

CATHERINE GLEESON SC

Bachelor of Arts - University of Sydney

Bachelor of Laws (Hons) - University of Sydney

Bachelor of Civil Law - University of Oxford

T +61 2 9151 2036

F +61 2 9233 1850

E gleeson@newchambers.com.au

in [catherine-gleeson/58/b9b/836/](#)

Admitted to the legal profession
2003

Admitted as a barrister in NSW
2009

Appointed Senior Counsel
2023

Entitled to practise in
All Australian jurisdictions (Commonwealth,
State and Territory)

Catherine appears in trials and appeals throughout Australia in all areas of commercial and criminal law.

Catherine's practice includes appearing in large class actions in the Supreme and Federal Courts; advising and appearing in shipping, transport, and aviation matters, for which she is recognised in numerous industry guides; appearing in criminal trials and appeals; and appearing in commissions of inquiry and private examinations before regulators.

Prior to coming to the Bar in 2009, Catherine was a senior associate and solicitor at Freehills (now Herbert Smith Freehills) and Corrs Chambers Westgarth and practised in commercial litigation. Catherine completed a Bachelor of Civil Laws at the University of Oxford in 2007, following which she worked at Clyde & Co in London focussing on large international commercial disputes.

Catherine is an active member of the New South Wales Bar Association, serving regularly on Bar Council and a number of committees. Catherine serves as Treasurer of the Bar Association, Chair of the Bar News Committee and is a Secretary of the Bar Association's Commercial Law Section.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2008 – 2009: Solicitor/Senior Associate, Freehills Commercial Litigation.

2007 – 2008: Associate, Clyde & Co Commercial Litigation

2006 – 2007: Assistant, Institute of European and Comparative Law, University of Oxford

2004 – 2006: Solicitor, Corrs Chambers Westgarth Litigation

AWARDS OR PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Chambers and Partners Asia Pacific 2024: Shipping, New Silks

Doyles Guide 2024: Leading Transport Senior Counsel in Australia

Who's Who Legal 2023: Global and National Leader Shipping, National Leader, Arbitration

2024 Australian Bar Legal 500: Commercial Disputes, Leading Junior Band 3

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2024 – present: Treasurer, New South Wales Bar Association

2024 – present: Editor and Chair, *Bar News* Committee

2024 – present: Director, Law Council of Australia

2013 – 2014, 2015 – 2017, 2018 – present: Bar Councillor

2014 – present: New South Wales Bar Association Professional Conduct Committee

2011 – 2013: New South Wales Bar Association New Barrister's Committee

2015 – 2020: New South Wales Bar Association Examination Marker

2015 – 2019: New South Wales Bar Association Course Lecturer

SELECTED CASES

Class actions

- Appearing for the Commonwealth in class action proceedings concerning contamination at Defence Force Bases: *Haswell v Commonwealth of Australia (No 3)* [2023] FCA 1093; *Smith, Hudson, Bartlett v Commonwealth* [2019] FCA 2193; *Bartlett v Commonwealth of Australia (No 2)* [2019] FCA 800; *Bartlett v Commonwealth of Australia* [2019] FCA 571.
- Appearing for New South Wales Health in class action proceedings in the Supreme Court of New South Wales concerning overtime claims by junior medical officers: *Fakhouri v The Secretary of the NSW Ministry of Health* (2022) 316 IR 221; [2022] NSWSC 233; *Fakhouri v NSW Ministry of Health* [2023] NSWSC 808.
- Appearing for owners in class action proceedings brought in the Federal Court of Australia by cargo interests in relation to container collapse off the Coast of New South Wales.
- Appearing for the Commonwealth in class action proceedings concerning the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.
- Appearing for Malaysian Airline in a class action and other proceedings concerning flights MH17 and MH370: *Gibson v Malaysian Airline System Berhad (Settlement Approval)* [2019] FCA

1007; *Gibson v Malaysian Airline System Berhad (Class Membership)* [2019] FCA 1399; *Gibson v Malaysian Airline System Berhad (No 3)* [2017] FCA 1164.

- Appearing for manufacturers in trial of class action concerning pelvic mesh medical devices: *Gill v Ethicon Sarl (No 5)* [2019] FCA 1905.
- Appearing for Air New Zealand Limited in Federal Court class action proceedings concerning travel agents' commissions on fuel surcharges: *Leonie's Travel Pty Ltd v British Airways Plc* [2012] FCA 635.

Commercial and regulatory

- Acting for AUSTRAC in regulatory proceedings against Crown Casino group and Sky City Australia: *Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre v Crown Melbourne Limited* [2023] FCA 782; *CEO of AUSTRAC v SkyCity Adelaide Pty Ltd* [2024] FCA 664.
- Appearing for Ben Roberts-Smith in appeal against interlocutory decision: *Seven Network (Operations) Limited v Fairfax Media Publications Pty Limited* [2023] FCAFC 185.
- Appearing for events promoter in proceedings in the Supreme Court of NSW and Court of Appeal concerning breach of confidence in relation to the idea for a retail promotion associated with sponsorship of a One Direction tour by Coles Supermarkets: *Filby v TEG Live Pty Ltd (No 2)* [2023] NSWSC 327; *Filby v TEG Live Pty Ltd* [2023] NSWCA 320; *Filby v TEG Live Pty Limited* [2024] HCASL 184.
- Appearing for shareholders in a digital financial services provider seeking interlocutory relief on oppression grounds, against the background of allegations of substantial fraud committed against the company: *Clee Capital Pty Ltd v IOUpay Ltd* [2023] FCA 312.
- Acting for CBRE Australia in disputes concerning representations made in respect of the sale of commercial, rural and residential property.
- Acting for financial advisors in disputes in the Supreme Court of New South Wales concerning declined policies of life and TPD insurance.
- Appearing for Telstra Corporation Limited in contractual dispute in the Supreme Court of New South Wales brought by device services provider.
- Appearing for a medical device manufacturer in product liability proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia.
- Appearing for banking and insurance officers at compulsory examinations at the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

- Appearing for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, National Australia Bank and Westpac Banking Corporation in numerous matters in the Federal Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Transport

- Appearing and acting for Royal Caribbean Cruises in matters arising from the incident at Whakaari/White Island: *Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd v Browitt* [2021] FCA 653; *Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd v Reed (No 4)* [2021] FCA 614; *Langford v RCL Cruises Ltd t/as Royal Caribbean Cruises* [2023] FCA 626.
- Acting for logistics provider in supreme court proceedings concerning allocation of container detention charges: *ThyssenKrupp Materials Australia Pty Ltd v SILA Global Pty Ltd* [2022] NSWSC 1528, an application for delivery up of goods the subject of a claimed lien.
- Acting for the operator in *Re Teekay Shipping (Australia) Pty Ltd v Australian Maritime Safety Authority* [2022] AATA 747, a challenge to the decision of the Maritime Safety Authority imposing crewing requirements on a rescue vessel operating in far North Queensland.
- Appearing in proceedings concerning joint venture operating an entertainment vessel: *Neptune Hospitality Pty Ltd v Ozmen Entertainment Pty Ltd* (2020) 375 ALR 489, [2020] FCAFC, sub nom (2019) 369 ALR 644, [2019] FCA 721; [2017] FCA 1124; (No 2) [2018] FCA 647; (No 3) [2018] FCA 1411.
- Appearing in cargo proceedings concerning hearing of a preliminary question as to title to sue: *Tritton Resources Pty Ltd v Ever Rock Navigation SA* (2019) 369 ALR 205.
- Appearing at first instance and on appeal in proceedings concerning challenge to arrest of surrogate ship: *Korea Shipping Corp v Lord Energy SA* (2018) 267 FCR 660; *Lord Energy SA v The Ship "MV Dangjin"* [2018] FCA 1717.
- Appearing for receivers of Dick Smith Electronics in proceedings concerning stoppage in transit of goods: *Toll Holdings Ltd v Stewart* (2016) 338 ALR 602.
- Appearing for shipbuilder in appeal to the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia against dismissal of writ in rem on jurisdictional grounds: *Virtu Fast Ferries Ltd v Ship 'Cape Leveque'* [2015] FCAFC 58; (2015) 232 FCR 22; [2015] 2 Lloyd's Rep. 222.
- Appearing for shipowner in appeal to the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia of *forum non conveniens* stay of proceedings *in rem*: *CMA CGM SA v Ship 'Chou Shan'* [2014] FCAFC 90; (2014) 224 FCR 384.

- Appearing for defendant at first instance and on appeal in proceedings *Euroceanica (UK) Ltd v The Ship "Gem of Safaga"* (2009) 182 FCR 1; (2010) 182 FCR 27 concerning challenge to arrest of surrogate ship.

Commissions of Inquiry

- Appearing for interested party in Inquiry into the Convictions of the Croatian Six.
- Appearing as counsel assisting the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.
- Appearing for Defence Force witness at coronial inquest concerning a member of Commando Squadron.
- Appearing for interested person in inquiry by the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force.
- Appearing for Tennis Australia in private disciplinary proceedings.
- Appearing for a number of witnesses and interested persons attending the Independent Commission Against Corruption, ACT Integrity Commission, National Anti-Corruption Commission and Law Enforcement Conduct Commission.
- Appearing for interested person at Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse.
- Appearing as counsel assisting the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption.
- Appearing for the Rural Fire Service in proceedings in the Independent Commission Against Corruption concerning fraudulent conduct by an employee and associated persons.
- Acting as junior counsel assisting the Independent Commission Against Corruption in confidential inquiry.
- Appearing for Ski Racing Australia in coronial inquest.

Crime and public law

- Appearing for the Crown in the Court of Criminal Appeal: *Ebrahim v R* [2019] NSWCCA 273; *TH v R* [2019] NSWCCA 184; *Chandab v R* [2021] NSWCCA 186; *Carnaby v R* [2021] NSWCCA 203; *Salim v R* [2021] NSWCCA 216; *Cross v R* [2022] NSWCCA 261; *El Katrib v R* [2022] NSWCCA 266; *Williams v R* [2022] NSWCCA 15.
- Appearing for the Director of Public Prosecutions in judicial review proceedings in the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court: *Bugmy v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)* [2024] NSWCA 70; *Bugmy v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)* [2023] NSWSC 862; *Young v*

Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) [2023] NSWCA 69; *Truong v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)* [2023] NSWCA 64; *Stanley v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)* (2023) 97 ALJR 107; (2023) 407 ALR 222; [2023] HCA 3; *Stanley v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)* [2021] NSWCA 337; *Blissett v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)* [2021] NSWCA 253; *Gibson v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) (No 2)* [2021] NSWCA 218; *Kostov v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) (No 2)* [2020] NSWCA 94; *Vok v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)* [2019] NSWCA 242.

- Appearing in the Court of Appeal as amicus curiae in *Hamzy v Commissioner of Corrective Services NSW* (2022) 107 NSWLR 544; (2022) 400 ALR 507; [2022] NSWCA 16, a challenge to regulations and policies imposed by the Commissioner on Extreme High Risk Restricted Inmates that would interfere with their right to choose and confer with their legal representatives.
- Appearing for the NSW Department of Communities and Justice and Department of Education in historical abuse matters.
- Appearing as Crown Prosecutor in trials of indictable offences in the District Court of New South Wales.
- Appearing for corporate defendant in prosecution under the Children (Education and Care Services) National Law.

Sports Law

- Arbitration CAS 2012/A/2758 *Murray Stewart, Ken Wallace, David Smith, Jesse Phillips and Stephen Bird v Joel Simpson and Australian Canoeing Inc*, award of 3 May 2012, an application for review of a National Federation appeal concerning selection of the Australian men's kayak team for the 2012 Summer Olympics.
- Arbitration CAS (Oceania Registry) A3/2016 *Tess Lloyd and Caitlin Elks v Australian Sailing*, award of 12 July 2016 (operative part of 27 June 2016), an application for review of a National Federation appeal concerning nomination of sailing pairs in a particular class to the Australian women's sailing team for the 2016 Summer Olympics (I also appeared at the National Federation Appeal).
- *Benjamin Hill v Cycling Australia*, doping matter before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- *Re: Christopher Hitch*, doping matter before the Judicial Committee of the International Rugby Board.