range of associated implementation and integration issues. **Strengths:** "He could break complex matters down and explain and talk through them in a way that people understood. He was also very responsive to any enquiries or issues we raised."

Mark O'Brien Legal

What the team is known for Mark O'Brien Legal in Sydney enjoys a strong reputation for defamation and media law. It frequently represents prominent individuals in high-profile litigation as well as offering pre-publication and defamation defence for media organisations.

Notable practitioners

Mark O'Brien maintains a particularly notable track record of representing prominent business, political and sporting personalities in high-profile litigation against leading print and broadcast media outlets. **Paul Svilans** is a seasoned defamation practitioner with a strong focus on the representation of media publisher clients, both on advisory mandates, including pre-publication counsel, and in court proceedings.

McCullough Robertson

What the team is known for McCullough Robertson advises telecommunications and IT providers on the full breadth of commercial transactions and service agreements. It is also noted for advising financial services providers on software development agreements and privacy matters as well as having a notable following among public sector clients. The law firm is notably active advising start-ups in the technology sector, particularly those operating in the biotechnology, life sciences and IT spheres. Key clients include Brisbane Economic Development Agency, Fox Sports Australia and Asia Pacific Screen Awards.

Strengths

"They are always offering a commercial strategy that is in line with the current landscape."

"I can trust McCullough Robertson to deliver on their instructions on time and on point."

Work highlights McCullough Robertson assisted Beach 26 on a pro-bono basis by prosecuting trademark applications to protect its core brands in Australia, LIVE LEARN SURVIVE and LIFE-GUARD MAXI.

Notable practitioners

Alex Hutchens is a Sydney-based partner who brings years of experience as an in-house IT counsel to his work, much of which is concerned with major IT procurement mandates and the provision of advice on cybersecurity and other data protection issues. **Strengths:** "He blends legal expertise and commercial acumen seamlessly, and always delivers advice in a user-friendly format. It is a pleasure to work with Alex and his team."

Matthew McMillan is acknowledged by market sources as a highly visible and noteworthy Syd-

ney-based practitioner in the IT space, where he regularly acts for both vendors and suppliers on major ICT procurement and outsourcing mandates. Also an experienced adviser on data breach and commercialisation issues, and on matters with cross-jurisdictional dimensions, he is often instructed by leading financial services providers and both Commonwealth and New South Wales public sector bodies.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison maintains a leading defamation and pre-publication practice offering support to media companies on content and complaints matters. It also provides media broadcasting and cross-media ownership regulatory advice, as well as significant media-related transactional expertise. The practice offers comprehensive understanding of privacy, liability and risk management issues as they apply to online content in addition to freedom of information, privacy and breach of confidence complaints. MinterEllison is also noted for prominent transactional and infrastructure development work on behalf of telecommunications companies and for advising a broad range of clients from state and national government departments to major financial service players on transformative IT and telecoms procurement and outsourcing projects. It maintains a noteworthy track record of advising international clients on Australian and overseas technology mandates and is further acknowledged for its work in the cybersecurity and data privacy space. Key clients include Al Jazeera, Qantas and Suncorp Group.

Strengths

"The team is incredibly responsive and turnaround times are always prompt."

"Their approach is professional, comprehensive and personable."

"A reliable, knowledgeable and strategic group of lawyers."

"They all have a good understanding and have adequate resources to meet our needs. MinterEllison also have depth within the firm to address other legal matters."

Work highlights MinterEllison has, on a pro bono basis, assisted with comparative research for a series of reports being prepared by The International Bar Association Human Rights Institute on media freedom.

MinterEllison advised the State of Victoria on the technology contracting considerations for its project to modernise a number of VicRoads services.

Notable practitioners

Peter Bartlett has practised in the media space for over 35 years, winning a reputation as a pre-eminent litigator of defamation cases and trusted adviser on the full range of publication risks facing both print and broadcast media. He is based in Melbourne. **Strengths:** "Peter has very good industry knowledge and is really good at taking on big-picture issues." **Anthony Borgese** is based in Sydney and focuses principally on outsourcing matters, advising clients from a variety of business sectors on mandates in that area and on similar or associated procurement, licensing and regulatory issues. **Paul Kallenbach** spearheads the MinterEllison cybersecurity offering

from the Melbourne office, advising on issues in that sphere and on a wide range of often complex technology procurement and implementation projects. **Strengths:** "Paul has got a really well-rounded area of expertise. He is easy to work with and helps to resolve issues." **David Poulton** specialises in the handling of contentious media matters and is an experienced litigator of defamation and contempt cases. Based in Melbourne, he also advises extensively on pre-publication issues in both the print and online media sectors. **Dean Levitan** has risen to prominence for his role in proceedings brought by decorated war veteran Ben Roberts-Smith in Australia's 'defamation trial of the century'. **Strengths:** "Dean Levitan is excellent, and also really strategic and commercial."

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright handles significant transactions in the technology and telecommunications sectors, including the purchase of infrastructure assets, network upgrades and sector-specific M&A activity. It often acts for government clients with regard to complex technology projects. The law firm also assists international and domestic companies on large infrastructure projects, with a focus on disruptive technologies, start-ups and fast growth tech. Key clients include Honda Australia, Citigroup and Vodafone.

Strengths

"NRF consistently goes above and beyond a strict legal role by playing a critical part in the commercial and strategic decision-making to ensure the best outcome for us. NRF's expertise is invaluable and is always focused on finding the best solution."

"The client support has been great. It is an extremely personable team that is also very responsive."

"They have very good insights into the market and related developments."

"Their advice is always practical and commercial."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Megaport on all aspects of its continued global expansion and complex cross-border trade issues.

Notable practitioners

Martyn Taylor is based in Sydney and is regularly identified as one of Australia's most accomplished telecommunications lawyers, operating across the full transactional, advisory and contentious spectrum. He is particularly well regarded in the market for his regulatory expertise. **Strengths:** "Martyn is an outstanding lawyer who combines his exceptional legal skills with a practical and commercial approach. He displays a genuine passion, initiative and commitment to help deliver important projects and on time." **Nick Abrahams** advises on a wide range of Australian technology procurement, data privacy and cybersecurity mandates from the Sydney office. **Peter Mulligan** specialises in ICT matters, advising clients from both the public and private sectors on a range of contractual and regulatory issues, offering particularly extensive experience of assisting with procurement programmes. He is based in Sydney.

Simpsons Solicitors

What the team is known for Simpsons Solicitors' well-resourced and established team has carved out an enviable reputation as a boutique

entertainment and IP firm. It maintains an ability to advise on both transactional and contentious issues and is noted for its close focus on the protection and enforcement of intellectual property in the music sector. Simpsons additionally advises an array of prestigious libraries, galleries and museums at both national and state level on practice area issues. Key clients include Netflix, Screen Australia and Universal.

Strengths

"They are absolutely terrific. We would not be where we are without them. They prevent a lot of problems, apply legal solutions not only on crises, but also prevent problems from arising."

"Simpsons is an excellent boutique entertainment firm with impressive credentials in the space."

"They produce high-quality work, with a great depth of expertise."

Work highlights Simpsons is representing Screen Australia in several proceedings in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. The proceedings involve challenges to Screen Australia's decisions regarding the eligibility for and amount of the producer offset, a refundable tax offset available to producers of Australian films and television.

Notable practitioners

Adam Moxon Simpson is a Sydney-based litigation specialist whose expertise in the media space extends to cover an impressive range of sub-sectors, including book and digital publishing, games, music, and museums and galleries. **Mark Bamford** advises from the Sydney office on a range of issues principally affecting clients from the film, television, music and new technology entertainment media. **Jules Munro** is an experienced adviser to music publishers and rights holders on a broad range of issues, including commercial, intellectual property, copyright and licensing matters.

Thomson Geer

What the team is known for Thomson Geer's nationwide media team is experienced in the representation of many of Australia's largest print, online and television news outlets. It is notably active in the provision of pre-publication advice and experienced in the handling of breach of confidence, suppression order, contempt and source revelation issues, as well as the carriage of high-profile defamation litigation in superior state and Commonwealth courts. In the technology and telecommunications sphere, Thomson Geer is prominently engaged on key procurement, outsourcing and implementation mandates, including the installation of software management systems and the rollout of 5G networks. Key clients include HarperCollins, Twitter and the NSW Government.

Strengths

"They are extremely capable in handling complex and sophisticated matters. I trust them completely."

"It is a well run-firm, very professional. They possess extremely good knowledge of the subject matter and have a great understanding of our business."

"The Thomson Geer team is extremely professional, and has handled complex cases, involving multiple parties, claims and issues with confidence. I have always been impressed with the approach of the team, and the results they deliver."

"Thomson Geer are extremely adept at dealing with matters that involve complex legal and business considerations."

"There is quick and effective communication. They are responsive to client needs and have an excellent understanding of clients' requirements."

Work highlights Thomson Geer acted for Network Ten in defamation proceedings commenced by Bruce Lehrmann in the Federal Court of Australia.

Thomson Greer advised Chryson on all aspects of its key commercial arrangements with operators of mines and mineral testing facilities and the suppliers of its core systems.

Notable practitioners

Justin Quill has practised exclusively in media law for some 25 years, acting for major print and online publishers and broadcasters on the full range of contentious or potentially contentious issues they face, including defamation, contempt of court and breach of confidential information claims. **Strengths:** *"Justin is very commercial in his understanding of our industry and business. He is very knowledgeable in law and is strategic in his advice."* *"Justin is really approachable, he understands the pressure that we are working under."*

"Justin is fantastic. He is energetic, gets into the detail and thinks about issues and debates, he doesn't just pass onto counsel." **John-Paul Cashen** is based in Melbourne and operates across the media spectrum, offering particularly extensive experience in the handling of defamation, suppression order and freedom of information-related mandates. **Strengths:** *"John-Paul is an exceptional media lawyer who combines technical proficiency with a clear understanding of client business needs."* *"He is switched on, enthusiastic and always professional. He advocates for his clients forcefully and considers complicated issues carefully and thoughtfully."* *"He is really knowledgeable, energetic, enthusiastic and very responsive."*

Marlia Saunders is a sought-after media lawyer based in Sydney. She is experienced in handling defamation cases, non-publication and suppression orders and in providing pre-publication advice. **Strengths:** *"Marlia is a very good tech lawyer and has an in-depth understanding of relevant laws and procedures in the area. She is very skilled in understanding and applying new defamation laws."* *"An excellent all-round service."* *"She is an extremely skilled practitioner, both in knowledge and technical expertise."* *"Marlia is positioning herself as one of Sydney's top media litigators. She acts for media companies in a range of matters and has a meticulous approach to her matters."*

Mark Featham is well known for his work in the telecommunications space, where he advises on a wide range of contractual, regulatory and competition-related matters, including the rollout of 5G technology, large-scale customer agreements and privacy issues.

Webb Henderson

What the team is known for Webb Henderson maintains a leading, Sydney-based telecommunications regulatory offering with a wealth of experience advising on national and overseas projects. It advises key telecommunications companies on strategic corporate and commercial transactions.

The law firm is adept in such areas as super-fast broadband, data and privacy issues, and 'smart city' projects, and it regularly exports its expertise to assist with major projects, such as submarine cable infrastructure projects, and law reforms in South-East Asia and the Middle East. Key clients include Spark, nbn and HyperOne.

Strengths

"The firm is made up of excellent specialist telco regulatory lawyers."

"They are very commercial and very client-centric. They are able to deal with conventional matters but also novel matters."

Work highlights Webb Henderson advised Lumen on the licensing and other regulatory requirements applicable across multiple jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region.

Notable practitioners

Angus Henderson stands out for his in-depth knowledge of the telecommunications landscape, not only in Australasia, but also across a large part of South-East Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. His expertise is particularly highly regarded where regulatory questions are concerned. **Strengths:** *"Angus is an especially fantastic, tremendous telco adviser."* **Ara Margossian** handles high-profile telecommunications-related matters for public and private sector players in Australia, the wider Asia-Pacific region and beyond. He has high visibility on transactions generally, and on those relating to undersea cable systems in particular. **Strengths:** *"Substantively, Ara is unmatched. He is 100% a premier resource for us himself. He is also very well connected in the region and has a sterling international reputation among other practitioners in other countries."*

Ish Omar stands out for his mastery of the issues attending major telecommunications projects. He advises extensively on such matters as the rollout of new products, wholesale contractual issues and regulatory questions. **Strengths:** *"He has supported us on a wide range of matters, and he consistently provides practical and pragmatic advice, always in a timely fashion, and most importantly for me in a form that is useful and understandable by the business units that I support. He is our go-to external lawyer and I highly recommend him."* *"He is exceptionally pragmatic and commercially focused. No matter how busy he is, he has a very calm and calming manner and is able to work through problems and outline challenges. He knows how to get to a solution and instantly instil confidence in anyone he talks to."* *"His approach is innovative and he is able to solve novel problems."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Damien Bailey (see p.230) of King & Spalding offers telecommunications sector expertise which covers not only the Australian market, but also those of Asia and the Middle East. His experience of advising on major transactional and contractual mandates stretches back more than 20 years and embraces work for both public and private sector clients. He is based in Sydney.

Strengths:

"He is excellent and is very good with client relationships."

Patrick Fair is a Sydney-based sole practitioner who brings both impressive academic qualifications and the benefits of some 30 years' legal experience to his work in the TMT sector, where he is particularly well known for his handling of telecommunications mandates. He advises a range of digital and satellite service providers and mobile operators and is a prominent expert on data governance and communications security issues.

Patrick George is based in Sydney, has practised in the reputational risk space for over 35 years and is the author of the standard text on Australian defamation law. He is particularly well known for his representation of leading politicians, including former Commonwealth prime ministers, and of noted sporting bodies.

Richard Leder stands out for his involvement in some of Australia's highest-profile defamation cases and also advises extensively on regulatory

issues in the media sphere. He is based in Melbourne.

Brett Oaten, founder and principal of Brett Oaten Solicitors, has represented leading artists and producers in Australia's entertainment scene and other creative businesses on media sector issues for 30 years. Interviewees regularly single him out as one of Australia's leading entertainment lawyers, particularly where matters musical are concerned.

White-Collar Crime & Corporate Investigations

White-Collar Crime & Corporate Investigations
Leading Firms
Band 1
Allens
Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 2
Allen & Overy LLP
Arnold Bloch Leibler
Ashurst
Clayton Utz
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Johnson Winter Slattery
Band 3
Baker McKenzie
King & Wood Mallesons
Norton Rose Fulbright
Band 4
Clifford Chance
DLA Piper Australia
Jones Day
MinterEllison
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Allens

What the team is known for Allens maintains an experienced practice, widely acknowledged for its sophisticated offering that spans a broad range of white-collar crime issues and corporate investigations, including expertise in risk management and compliance issues, transactional due diligence and support in regulatory and criminal investigations. The firm is notably active counselling clients on the effective conduct of their own internal inquiries. It is well versed in dealing with corporate regulators and the Australian Federal Police, and backed by an ability to tap into a global network of similarly specialised practitioners. Key clients of the firm include Aware Super, Macquarie Bank and KB Securities.

Strengths

"The Allens corporate investigations team is strong strategically. They are able to balance that strategy

White-Collar Crime & Corporate Investigations
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Nicolson Rachel Allens
Wyld Robert Johnson Winter Slattery
Band 2
Eastwood Andrew Herbert Smith Freehills
Farrant Georgie Baker McKenzie
Ford Susanna Arnold Bloch Leibler
Foster Guy Allens
Gray Jason Allen & Overy LLP
John Rani Ashurst
Macknay Elizabeth Herbert Smith Freehills
McGregor Abigail Norton Rose Fulbright
Sutherland Anna Herbert Smith Freehills
Wootton Jacqueline Herbert Smith Freehills
Band 3
Freeman Ross MinterEllison
Grave Tim Clifford Chance
Haig Peter Allens
Meagher Tobin Clayton Utz
Mitchell John Arnold Bloch Leibler
Phillips Craig Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Band 4
Allen Ben Dentons (ORL) ◇
Caton Natalie DLA Piper Australia *
Gill Abigail Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Mangioni Robert Watson Mangioni (ORL) ◇
Milner Jonathan Arnold Bloch Leibler
Up-and-coming individuals
Scott Kirsten Johnson Winter Slattery

with the details."

"Allens has a highly skilled and deeply experienced financial crime team with industry-leading expertise."

Work highlights Allens acted for Aware Super and its subsidiary Aware Financial Services Australia in an ASIC civil penalty proceeding concerning 'Fees for No Service' conduct.

Notable practitioners

Rachel Nicolson is a leading figure in the market who frequently acts for clients on investigations and disputes. She also provides regulatory and due diligence advice. **Strengths:** "Rachel is the ultimate operator. She is completely across legal

touch-points, commercial triggers and complicated overlays." **Guy Foster** is widely respected as a leading litigator who assists clients with disputes and investigations relating to allegations of corruption and bribery. **Peter Haig** has a broad range of expertise relating to anti-bribery and anti-money laundering law, frequently assisting clients in relation to investigations, inquiries and prosecutions. **Strengths:** "When the pressure is on, you're in safe hands with Peter – a strategic thinker and effective communicator."

Herbert Smith Freehills

What the team is known for Herbert Smith Freehills commands general market endorsement as one of the leading players in this space, drawing on its combination of national and regional experience and global capability. The law firm advises businesses and individuals subject to investigations and actions brought by the Australian Federal Police and Independent Commission Against Corruption, as well as full risk identification and compliance services. The team forms part of one of the largest white-collar crime practices in the Asia-Pacific region and is especially highly valued for its expertise in China-related mandates, underpinned by constant interaction with the firm's leading Greater China anti-corruption practice.

Strengths

"They have exceptional depth and breadth in their team. They are always able to refer between the areas of the firm so that we can get the most up-to-date and high-quality advice."

"They are a very sophisticated outfit. Partners have great breadth and strategic and commercial acumen, as well as legal ability. They are supported by very strong teams of capable junior lawyers."

Work highlights Herbert Smith Freehills advised AWP Australia on regulatory investigations and civil and criminal proceedings brought by ASIC and CDDP concerning the allegedly false and/or misleading sale of travel insurance.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Eastwood maintains a broad practice and has experience acting for clients in relation to foreign bribery matters and criminal proceed-

ings commenced by regulatory bodies. **Elizabeth Macknay** is an established figure in the market who acts for clients on a range of matters relating to corporate crime and investigations, frequently representing clients in the energy and resources sector. **Strengths:** "A very prepared professional with a great ability to analyse the case and solve very complex legal issues." **A nna Sutherland** acts for an impressive clientele including major corporates, whom she assists in relation to a range of matters, such as investigations and criminal exposure. **Jacqueline Wootton** advises on regulatory compliance and risk mitigation, as well as assisting clients on contentious matters. **Strengths:** "She is an extremely technically proficient lawyer. She is also able to communicate effectively to distil complex legal aspects into lay business terms. She always works proactively so that we feel supported and prepared every step of the way."

Band 2

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy fields a specialist practice, prominent in matters with extensive Asian or US FCPA dimensions, often acting in close cooperation with colleagues across the global Allen & Overy network. The team maintains a strong focus on assisting clients with regulatory compliance or enforcement issues or requiring due diligence support on cross-border transactions. It is noted for its especially close acquaintance with the regulatory regimes in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Chrysos and Fortescue Metals are among the firm's key clients.

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised a Japanese global automotive brand on an investigation into allegations of kickbacks and bribery associated with the Tokyo Olympics and the use of a particular intermediary agent.

Notable practitioners

Jason Gray assists clients on a variety of matters, including investigations and compliance with anti-bribery and corruption regulation. **Strengths:** "Jason is fantastic. He's super responsive, helpful and thoughtful. As someone we could rely on for a well-thought-through and sensible steer in a touchy and sensitive factual situation, his service was excellent."

Arnold Bloch Leibler

What the team is known for Arnold Bloch Leibler is noted for its well-regarded white-collar crime practice group that includes experts in anti-bribery and corruption mandates. The team offers experience advising senior executives and employees in relation to Australian Federal Police investigations into the bribery of foreign officials and other international bribery schemes, and representing clients in foreign bribery criminal proceedings. It also acts for corporates on disputes and investigations. The practice's particular areas of expertise include cases relating to infrastructure projects and the energy and natural resources sector.

Strengths

"In engaging lawyers on complex matters where there is a high degree of uncertainty, it is important that the lawyers are not siloed and can handle a broad range of problems. ABL has that depth and breadth of capability."

"They are able to convert complex legal situations into practical commercial advice and solutions."

Work highlights Arnold Bloch Leibler defended David Savage, the former COO of Leighton Holdings, in criminal charges related to his alleged role in the international Unaoil scandal, involving claims of bribing senior officials in oil-producing nations to secure contracts.

Notable practitioners

Susanna Ford is an active practitioner in the market, frequently assisting senior executives and other individuals in relation to anti-bribery investigations and prosecutions. **Strengths:** "She is an excellent litigator with a strong track record."

John Mitchell is well regarded as a litigator with substantial experience acting for clients on foreign bribery matters. **Jonathan Milner** is well reputed for his practice advising executives and corporate clients on foreign bribery and corporate crime matters.

Ashurst

What the team is known for Ashurst has a well-respected practice, fielding established expertise in the anti-bribery, fraud and corporate crime spaces. Its clients include corporates and individual executives coming from a variety of sectors, including energy and financial services. The firm demonstrates the ability to act on cross-border matters, assisted by its international network of offices, including in Papua New Guinea. Its key clients include Noumi, Societe Generale Securities and Rio Tinto.

Strengths

"They are very good – very responsive, detail-focused and a very safe pair of hands for regulatory investigations. They are capable of handling matters."

Work highlights Ashurst acted for Noumi in an ASIC investigation and subsequent civil proceedings concerning accounting irregularities connected with the treatment of obsolete inventory, aged debtors, recognition of revenue and other conduct by the former CEO and COO.

Notable practitioners

Rani John is a well-regarded litigator with a wealth of experience advising clients on anti-bribery and corporate crime investigations and prosecutions.

Strengths: "Rani is a machine. She is dedicated to her job, extremely hard-working, and goes above and beyond. She knows the field very well and is very experienced and responsive."

Clayton Utz

What the team is known for Clayton Utz is recognised for its thorough coverage of all practice area disciplines, with a strong emphasis on risk management with regard to internal governance and policy, transactional due diligence and compliance with relevant regulatory regimes. The team frequently assists clients with anti-bribery enforcement investigations and proceedings. It is noted for its versatile business sector range, including agribusiness, energy and resources,

financial services and logistics. It has significant cross-border expertise relevant to Australian Federal Police and foreign law enforcement agency investigations, underpinned by a network of associations with leading firms around the world.

Strengths

"Clayton Utz has a number of strengths which make them well placed to act in the most complex of white-collar and corporate investigation matters. They have several partners with deep expertise and a culture whereby the partners are embedded and provide direct leadership. They have long experience running complex cases at trial, which is essential in ensuring the early stages of investigations are appropriately planned and to ensure success if litigation becomes necessary."

"They have a good breadth of subject matter experts. Their advice always considers the commercial implications of our business."

Work highlights Clayton Utz represented Rentokil Initial before the Federal Court of Australia in proceedings brought against a former employee to recover approximately AUD3.4 million paid out to them due to a fraudulent scheme involving the creation of false invoices.

Notable practitioners

Tobin Meagher assists clients with complex disputes and regulatory investigations, as well as compliance with anti-bribery and corruption regulation. **Strengths:** "He comes to a practical solution when a client faces exposure in more than one jurisdiction. This level of expertise is invaluable and distinguishes him in the Australian field."

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

What the team is known for Corrs Chambers Westgarth fields a versatile practice noted for white-collar crime-related expertise in sectors such as construction, energy and resources, and financial services, handling both investigatory and compliance issues. The firm often acts on matters involving allegations of bribery, corruption and misconduct. It is also noted for its independence from global structures and consequent freedom to partner with a wide range of international firms on cross-border mandates. Clients include international corporates, major banks and accounting firms, such as ME Bank, Google and Robodebt Commonwealth Royal Commission.

Strengths

"The attorneys are extremely knowledgeable, supportive, detail-oriented and can effectively and efficiently handle very complex matters."

"The Corrs team are, as a whole, extremely reliable, responsive to client requests and queries, and highly skilled at managing large-scale investigations and proceedings."

Work highlights Corrs Chambers Westgarth advised ME Bank on the prosecution of charges in the Federal Court of Australia regarding false or misleading representations in connection with the supply of financial services.

Notable practitioners

Craig Phillips is well regarded in the market as a leading litigator in the white-collar crime and corporate investigations space, often acting for clients on investigations and proceedings involving regulatory bodies. **Abigail Gill** is a respected practitioner who often acts for clients on investi-

gations involving allegations of bribery, corruption and other corporate criminal issues. **Strengths:** “Abigail is well versed on applying the law in a commercial context. She is experienced in a broad range of issues.”

Johnson Winter Slattery

What the team is known for Johnson Winter Slattery fields a specialist group with a dedicated white-collar crime focus and broad expertise covering both Australia and numerous foreign jurisdictions. The team handles investigatory briefs and prosecutions. It also advises on policy design, coordinating as appropriate with relevant practices within the firm and international partners. The firm acts extensively for clients across a wide range of sectors including the energy and resources sector and manufacturing and finance sectors. The firm also acts individual directors and officers and is sought out by overseas regulatory authorities to assist with the development of their own anti-corruption guidelines. Its key clients include the International Bar Association and the Australian Securities & Investments Commission.

Strengths

“They are pragmatic and practical and suggest ways to deal with roadblocks. They have relationships with the regulator and can get in front of the right people.”

“They have exceptionally talented individuals and are a great pleasure to know and work with.”

Work highlights Johnson Winter Slattery represented Gladys Berejiklian, former premier of New South Wales, in NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption’s ‘Operation Keppel’ inquiry into allegations she acted improperly while Treasurer of NSW.

Notable practitioners

Robert Wyld is highly respected as a leading figure in white-collar crime and is particularly noted for his expertise with regard to international issues relating to bribery and corruption.

Strengths: “In my opinion, Robert is the leading lawyer in Australia for FCPA issues.” **Kirsten Scott** advises clients on investigations into a wide range of white-collar crimes such as fraud, bribery and corruption, and ESG investigations. She is well regarded for both her background as a former senior Commonwealth prosecutor and her experience in the natural resources sector. **Strengths:** “She brings a real skill to corporate crime as she was a former federal prosecutor.”

Band 3

Baker McKenzie

What the team is known for Baker McKenzie has a well-regarded white-collar crime and corporate investigations practice with long-established expertise, both domestically and as part of the firm’s global network, frequently acting on matters with cross-border elements. The firm offers comprehensive coverage of both compliance and enforcement briefs and is recognised for its knowledge of the US white-collar crime scene. It is frequently involved in the writing and publication of guides, updates and training materials on the subject of anti-bribery and corruption regu-

lation, and is active in the development of readily accessible online applications to assist in interactions with regulatory authorities or facilitate the harmonisation of compliance policies.

Strengths

“Baker McKenzie has a very experienced white-collar crime team. They offer a superior service level with proactive responsiveness.”

“They dedicate the time and resources to ensuring the complete support of clients.”

Work highlights Baker McKenzie acted for Mastercard on proceedings filed by ACCC alleging misuse of market power, exclusive dealing and anti-competitive conduct concerning its arrangements with more than 20 major retail businesses, including supermarkets, fast food chains and clothing retailers.

Notable practitioners

Georgie Farrant is highly regarded as an anti-bribery and anti-corruption lawyer who frequently assists both domestic and multinational clients on investigations, civil and criminal proceedings and compliance. **Strengths:** “She is an exceptional attorney with detailed knowledge of subject areas attendant to my business needs.”

King & Wood Mallesons

What the team is known for King & Wood Mallesons advises extensively on compliance and due diligence issues, regularly acting for leading financial services providers, and benefits from its international network, particularly its respected China-related capability. It is noted for its capability in advising on anti-bribery and corruption issues arising from M&A transactions, as well as corrupt practices and proceeds of crime investigations.

Strengths

“Their practitioners are dedicated to achieving sensible outcomes with a detailed understanding of legal positions.”

Notable practitioners

Edwina Kwan is a key contact for clients.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright offers comprehensive coverage across internal investigatory, compliance and training support as well as in response to enforcement action. It is backed by an international network and connections to particularly deep resources of US and UK-related white-collar crime expertise. The firm is regularly engaged by high-profile public and private sector clients, frequently on cross-jurisdictional assignments, and offers specialised expertise in issues concerning individual company directors and officers.

Strengths

“NRF’s particular strengths are being personable and clear in communication, great client service – responsive, commercial and considered – and consistency of services and approach across offices and lawyers in Australia.”

“They have a good depth of expertise and team members and a quick turnaround time with commercial answers.”

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright acted for ASIC on its proceeding against 11 directors and officers of The Star Entertainment Group,

which operates casinos in New South Wales and Queensland, for allegedly breaching their duties by not having proper regard for the risks of money laundering and criminal associations.

Notable practitioners

Abigail McGregor is recognised for her expertise in business ethics and anti-corruption matters. She advises businesses on investigations concerning anti-bribery, corrupt conduct and risk assessments.

Band 4

Clifford Chance

What the team is known for Clifford Chance has an established practice with substantial experience advising clients on corporate investigations, white-collar crime and anti-bribery and anti-fraud programmes. It frequently acts with regard to matters involving regulatory bodies such as ASIC, the AFP and the CDPP. The team fields expertise from offices in both Sydney and Perth and is able to draw on the firm’s global network to further assist clients.

Strengths

“The whole team has real depth and expertise, as well as being commercially astute, having strategic acumen and being pleasant and approachable to deal with.”

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised an energy company on its response to a greenwashing complaint made to a regulator and Advertising Standards Australia over information published on its website regarding net zero targets and other climate-related disclosures.

Notable practitioners

Tim Grave acts for clients both on regulatory investigations and with regard to advice on anti-bribery and corruption programmes. **Strengths:** “He’s very commercial, well considered and measured but able to be assertive when required.”

DLA Piper Australia

What the team is known for DLA Piper has a notable practice acting for clients on investigations and proceedings relating to allegations of fraud, corruption and bribery. It also advises on matters relating to anti-bribery and corruption and whistle-blower programmes. The firm counts international corporates among its clientele, as well as regulatory bodies such as ASIC and the ACCC, which it assists on the running of investigations and prosecutions.

Strengths

“They are responsive and understand what the client needs. They also have great partners and good-quality juniors involved.”

“They have great client service and give so many value-adds. They work with me around my internal stresses to make sure they stay as a trusted adviser.”

Notable practitioners

Natalie Caton (see p.231) acts for clients on a variety of matters relating to white-collar crime and investigations, including investigations into allegations of fraud and corruption and whistle-blower complaints. **Strengths:** “She’s very talented and very easy to get on with.”

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day is noted for its well-regarded practice group backed by closely integrated global resources and noted for its particular familiarity with US practice. It acts primarily on investigatory or other representational mandates with cross-jurisdictional aspects, and is particularly experienced in the construction, engineering, and energy and resources sectors.

Notable practitioners

Steven Fleming is a key contact for clients.

MinterEllison

What the team is known for MinterEllison has experience in both compliance and transactional support mandates, and assisting with investi-

gations into alleged instances of both individual and corporate misconduct. The firm additionally offers deep familiarity with the procedures of Australia's key regulatory authorities and often advises clients on matters relating to corporate crime. ASIC, Dexus and Westpac are among the firm's key clients.

Work highlights MinterEllison represented ASIC in proceedings in the Federal Court against Nuix for alleged continuous disclosure breaches and misleading or deceptive conduct.

Notable practitioners

Ross Freeman often handles investigations relating to alleged bribery and corporate crime, and his clients include corporates and individual executives.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Ben Allen of Dentons acts for a range of clients, both domestic and international, on anti-bribery and corruption compliance and investigations.

Robert Mangioni of Watson Mangioni is a respected litigator who is recognised for his work on fraud, insider trading and corruption matters. He is noted for his representation of high-profile individuals, as well as corporate clients.

Leaders' Profiles in Australia**ALTIPARMAK, Emin**

Allens, Melbourne

Featured in Private Equity (Australia)

Practice Areas: Emin is Allens' Private Capital Sector Leader and is a highly regarded PE M&A Partner who advises sponsors and other financial investors on takeovers, private M&A and other complex transactions. Emin is well known for execution skills, particularly his commerciality, responsiveness and relationship-driven approach. He is also highly experienced in foreign investment (FIRB) and warranty & indemnity (W&I) insurance matters. His PE clients include KKR, Blackstone, BGH Capital and Livingbridge. His broader private capital clients include Morrison & Co, Morgan Stanley Infrastructure Partners, Future Fund, Rest and NZ Super. Emin has previously worked at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett in New York and London, and the Australian Takeovers Panel.

BAILEY, Damien

King & Spalding, Singapore
DBailey@kslaw.com

Featured in TMT (Australia)

Practice Areas: Damien Bailey focuses on corporate and commercial transactions in the technology, media and telecommunications sector. He advises global telecom and technology companies, governments, and companies across multiple sectors on a wide range of matters including digital infrastructure projects, joint ventures, transformational projects and new technologies. Mr. Bailey works across a number of jurisdictions in Asia Pacific and the Middle East on both inbound and outbound investments in the telecoms and technology sector, as well as regional and global sourcing and transformational projects in a range of industries. He also provides regulatory advice and navigates regulatory

environments where the technology is ahead of the regulations, which often requires engagement with regulators and making submissions on behalf of clients.

BAJAJ, Gitanjali

DLA Piper Australia, Sydney

61 2 9286 8000

gitanjali.bajaj@dlapiper.com

Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/b/bajaj-gitanjali> for further information.

BANNISTER, Natalie

Hall & Wilcox, Melbourne

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Featured in Real Estate (Australia)

Practice Areas: Natalie lead's Hall & Wilcox's Commercial practice (which includes litigation, corporate and commercial, tax, employment, private clients, banking and finance and property and projects) and has broad experience across many areas of commercial law. Natalie also has close to 20 years' experience in property, planning and environment law. She acts primarily for institutional clients, utility providers, property developers and large companies. Her experience includes property due diligence, sales and acquisitions; commercial and retail leasing including managing national property portfolios; land contamination including compliance, risk allocation and liability, management and clean-up; obtaining development approvals; planning advice and compliance (including in respect of Aboriginal and European Heritage, native vegetation, traffic, noise, flooding and water quality impacts); rates and land tax objections; compulsory acquisition of land and compensation and property disputes and advice about easements, rights of way and adverse

possession. She regularly acts as an advocate before VCAT and at planning panel hearings.

BARRY, Tom

Young's List, Melbourne

tbarry@vicbar.com.au

Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Career: Tom acted recently for: Cargill in an 8 day appeal, as senior junior to Steven Finch SC and Philip Solomon KC (judgment reserved), and in a 114 day Supreme Court trial for which his client was awarded judgment of more than \$290m for misleading or deceptive conduct and deceit in the sale of a business; Fonterra Australia in a class action arising from the step down of the farm gate milk price; and The State of Victoria in Thorpe v Head, Transport for Victoria, successfully defending a challenge to a major transport project (the Sacred Trees case). Prior to coming to the Bar, Tom was a Senior Lawyer at Gilbert + Tobin and a Senior Associate at Corrs Chambers Westgarth. Tom is the Chair of an aged care facility for residents with a background in homelessness, and has sat on not for profit boards and sub-committees since 2011. He lectured economics at the University of Melbourne in 2007 and 2008 and tutored law at Newman College and economics at five residential colleges as an undergraduate.

BERNASCONI, Rachel

Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Sydney

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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Practice Areas: Rachel is best known for taking a lead role in representing some of Australia's leading organisations in high-profile disputes brought on by highly unionised workforces. A strategic thinker, Rachel is often called upon to provide business-critical employment law counselling to major

Australian and multinational companies. She works closely with large organisations, in relation to both blue-collar and white-collar workforces, to find solutions that meet their strategic aims whilst minimising their employment law risks. Recently, Rachel assisted a large corporate client navigate a difficult change management process, which included defending litigation by unions; securing a termination of protected industrial action by the Fair Work Commission on safety grounds; and successfully pursued former employees for breaches of post-employment obligations. Rachel has completed courses in strategy, management and negotiation at Harvard University. **Career:** With 25 years' experience working with leading employers, Rachel is sought out by employers in professional and corporate services, labour hire, transportation, maritime, tourism and pharmaceutical industries to address complex industrial relations matters, resolve contentious disputes and enterprise bargaining, and assist in closing out difficult employee issues such as complaints, claims and contested terminations.

Professional Memberships: Law Society of New South Wales

Publications: www.workplacelawandstrategy.com.au

BOYLE, Nicholas

DLA Piper Australia, Sydney

Featured in TMT (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/b/boyle-nicholas> for further information.

CAMBRELL, Natalie

KHQ Lawyers, Melbourne

ncambrell@khq.com.au

Featured in Investment Funds (Australia)

Practice Areas: Natalie Cambrell heads KHQ Lawyers' Superannuation & Financial Services team. She has prac-

tised exclusively in the superannuation industry since 1997 and has developed an extensive and loyal client base during her career. She has an enviable reputation for her in-depth knowledge in this highly regulated and complex practice area, and for her clear, commercial astute advice. She is a sought-after speaker and contributor to industry debate and legal newsletters, including speaking at the Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees webinar on the Your Future, Your Super legislation and writing on the proposed new best financial interests duty published in the LexisNexis Australian Superannuation Law Bulletin. With consolidation in the superannuation industry over recent years, Natalie has worked on a large number of successor fund transfers involving a wide range of issues. Her deep legal expertise, clear communication style and commercial approach is appreciated by her clients. In addition to her law qualifications, Natalie holds an ASFA Diploma of Superannuation Management. She is the Chair of the Superannuation Committee of the Law Council of Australia, a member of the Association of Superannuation Funds of Australia and is on the editorial panel of the Australian Superannuation Law Bulletin published by LexisNexis.

CAMPION, Meredith

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Featured in Capital Markets (Australia)

Practice Areas: Meredith practices in the areas of Corporate, Commercial and Energy and Resources Law and has advised on a wide range of commercial transactions including takeovers, mergers, acquisitions, disposals, capital raisings, joint ventures and mining operational agreements. She has conducted comprehensive compliance and due diligence programs in those areas. Meredith has considerable experience in offshore transactions, having advised on a number of AIM, LSE, TSX and JSE listings and offshore capital raisings. She also advises on acquisitions and raisings by foreign entities in Australia.

CATANZARITI, Rick

DLA Piper Australia, Sydney
03 9274 5810
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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/c/catanzariti-rick> for further information.

CATON, Natalie

DLA Piper Australia, Brisbane
61 7 3246 4161
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Featured in White-Collar Crime & Corporate Investigations (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/c/caton-natalie> for further information.

CHOY FLANNIGAN, Alison

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Featured in Life Sciences (Australia)

Practice Areas: With over 25 years of corporate, commercial and regulatory experience, Alison has specialised in advising clients in the health, aged care, disability, life sciences and community sectors. Alison leads the firm's Health & Community industry group. Her clients include public and private hospital operators and health care providers, private health insurers, biotechnology, pharmaceutical and aged care/retirement living, NDIS and not-for-profit and government clients. Alison appreciates that issues for health care providers often require urgent attention and she makes herself available to her clients whenever needed. Alison has a passion and dedication to the sector which goes way beyond just being a lawyer in private practice – she strives to become the trusted advisor of her clients. As a result, Alison has nurtured long-term client relationships, some over 17 years. She also provides ongoing support for various industry associations and has enthusiastically taken positions within the Industry. View Alison's full bio here: <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/alison-choy-flannigan/>

CLARK, Andrew

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+613 8486 8010
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Featured in Infrastructure (Australia)

Practice Areas: To read more, visit: whitecase.com/people/andrew-clark

CLARKE, Langton

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Featured in Investment Funds (Australia)

Practice Areas: Langton brings extensive experience across all aspects of the funds management and agribusiness industries to HW Funds, the market leading investment funds advisory team at Hall & Wilcox. Langton previously lead the award-winning specialist Funds Management team at McMahon Clarke (which joined Hall & Wilcox in 2023). He has extensive expertise in investment vehicles seeking to raise capital from the retail and wholesale sectors. Langton advises both start up enterprises and long-established businesses about raising new capital or debt, establishing investment opportunities, and restructuring existing businesses and investment projects. Read more about Langton's experience here <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/langton-clarke/>

COCHRANE, Cynthia QC

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Australia)

COUPER, Simon QC

North Quarter Lane Chambers,
Brisbane
scouper@qldbar.asn.au

Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Career: Year of Call: 1983 Year of Silk: 1993

Professional Memberships:

Member of the Bar Association of Queensland

CUTRONE, Paul

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61 2 8256 0427
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Featured in Health & Safety (Australia)

Practice Areas: Paul assists clients with their health, safety, and environmental legal risks and impacts. This includes working with clients to identify opportunities to proactively manage challenges, as well as being responsive to a crisis and minimising the consequences. Paul is a sought-after advisor to a number of the world's largest companies, providing strategic advice to boards that help to shape their safety frameworks or to tactically manage their legal risks. His advice extends to international cross-border health and safety, supply chain management, transport safety, and environmental legal risk management. During a crisis, investigation, or prosecution, Paul draws on his unique and extensive experience derived from his successful legal outcomes to provide insight and often much-needed judgement and advice in difficult circumstances. Paul enjoys working with his Seyfarth colleagues both in Australia and internationally, and is energised by the tremendous depth of talent they offer.

Career: Paul Cutrone is one of Australia's leading workplace safety lawyers. He is best known for his ability to combine keen insight with practical advice about legal compliance, risk management, investigations, enforcement action and legal proceedings. For more than 25 years, Paul has worked with clients to successfully identify, manage, and respond to their health and safety risks. He is committed to improving practices in health and safety globally, and has supported some of the world's largest employers in a single country as well as providing cross-border advice. Paul is also recognised as an expert in health and safety law throughout the Asia Pacific region and other global regions such as North and South America and Europe. He has provided legal counsel to clients on health and safety obligations in those different regions. **Professional Memberships:** The Law Society of New South Wales **Publications:** www.workplacelawandstrategy.com.au

DAWSON, Sophie

Bird & Bird, Sydney
61292269888
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Featured in TMT (Australia)

Career: Sophie is head of Bird & Bird's Dispute Resolution practice in Australia and specialises in media and technology advice and disputes. Her work has included complex IT&T disputes including in relation to software projects, and intellectual property issues. This work includes acting for leading computer games publishers in relation to unauthorised game mods. She has acted for leading media companies over

more than two decades in defamation, copyright and other disputes. She regularly provides pre-publication advice to media and internet clients. Privacy is a key part of her practice. She has assisted high profile clients with submissions in relation to each of the privacy law reform processes since 2000, including the current reform processes. She regularly supports clients who have suffered data breaches, including as part of the Bird & Bird cross-border team which supports clients across national borders. She also regularly advises on privacy compliance, including in the specialist media and cloud computing contexts. She is also experienced in advising on surveillance law compliance. **Professional Memberships:** Communications and Media Law Association (Executive team); Advisory Board Centre for Media Transition **Publications:** Sophie is a co-author of Thomson Reuter's Media & Internet Law & Practice.

DE ZILVA, Aldrin

White & Case LLP, Sydney
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Featured in Tax (Australia)

Practice Areas: To read more, visit: whitecase.com/people/aldrin-de-zilva

DEARDEN, Aaron

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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Practice Areas: Aaron is the section leader of the firm's national Employment & Workplace Relations practice. Aaron has extensive employment and industrial relations law experience working with clients across a range of industries. Specifically, Aaron specialises in enterprise bargaining, industrial strategies and disputes, disciplinary and performance matters, independent contractor claims, corporate restructuring and outsourcing, managing ill and injured workers, breach of contract claims, and enforcement of restraints of trade. Aaron acts for prominent Australian and international companies. His experience spans many industries including, in particular, transport, mining, and manufacturing. Aaron also regularly appears as an advocate for employer clients in employment-related litigation such as unfair dismissal and adverse action claims in courts and tribunals. View Aaron's full bio here: <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/aaron-dearden/>

DEGOTARDI, Jennifer

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Featured in Real Estate (Australia)

Practice Areas: Jennifer is a real estate partner with extensive experience in all aspects of commercial property law. In particular, she acts for clients in the government, financial services, transport and infrastructure sectors. Jennifer provides advice on a diverse range of issues including title and de-

velopment issues relating to infrastructure projects and other government developments, rail corridor access, property management outsourcing, acquisitions and disposals (including in relation to compulsory acquisitions by agreement), leasing and other land access arrangements. Jennifer has a pragmatic and solutions focussed approach to her matters. Clients benefit from her efficient and effective management of their legal matters and her consistent drive to innovate to improve the delivery of legal services.

DENISENKO, Jason
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Featured in Financial Services Regulation (Australia), Investment Funds (Australia)

Practice Areas: Jason specialises in the structuring and provision of a wide range of financial products and services to wholesale and retail clients. Jason is an expert on financial services regulatory matters including financial services licensing, marketing and distribution of financial products.

DORNEY, Kristy
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Featured in Real Estate (Australia)

Practice Areas: Kristy has over 20 years' experience advising the property investment industry with a focus on development and construction projects, leasing and tenant disputes, and property management generally. She advises property investors, fund managers, asset and property managers, developers, and financiers on matters such as joint venture arrangements, development management agreements, fund through arrangements, construction contracts and regulatory compliance, tripartite agreements, solar installation, cladding remediation, embedded network compliance, retail shop lease legislation compliance, sustainability matters and redevelopment projects, including tenant management, relocation, and dispute resolution. Kristy regularly advises on enforcement of leases, construction contracts, and other real estate contracts. Her experience also includes construction and real estate disputes. Kristy is a member of the Property Council of Australia Queensland Commercial Office Committee, the Queensland Law Society Construction & Infrastructure Law Committee, and the Australian Restructuring Insolvency Turnaround Association. In 2022, she chaired the Property Council of Australia subcommittee for the review of developers in Queensland. Read more about Kristy's experience here <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/kristy-dorney/>

DOWD, Graydon
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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Practice Areas: Graydon acts on behalf of a number of national and overseas clients on large and complex

commercial litigation matters and advises on all aspects of dispute resolution. He has particular expertise in contract disputes, negligence cases, regulatory matters including ASIC and ACCC investigations, coronial inquests and commissions, and product liability. He has advised clients in both the private and public sector. Clients appreciate Graydon's organised and commercial approach to strategic planning and the implementation of tactics which help them achieve their strategic objectives. This has resulted in a track record of resolving disputes through negotiation and mediation, providing effective and timely commercial outcomes for clients. Graydon represents his clients in mediations, arbitrations and contested hearings in the Federal Court, State Supreme Courts, County Court and various tribunals. View Aaron's full bio here: <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/graydon-dowd/>

DRAPER, Joanne
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Featured in Infrastructure (Australia)

Practice Areas: To read more, visit: whitecase.com/people/joanne-draper

DUDLEY, Ben
Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Sydney
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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Practice Areas: Ben is best known for advising clients on business-critical employment and industrial litigation, applying his expertise to client strategy. Motivated by high-risk and high-value industrial relations and employment challenges, Ben is sought out by clients in a range of industries including aviation, retail, transportation, stevedoring, media and energy. Ben advises leading organisations in relation to industrial disputes and industrial action, union and employee-related litigation, restructuring, redundancy and workplace change programs. Most recently, Ben has represented clients in restraint of trade litigation and high-profile and contentious bargaining disputes.

Career: Ben joined Seyfarth in 2013 as a founding partner in Australia. Having practised for more than 20 years assisting leading employers in handling complex employment and industrial matters, clients have come to rely on Ben's broad experience, high degree of technical knowledge, formidable litigation skills, and practical approach to solving problems. Ben is particularly adept at helping clients successfully deal with contentious collective bargaining, individual employment disputes, and post-employment restraint of trade issues. He has: • Successfully represented large employers in proceedings against unions relating to unlawful industrial action. • Successfully defended a number of law firm partners from restraint of trade proceedings commenced by their former firm. • Advised and represented numerous large employers in enterprise

bargaining projects, including numerous media organisations, by providing strategic industrial relations advice in the face of protracted and contentious negotiations. • Represented numerous employers in award review proceedings. • Advised large employers on sensitive workplace conduct and behaviour investigations. • Advised non-sensitive senior executive and senior leadership team issues, including negotiated departures. • Advised on complex wage compliance projects.

Professional Memberships: Law Society of New South Wales
Publications: www.workplacelawand-strategy.com.au LexisNexis Annotated Fair Work Act

DUNPHY, Mark
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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Practice Areas: With nearly 30 years' experience, Mark Dunphy's practice encompasses both litigious and non-litigious applications of employment and industrial relations law. He has a solid reputation in the industry for successfully delivering legal services in complex, high risk matters in both the private and public sector and has been involved with advising many of the firm's clients on the myriad of employment issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mark is skilled in dealing with matters involving industrial disputes, industrial strategy, employee discipline, unfair dismissals, adverse action claims, common law disputes, equal opportunity and discrimination and sexual harassment claims. He provides advice on the effect of legislative change on businesses, award interpretation and ramifications and industrial disputes and their implications. He has expertise in drafting and advising on enterprise agreements, providing advice and acting in litigious matters regarding employment contracts and employment audits, and employment related areas of due diligence. View Mark's full bio here: <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/mark-dunphy/>

FLYNN, Chris
White & Case LLP, Sydney
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Featured in Energy & Natural Resources (Australia)

Practice Areas: To read more, visit: whitecase.com/people/christopher-flynn

FRASER, Hamish
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Featured in TMT (Australia)

Practice Areas: Privacy & Data Protection

Career: Hamish is the lead partner of our Australian IT and Communications Groups in Sydney, where our clients are at the cutting edge of legal and regulatory developments in the region. He advises on commercial issues and

regulatory matters for clients in all facets of the information technology and communications industries. Whether buying or supplying IT and communications, he provides detailed advice and contracting experience on digital businesses, software, cloud, distribution, confidentiality, e-commerce, security, IT procurement and outsourcing. He has acted in a number of patent, copyright and trade mark cases. Before joining Bird & Bird, he held a senior legal role at Optus, Australia's number two telecoms carrier, where he was involved in negotiating large scale telecoms supply and acquisition agreements and was the key lawyer responsible for the firm-wide procurement function. In addition, he was involved in regulatory issues, industry code development and was responsible for managing a number of high profile disputes. He also spent a year on internal secondment to the national Managing Director of Optus Business. Over many years, he has been a prominent contributor to public policy discussion in the industry and mainstream press as a result of my extensive practice in convergence, social media, privacy and data protection.

FULLER, Dan
5 Wentworth Chambers, Sydney
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Featured in Employment (Australia)

GALLAGHER, John
DLA Piper Australia, Melbourne
+61 3 9274 5357
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Featured in Construction (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/g/gallagher-john> for further information.

GARDNER, Chris
Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Melbourne
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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Practice Areas: Best recognised for workplace change and enterprise bargaining, Chris' work has seen him at the forefront of engagements that matter, including 'bet the farm' enterprise bargaining negotiation and litigation. Countless high-profile and major employers in Australia have benefited from the pragmatic and solution-oriented advice for which Chris is known. Chris works tirelessly to ensure he gets to know his clients' business objectives and commercial pain points. Chris loves the engagements that really matter for clients, working with business leaders who can best take advantage of his experience. He has a particular passion for advising on workplace strategy, enterprise bargaining and representing employers in union-related litigation. Chris advises leading employers across the full spectrum of labour and employment, most notably in the transportation, security, maritime and construction industries.

Career: For more than 26 years, Chris has advised some of Australia's leading employers on workplace strategy, complex human resources issues, and high-stakes litigation. For

Chris, workplace law is his expertise, but helping businesses achieve their goals is his passion. Recently, Chris has helped employers with developing leading-edge enterprise bargaining agreements; the defence of litigation aimed at preventing operations; limiting the downside of difficult enterprise bargaining negotiations; and proactive litigation aimed at restoring business operations. Chris is regularly sought by the media as a commentator on workplace issues, and regularly contributes to industry publications on topical workplace issues.

Professional Memberships: -

Australian Human Resources Institute - Industrial Relations Society of Victoria
Publications: www.workplacelandstrategy.com.au Industry-based bargaining: the new industrial relations frontier for HR, HRM Online (2023)
 Enterprise Bargaining in Australia: An Employer's Guide

GIANATTI, Chris

KHQ Lawyers, Melbourne
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 cgianatti@khq.com.au

Featured in Employment (Australia)

Career: Chris worked for a number of years with Corrs before moving in-house to Telstra as HR Legal Counsel for the "Factory" (covering Telstra's back of house operations including the field workforce). In that role he was also a key strategic advisor to Telstra's COEs for Workplace Relations, Talent&OD and Remuneration, as well as also being a major advisor to Payroll, Vendor Management and Corporate Security on employment issues. Chris' expertise spans the full range of industrial and employment matters including: project IR, enterprise bargaining and workplace strategy; major disputes and industrial litigation (including good faith litigation, right of entry, protected action and pickets); corporate performance, change management and productivity; executive contracts, remuneration and restraints; employment litigation (including adverse action, unfair dismissal and EEO); OHS and major incident prosecution defences, and workplace surveillance and privacy. Chris regularly appears in the Fair Work Commission, as well as Federal and State courts nationally. While based in Melbourne, his practice often takes him interstate, with his major clients spread across a range of industries including resources, infrastructure, construction, banking, manufacturing, transport, media, professional services and retail. Client feedback typically emphasises Chris' value-driven approach based on genuinely different insight, simple advice and practical outcomes-focused steps.

GRAY, John

Hall & Wilcox, Sydney
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Featured in TMT (Australia)

Practice Areas: John Gray is a senior corporate and commercial lawyer who has specialised in technology and intellectual property law for over 30

years. He is a partner in the Corporate and Commercial team at Hall & Wilcox and leads the firm's Retail & FMCG industry group. John advises clients on commercial transactions and legal disputes in the fields of IT, telecommunications and media. His expertise covers all the legal issues associated with the use of technology in business and government, including licensing, cloud services, outsourcing, privacy and data protection, copyright, branding and e-payments. View John's full bio here: <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/john-gray/>

HARVEY, Belinda

White & Case LLP, Sydney
 belinda.harvey@whitecase.com

Featured in Competition/Antitrust (Australia)

Practice Areas: To read more, visit: whitecase.com/people/belinda-harvey

HEATH, Robert QC

Young's List, Melbourne
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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Career: Robert has more than 24 years' experience in legal practice. He is recognised for his oral advocacy, paperwork, his client skills, versatility and commerciality. He is an experienced advocate in all types of applications, trials and appeals.

Professional Memberships: Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb); Fellow of ACICA; HKIAC List of Arbitrators; SIAC - Member of the Reserve Panel of Arbitrators; and AIAC - Member of the Panel of Arbitrators, Singapore International Mediation Institute (SIMI) accredited mediator.

HOBSON, Tricia

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Featured in Insurance (Australia)

Career: Please see <http://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/h/hobson-tricia> for further information.

HOWARD, Kathryn

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Practice Areas: Kathryn is a senior commercial disputes specialist, having practised in Melbourne, Tokyo and London. Her areas of expertise include commercial disputes, alternative dispute resolution, administrative law and public law. Kathryn's tailored approach maximises the likelihood of avoiding escalation of a dispute. Her dispute resolution expertise is recognised internationally, with Kathryn listed in Who's Who Legal 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (Mediation). Where an early, favorable resolution cannot be achieved, Kathryn conducts efficient and effective management of formal dispute mechanisms, always with a primary eye on her client's objectives and commercial concerns. Kathryn is also a trusted advisor about the intersection of the citizen and the State, advising regularly

on matters concerning statutory rights and obligations.

JAMIESON, Martin

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Featured in Investment Funds (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/j/jamieson-martin> for further information.

JENAWAY, David

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Practice Areas: David has extensive experience in a broad range of high profile disputes, with a particular emphasis on matters arising in the energy and resources, and construction, sectors. He has a particular speciality in relation to disputes throughout the whole life cycle of oil and gas projects.

JONES, Alex

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Featured in Energy & Natural Resources (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/j/jones-alex> for further information.

JONES, Angus

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Featured in Energy & Natural Resources (Australia)

Practice Areas: Angus is a senior commercial lawyer with over 30 years' experience in leading law firms in Australia and London. He specialises in oil & gas and energy matters and projects, including all stages from bidding/exploration, structuring and joint ventures, project development, mergers and acquisitions, sales and marketing, transportation to ongoing operational and commercial matters.

KANABAR, James

Allens, Sydney
 James.Kanabar@allens.com.au

Featured in Investment Funds (Australia)

Practice Areas: James advises clients on investment fund and capital partnership formations, including advising sponsors on fund raising, ongoing fund operation and co-investment arrangements. James has market-leading expertise in the establishment of continuation funds, and also advises sovereign wealth funds, superannuation funds and other institutional investors on fund investments and co-investments in Australia and offshore. James's practice covers a range of alternative assets, with a particular focus on private equity, venture capital, infrastructure, real estate and energy. James is an active participant in industry bodies, including as a longstanding member of the Australian Investment Council's Legal and Tax Advisory Committee.

KANGESON, Gowri

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/k/kangeson-gowri> for further information.

KEEN, Michelle

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Featured in Environment (Australia)

Practice Areas: To read more, visit: whitecase.com/people/michelle-keen

KEMP, Marc

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Featured in Investment Funds (Australia)

Practice Areas: Marc heads Allens' Funds, Superannuation and Wealth practice. He advises Australian and offshore real estate, infrastructure, property, agribusiness, hedge and other fund sponsors on the establishment and restructure of collective investment vehicles, and Australian and offshore institutional investors on their investments in Australian funds and assets. Marc advises clients on the establishment, operation and restructure of investment funds and other financial products, including in response to regulatory reforms and market developments; fund-related capital raisings and M&A transactions; and contractual arrangements with fund service providers and with investors, including consortium arrangements, subscription and unitholder agreements.

KENAVAN, Aaron

Allen & Overy LLP, Sydney
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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Australia)

Practice Areas: Aaron specialises in public and private mergers and acquisitions, equity investments, joint ventures and foreign investment and general corporate advice. He has over 20 years' M&A experience. Aaron brings a commercial perspective to delivering practical solutions and advice to complex transactions.

KENDALL, Emma

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Featured in Investment Funds (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/k/kendall-emma> for further information.

KOCH, Grant

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Australia), Private Equity (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/k/koch-grant> for further information.

LEE, Meg

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Featured in Environment (Australia)

Practice Areas: Meg Lee is a Partner in the firm's Property and Projects team, specialising in planning and environment law. She has over 20 years' experience advising clients in the retail, government, residential, health, industrial, water and energy sectors on planning and environmental assessment and approvals processes, liabilities and statutory regulation for major infrastructure projects including renewable energy projects, extractive industries and water pipelines, including acting in associated VCAT, Panel and Inquiry hearings. Meg is well regarded by her clients, consultants and other professionals as an organised problem-solver, able to explain complex legal issues in plain English. Meg brings a pragmatic perspective to legal problems, connecting and bringing together multi-disciplinary teams needed to manage environmental impacts and development projects. View Meg's full bio here: <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/meg-lee/>

LEEMEN, Mark

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Featured in Capital Markets (Australia)

Practice Areas: Mark is a partner in our international capital markets team in Sydney, advising Australian, New Zealand and Asian issuers and their sponsors and investment banks on cross-border equity and debt capital markets financings.

LEVY, Michelle

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Featured in Financial Services Regulation (Australia), Investment Funds (Australia)

Practice Areas: Michelle specialises in superannuation, life insurance, distribution and financial services law. Michelle's clients include the wealth management areas of each of the major banks, life insurance companies and industry and corporate funds. Michelle led the Quality of Advice Review as part of the government's commitment to ensure Australians have access to high quality, affordable financial advice. Michelle advises on trust law, financial services regulation, prudential standards, as well as providing tax advice for superannuation funds and life companies. She also regularly advises on directors' duties in the financial services industry, AFS licensing, disclosure obligations, fund mergers, Part 9 transfers and indemnity claims.

LYONS, Tim

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Featured in TMT (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/l/lyons-tim> for further information.

MAIDEN, Stewart J QC

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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (Australia)

Professional Memberships: Victorian Bar Representative Legal Costs Committee Fellow of INSOL International Fellow of the Australian Restructuring, Insolvency and Turnaround Association Member of the International Insolvency Institute Member of the Law Council of Australia's Insolvency and Reconstruction Law Committee Member of the American Bankruptcy Institute Stewart has previously served on the Insolvency Practitioner Disciplinary Committees constituted under the Corporations Act, as a ministerial appointee from 2017 to 2020; the Joint Expert Group on Enhancing Cross-border Insolvency Co-operation convened by the governments of Australia and New Zealand, from 2010 to 2012; the Victorian Bar Council for four years (including a year as its Honorary Treasurer); and the Ethics Committee of the Victorian Bar for seven years.

MCCORMACK, Jock

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Featured in Tax (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/m/mccormack-jock> for further information.

MCDONALD, Matt

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Featured in Insurance (Australia)

Practice Areas: Matt McDonald has been a trusted advisor to many respected underwriters for over 20 years. He has vast experience and expertise in mass tort litigation and class actions, having represented insurers in a number of the biggest and most complex class actions in Australian legal history. Matt has provided strategic advice to a number of senior corporate counsel and assisted clients to successfully navigate significant brand risks. Matt is also one of Australia's leading liability insurance lawyers. View Matt's full bio here: <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/matt-mcdonald/>

MCDONALD, Peter

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Featured in Competition/Antitrust (Australia)

Practice Areas: Peter leads and coordinates the Allen & Overy competition team in the APAC region. Peter specialises in challenging competition law, consumer and regulatory issues. His expertise encompasses transactional advice, merger clearances, joint ventures and collaborations, access to infrastructure, and enforcement responses and defence.

MCMAHON, Sean

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Featured in Investment Funds (Australia)

Practice Areas: Sean Co-Leads HW Funds, the market leading investment funds advisory team at Hall & Wilcox. With more than 25 years' experience in the investment funds and corporate sectors, Sean previously led the award-winning specialist Funds Management team at McMahon Clarke (which joined Hall & Wilcox in 2023). Sean's expertise includes establishing and advising on fund structures, funds management, real estate finance, and fund finance. Sean also advises on governance, directors' duties, compliance, and disclosure issues. He advises fund manager clients across a broad range of sectors, including property, equities, and mortgages (both wholesale and retail), about getting their product to market and their ongoing compliance obligations. Read more about Sean's experience here <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/sean-mcmahon/>

NEW, Harry

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Featured in Investment Funds (Australia)

Practice Areas: Harry New is the lead partner of the firm's Financial Services practice and his practice focuses extensively on financial services, corporate advisory and general corporate and commercial work. For over 20 years, Harry has represented responsible entities and trustees of listed and unlisted investment funds, international and local fund managers, non-bank lenders, fintechs, financial advisers, financial intermediaries and other financial services industry participants. View Harry's full bio here: <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/harry-new/>

NICKELS, Leanne

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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/n/nickels-leanne> for further information.

NIKOLOUDIS, Penny

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Featured in Investment Funds (Australia)

Practice Areas: Penny specialises in the areas of funds management and financial services regulation. Penny advises on all aspects of fund establishment and investment, including regarding the establishment and operation of retail and wholesale investment funds and other financial products; product disclosure statements, offer documents and other financial product disclosure obligations and due diligence processes; licensing and conduct obligations under Australian financial services laws; contractual arrangements with fund service providers, including custodians, administrators

and investment managers; and liaising with ASIC and other regulators about matters such as relief applications and breach notifications.

O'BRIEN, Samantha

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Featured in Insurance (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/o/obrien-samantha> for further information.

O'SHEA, Patrick QC

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Featured in Construction (Australia)

Career: Year of Call: 1986 Year of Silk: 1999

Professional Memberships:

Member of the Bar Association of Queensland

PALMER, Jamie

Allen & Overy LLP, Sydney
jamie.palmer@allenoverly.com

Featured in Private Equity (Australia)

Practice Areas: Practice head Jamie Palmer attracts high praise from clients, one of whom characterises him as an "exceptional lawyer who offers strong technical skills and measured, commercial advice" while others cite his "skill in negotiating or completing contracts" and ability to "get on well with all parties in a complex and testing deal." Private Equity, Chambers & Partners, Australia, 2019

PARSHALL, Michael

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michael.parshall@allenoverly.com

Featured in Corporate/M&A (Australia)

Practice Areas: Michael is one of Australia's leading corporate lawyers with significant experience in public and private M&A, capital raising, restructuring and corporate advisory matters. He is widely recognised for his skill in developing deal structures and has strong relations with all key regulators.

PEADON, Chris

New Chambers, Sydney
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Featured in Tax (Australia)

Career: Solicitor, Allens & Linklaters (Australia) (2001-2011) Barrister, NSW Bar, (2011 to present)

PERRY, Darren

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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Practice Areas: Widely regarded by peers and clients as a leading practitioner in his field, Darren acts in all areas of employment and industrial relations law. As an experienced lawyer and company director, Darren helps major employers successfully navigate a wide variety of matters relating to employee relations. He offers strategic and practical advice to blue-chip companies on enterprise bargaining, industrial

action by an employee or group of employees, cross-border human resources issues, and major workplace change projects, including automation. His clients consistently apply his advice to minimise the costs, disruption, and reputational damage caused by industrial disputes and human resources issues. Darren is often trusted to act for clients on extremely confidential matters regarding senior executives, including executive contracts and remuneration and handling disputes relating to the termination of executive employees.

Career: Darren is the Managing Partner for Seyfarth in Australia and Co-Chair of Seyfarth's International department. He is best known for his leadership in industrial relations strategy and advising on complex employment litigation across the spectrum of industries, most notably transportation, media, financial services and aviation. Darren is regularly sought by the media as a commentator on workplace issues. Most recently, Darren was profiled in International Employment Lawyer's article 'Work intensification of lawyers an increasing concern', where he shared his perspective on current global labour market challenges.

Professional Memberships: · Australian Human Resources Institute · Law Society of New South Wales

Publications: www.workplacelawandstrategy.com.au

POPIC, Karolina

Allen & Overy LLP, Sydney
+612 9373 7791

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Featured in Capital Markets (Australia)

Practice Areas: Karolina is a partner in our capital markets team and her expertise spans across the entire debt capital markets, acting in connection with secured (securitisation and covered bonds) and unsecured funding transactions. Karolina's experience extends to receivables and cash flow financing and general banking and finance.

POWER, Tim

White & Case LLP, Melbourne
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Featured in Environment (Australia)

Practice Areas: To read more, visit: whitecase.com/people/tim-power

ROSENGARTEN, Alan

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Featured in Infrastructure (Australia)

Practice Areas: To read more, visit: whitecase.com/people/alan-rosengarten

ROSS, Martin

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Featured in Sports Law (Australia)

Practice Areas: Martin Ross is a Partner and the National Section Leader of Hall & Wilcox's Corporate and Commercial team. Martin also leads the Sports and Entertainment practice at

Hall & Wilcox. Martin has more than 23 years' experience advising corporate, commercial, regulatory and private clients in the sports and media sectors. He has worked on many high profile and complex transactions and litigation, including media rights transactions, major sponsorship agreements, M&A in sport, governance, and rules and regulations. Martin is well known for his expert, prompt and commercially focussed advice on high profile, high value and strategically important matters. He advises some of the most prominent sporting organisations in Australia. View Martin's full bio here: <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/martin-ross/>

RUSSO, Rocco

Cooper Grace Ward, Brisbane
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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Practice Areas: Rocco is an internationally recognised dispute resolution lawyer with expertise in court and tribunal matters, advocacy, negotiation, and alternative dispute resolution. He works across Australia to resolve disputes in the corporate and commercial, construction, property, insolvency, defamation and intellectual property fields, as well as representing clients in corporate investigations and commissions of inquiry. He has specific experience in complex, high value, business critical disputes, and has led large multi-disciplinary project teams in significant and high profile cases. Rocco is one of only two Brisbane-based dispute resolution lawyers to have been ranked as a leading individual for dispute resolution in Australia in the 2023 editions of prestigious international legal directories Chambers Asia-Pacific and Chambers Global, the tenth consecutive year he achieved this leading ranking. Rocco is recognised for his expertise in: –Dispute resolution –Commercial litigation –Regulatory matters and investigations –Royal commissions and commissions of inquiry –Building and construction disputes –Insolvency and restructuring –Property and leasing disputes –Defamation –Intellectual property litigation. Rocco has an established track record of securing successful outcomes for clients in court as well as through mediation or out of court negotiation. He is frequently called upon by a range of clients that include business owners, prominent individuals, boards, CEOs and senior management to assist with strategy on business disputes and risk issues. Rocco's breadth of commercial experience in significant cases across a variety of areas and industries means he has unique skills and insights that allow him to deliver client-focused results. He is well known for his ability to bring clear, strategic and practical thinking to dispute situations.

RYAN, Caroline

Allens, Sydney
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Featured in Intellectual Property (Australia)

Practice Areas: Caroline has over 20 years' experience advising on all aspects of intellectual property law and has acted in Australia's most significant 'first-of-its-kind' cases, bet-the-company litigation, headline IP transactions and strategic disputes involving patents, trade marks and copyright infringement, misuse of confidential information, misleading and deceptive conduct and passing off. Caroline's key differentiator is her commitment to client relationships and the delivery of pragmatic, commercial and strategic advice to clients across all areas of IP. Caroline works with clients from research, technology and brand-based industries, ranging from associations to multi-nationals, and sectors that include pharmaceuticals and healthcare, agrichemicals, technology, energy and resources, industrials, telecommunications, food, wine and spirits, luxury and consumer goods.

RYAN, David

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Featured in Corporate/M&A (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/r/ryan-david> for further information.

Practice Areas: To read more, visit: whitecase.com/people/timothy-sackar

SACKAR, Timothy

White & Case LLP, Sydney
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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (Australia)

Practice Areas: To read more, visit: whitecase.com/people/timothy-sackar

SACRÉ, Chris

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Featured in Shipping (Australia)

Practice Areas: Chris Sacré is a leading transport and trade lawyer with extensive experience in shipping, international trade and marine insurance. He is English and Australian qualified having practiced in London, Hong Kong and Sydney, including time in-house with a ship management company and P&I insurer. Chris' experience ensures a deep understanding of all aspects of shipping and trade as well as the insurance that underpins it. Chris advises corporates on the transport and supply of goods globally, covering both pre-transportation contractual advice and the resolution of disputes arising out of the carriage. View Chris' full bio here: <https://hallandwilcox.com.au/people/chris-sacre/>

SHEPHERD, Michael

Allen & Overy LLP, Sydney
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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Practice Areas: Michael advises the firm's key international clients and their senior executives on their most significant disputes and regulatory investigations. His practice focuses on complex, high stakes, commercial litigation, class actions and contentious

regulatory matters. He has represented multi-national corporations and global financial institutions in high profile trials and investigations in Australia, the U.S. and Asia.

SKENE, Henry

Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Melbourne
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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Practice Areas: Through his collaborative work with major local and multinational employers, Henry has developed a reputation as a thought leader in employment and industrial relations. Henry is known for his strong rapport with clients and for working collaboratively with employers to assess emerging business problems and implement innovative, commercially focused, long-term solutions. Focusing on workplace relations strategy, Henry's practice encompasses all aspects of workplace change and execution, including enterprise bargaining, collective labour disputes and litigation, individual employment arrangements and litigation, and construction and infrastructure management. He has acted for major employers in many of the largest and most complex matters in these fields, in federal and state jurisdictions.

Career: Henry has more than 20 years' experience as an adviser and litigator. Henry is sought after by leading employers from a broad range of industries, including mining, construction, retail, manufacturing, agriculture, energy and electronics, for his acumen in workplace strategy and his reputation as a robust litigator. He has acted for public sector bodies in relation to compliance issues and workplace reform. Henry is regularly sought by the media as a commentator on workplace issues.

Professional Memberships: ·

Advisory Board of the Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law of The University of Melbourne (2009-2015) · Australian Institute of Company Directors · Industrial Relations Society of Victoria

Publications: www.workplacelawandstrategy.com.au

SMITH, Adam

DLA Piper Australia, Sydney

Featured in Tax (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/s/smith-adam> for further information.

SPARKS, Tony

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Featured in Capital Markets (Australia)

Practice Areas: Tony advises on a range of corporate and fundraising transactions including equity capital raisings, mergers and acquisitions and general securities law matters.

TAMVAKOLOGOS, Michael

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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Practice Areas: Michael acts for many of Australia's leading employers and is a trusted advisor on workforce strategy development and high-stakes contentious matters. Michael advises clients on all facets of industrial and employment law, including bargaining, industrial action and general protections, executive recruitment, remuneration and termination issues and discrimination matters. Michael is noted for his strength in the workplace strategy development arena and his particular expertise in employment restraints.

Career: Michael has been a lawyer for more than 20 years and he has assisted leading employers in an array of matters, including: •advising a number of ASX20 companies on how to solve major commercial challenges •successfully defending major claims worth hundreds of millions of dollars •executing wholesale workforce restructures •establishing new businesses •implementing new enterprise agreements, and •enforcing and defending restraints of trade. Michael has completed executive education courses in leadership and strategy at Harvard University in Boston and has an Executive MBA from the exclusive INSEAD University in Paris.

Professional Memberships: Law Institute of Victoria

Publications: www.workplacelawstrategy.com.au Industry-based bargaining: the new industrial relations frontier for HR, HRM Online (2023)

TURNER, Nicholas

DLA Piper Australia, Sydney
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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/t/turner-nicholas> for further information.

TYACKE, Nick

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Featured in Life Sciences (Australia), Intellectual Property (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/t/tyacke-nicholas> for further information.

UTHMEYER, Simon

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Featured in Competition/Antitrust (Australia)

Career: Please see <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/people/u/uthmeyer-simon> for further information.

VAN BRAKEL, Mark

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Practice Areas: Mark is the head of the Asia-Pacific and Australian litigation practice and has extensive experience in complex and strategically significant litigation, international arbitration and contentious regulatory work. He has acted for leading corporations in the energy and resources sector in Australia on matters ranging from major engineering and project disputes, joint venture disputes and arbitrations, through to responding to regulatory investigations and associated civil penalty proceedings. He also acts regularly in director and shareholder disputes.

WALTER, David

Allen & Overy LLP, Sydney
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David.Walter@allenoverly.com

Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (Australia)

Practice Areas: David is a partner in Allen & Overy's Asia Pacific Restructuring and Recovery Group. He has extensive experience advising the spectrum of stakeholders in informal

restructures and formal insolvencies, including public companies and their boards, private equity and portfolio companies, special-situations investors, bank lenders, trustees and insolvency practitioners. He focuses on non-contentious and contentious restructuring and insolvency assignments.

WONG, Ka Sen

Allen & Overy LLP, Sydney
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Featured in Tax (Australia)

Practice Areas: Ka Sen leads Allen & Overy's Australian tax department. He provides expert tax advice across a wide range of areas, including private and public M&A, funds, TMT, projects, energy and resources, infrastructure, financial services and capital markets. He advises on both transactional work and ATO investigations/disputes. Clients appreciate Ka Sen's ability to reduce complex rules to workable solutions and plain English advice, his "high-quality, commercially minded service" and his ability to think laterally and develop "alternative strategies and solutions" that are "tailored to work for us".

Leaders' Profiles in Australia (Barristers)

BARRY, Tom

Young's List, Melbourne
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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Practice Areas: Tom Barry practises in commercial, regulatory and public law. He acts regularly in high profile disputes arising from mergers and acquisitions, major infrastructure projects and complex financial transactions. He is recognised for his business acumen and ability to apply the law to commercial and financial dealings.

COCHRANE, Cynthia QC

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Featured in Intellectual Property (Australia)

Practice Areas: Cochrane SC specialises in patent cases and commercial cases, including competition law. She has expertise in vaccines and biological medicines. Cochrane SC appears regularly in the Federal Court and Patent Office. She has High Court experience over more than 15 years, recently addressing a six-member bench on 9 June 2022 in the Aristocrat appeal. She appears in the NSW Supreme Court and conducts ACCC examinations. Cochrane SC is recognised in Chambers Asia-Pacific, Best Lawyers, Doyles and Legal 500. Cochrane SC was a solicitor at Allens (articled to Prof Bob Baxt AO in competition law) and before then an investment banker at Macquarie Bank in Corporate Advisory. She taught economics and finance at the University of Melbourne.

COUPER, Simon QC

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Practice Areas: Simon Couper KC, commands a comprehensive commercial practice, leveraging forty-one years of experience at the Bar. He is widely recognised for his substantial contributions to the legal profession, particularly specialising in areas such as competition law, contract disputes, corporate law, insurance and professional indemnity. Simon is renowned for his dedication to excellence and is highly respected in complex commercial proceedings spanning Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia, including appearances in the Federal Court of Australia. His exceptional proficiency in cross-examination stands as a hallmark of his legal practice. Simon possess extensive expertise in appellate practice, highlighted by his notable appearances in the High Court of Australia. Although Simon is based in Brisbane, Queensland, he also holds chambers at State Chambers in Sydney, New South Wales, and holds membership at Hemmant's List. All

Practice Areas: * Appellate * Banking * Commercial Law * Energy, Resources and Native Title * Equity, Trusts and Succession * Insolvency * Insurance and Professional Negligence * Property and Planning

FULLER, Dan

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Featured in Employment (Australia)

Practice Areas: Dan has a general practice focused on public law, commercial law and employment and industrial law. He also has experience in criminal matters. Dan has been instructed on behalf of a wide range of clients including Commonwealth, State and local governments and government agencies, universities and private education providers, regulatory authorities including the Fair Work Ombudsman and the Health Care Complaints Commission, and large energy and resources and construction companies in high-profile commercial and building and construction disputes. He has experience in courts and tribunals at all levels. Before coming to the Bar, Dan worked at MinterEllison in commercial litigation, regulatory and tax groups. Dan previously practised at the Brisbane Bar. Areas of practice: Administrative Law Commercial Litigation Commissions & Inquiries Constitutional Law Criminal Law Discrimination Law Industrial & Employment Law Professional Conduct Professional Negligence Regulatory

HEATH, Robert QC

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Featured in Dispute Resolution (Australia)

Practice Areas: Robert Heath KC has a highly respected practice which encompasses commercial, equity, negligence, arbitration, and infrastructure disputes. He has substantial trial experience, and his recent work includes an appearance in a lengthy trial of arbitral proceedings concerning the failure of a subsea electricity cable in Bass Strait, Australia. He has substantial experience in class action litigation. In recent years, in addition to his mediation practice, he has built a practice as an arbitrator, and is a member of arbitral panels in Australia and Asia, including HKIAC and the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (ACIC). Robert is a Member of the National Sports Tribunal (Australia) and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Robert attracts briefs in cases which have national or international elements.

MAIDEN, Stewart J QC

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Featured in Restructuring/Insolvency (Australia)

Practice Areas: Stewart Maiden KC is a preeminent commercial law trial and appellate advocate. Stewart practises in complex commercial litigation, and has a broad appearance and advice practice which encompasses cross-border and domestic insolvency, fiduciary and fraud-related actions, banking and finance disputes, corporate control disputes and general commercial litigation. Clients and instructors recognise him as being numerate, articulate and approachable. Stewart edited and co-authored the book *Insolvent Investments* (LexisNexis, 2015). He writes the chapter on private international law for McPherson's Law of Company Liquidation, and serves on the editorial boards of the *Insolvency Law Journal* and the *International Insolvency Review*. Several of his many law journal articles have been cited in superior court judgments. And he is Australia's national correspondent on cross-border insolvency for CLOUT (UNCITRAL's official database of case law concerning UNCITRAL texts). Liability limited by a scheme approved by Professional Standards Legislation

O'SHEA, Patrick QC

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Featured in Construction (Australia)

Practice Areas: Patrick O'Shea KC upholds a diverse commercial practice, with a particular emphasis on trial advocacy in State and Federal courts, tribunals and arbitration proceedings. His esteemed thirty-eight year tenure at the Bar underpins this extensive experience. Recognised in the Australian Financial Review's Best Lawyers® Australia in the categories of Litigation and Competition Law, and in Doyle's Guides for Queensland and Australia across sectors such as Commercial Litigation and Dispute Resolution, Construction and Infrastructure, and Insolvency and Restructuring, Patrick demonstrates wide-ranging and comprehensive expertise in the legal domain. Before commencing his practice at the Bar, Patrick's career spanned pivotal roles as a solicitor and partner at what is now Minter Ellison, complemented by an earlier role as an economist at the Reserve Bank of Australia. All Practice Areas: * Appellate * Arbitration * Building and Construction * Commercial Law * Corporations * Equity, Trusts and Succession * Insurance and Professional Negligence * Energy, Resources & Native Title

PEADON, Chris

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Featured in Tax (Australia)

Practice Areas: Chris maintains a busy tax advisory and disputes practice.

He regularly advises corporate clients upon the tax implications of domestic and cross-border transactions, as well as advising high net worth (HNW) groups on restructures and succession planning. His expertise in both Commonwealth income tax and state taxes (including stamp duty and landholder duty) enables him to provide comprehensive advice on all tax consequences. His advice is informed by his extensive experience managing disputes for both taxpayers and the Commissioner concerning taxation of gains by non-residents (including "TARP" and Tax Treaty issues), transfer pricing, capital gains, landholder ("land rich") duty, and the anti-avoidance provisions (Part IVA including "dividend stripping"). Chris has appeared in many of the leading tax cases over the past decade. Recent cases include appearances for taxpayers in the Full Federal Court in the Singtel transfer pricing case arising from its \$14.2 billion acquisition of mobile telecommunications company Optus, and for the Bechtel multinational engineering group on the deductibility of "Fly-in Fly-out" employees' travel costs for major infrastructure projects. Other clients for whom he has acted include New Corporation entities, John Holland, Snowy Hydro, Aurizon (formerly National Rail), the liquidators of both The Bell Group and Lehman Brothers, and several large private groups and high net worth individuals. Chris has also been involved in several leading charities cases for The Salvation Army, YWCA, and the RSL. Chris' expertise extends to advising taxpayers and financiers on funding arrangements and disputes in relation to various tax offsets including those available for research and development (R&D), film and television production (e.g. "producer offset") and the recently introduced Digital Games Tax Offset. Chris' tax expertise is acknowledged in client survey responses: -Chris is a "very experienced junior" who combines a hands-one approach with 'a similar level of experience and expertise to, and a lot of the softer skills of, a QC'" -Chambers Asia Pacific 2022 -Chris commands "respect as one of those barristers 'who live and breath their profession'" and are comfortable calling him on difficult matters "since he's done it all" -Chambers Asia Pacific 2021. In addition to his tax practice, Chris acts in commercial causes, commonly for Lloyd's Syndicates in financial lines insurance matters. He acted for the D&O underwriters in coverage disputes concerning claims made against the directors of Babcock & Brown following its collapse.