



# KAREN PETCH

*Master of Corporate Law (First Class) - University of Cambridge*  
*Bachelor of Laws (Hons 1) - University of Technology, Sydney*  
*Bachelor of Arts (Communication) - University of Technology, Sydney*

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## Clerk of Chambers

Angela Noakes

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## Admitted to the legal profession in NSW

2010

## Admitted as a barrister in NSW

2017

## Called to the Bar in England and Wales

2024

## Also entitled to practise in

All Australian jurisdictions, England & Wales,  
 Singapore International Commercial Court

Karen is a commercial barrister with specialist experience in insolvency and corporations law. She is most often briefed in large commercial litigation and arbitrations involving cross-border issues and complex financial transactions.

She was included in the Legal 500 2024 Australian Bar rankings as a leading junior in commercial disputes (Tier 2) where she was described as “*a great strategic thinker, highly responsive and hard-working. She is widely admired for her insolvency work but her practice extends to all areas of commercial law. She is often the first choice as a commercial junior in large cases*”. She was also included in the 2023 rankings.

She is recognised by the Doyles Guide as a recommended junior counsel in commercial litigation & dispute resolution (2024) as well as in insolvency and restructuring as a leading junior counsel (2024, 2023). She was named by the Global Restructuring Review in its 2022 40-under-40 list.

Karen holds a Master of Corporate Law (First Class) from the University of Cambridge, where she was awarded a Jennings Prize for first class performance in the final examinations. She holds a Bachelor of Law (Hons 1) and a Bachelor of Arts (Communication) from the University of Technology, Sydney.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Karen was a solicitor at Allen & Overy LLP in London and New York. She was a tipstaff to the Hon. Justice McDougall of the Supreme Court of NSW (Equity Division).

Karen is admitted to practise in all Australian jurisdictions. She was called to the Bar in England and Wales in 2024 and since 2022 has been registered as a foreign lawyer in the Singapore International Commercial Court.

In 2023 she was appointed to the ACICA Legislative Committee for a 3-year term. She serves on the NSW Bar Association’s Diversity and Equality Committee as well as the ABA’s International Committee. She is presently undertaking the INSOL Fellowship Course (Global Insolvency Practice Course) (2024 – 2025).

## PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2012 – 2017: Allen & Overy LLP, London and New York (Restructuring and Insolvency & Derivatives)

2011 – 2012: Tipstaff to the Hon. Justice R. McDougall, Supreme Court of New South Wales

2010 – 2011: Minter Ellison, (Corporate Finance & Restructuring)

## AWARDS OR PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

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The Legal 500 Australian Bar Rankings, Commercial Disputes (2024, Tier 2), (2023, Tier 3)

Doyle's Guide Junior Counsel in Insolvency and Restructuring (Leading, 2024) (Recommended (2023))

Doyle's Guide Junior Counsel in Commercial Litigation and Dispute Resolution (Recommended, 2024)

40-under-40, Global Restructuring Review (2022)

ADR Practitioner of the Year, Australian ADR Awards (2021)

Christopher Gee QC Memorial Prize, NSW Bar Association (2018)

Jennings Prize, University of Cambridge (2016)

## PUBLICATIONS

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Annotated Corporations Legislation 2023, 2024 (Thomson Reuters) (contributing author)

Stewart, A. and Petch, K. 'Cross-border insolvency law in Australia and shipping insolvencies: unique challenges or issues of wider significance?' (2018) 19 ILB 114

Petch, K. 'Derivatives and the elusive 'principles of insolvency' in Australia: a post-Belmont Park

Investments Pty Limited v BNY Corporate Trustee Services analysis' (2012) 30 C&SLJ 253

Petch, K. 'Insolvent Trading in Australia: The case for advance relief' (2011) 29 C&SLJ 197

## SELECTED CASES

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### Corporations, Insolvency and Financial Services

Acting for Sev.en Gamma A/S in connection with its exposure to the collapse of the **Callide C Power Station**, 2023, led by S Doyle KC, C Withers SC, leading M Gvozdenovic (appointment of special purpose administrator)

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**Commissioner of State Revenue v Gleeson, in the matter of Dalma Form Specialist Pty Ltd (subject to deed of company arrangement)** [2024] FCA 908, unled, instructed by Craddock Murray Newman (termination of deed of company arrangement)

**In the matter of Pendal Group Limited** [2022] NSWSC 1575; [2023] NSWSC 14, led by J Sheahan KC, with R Jameson, instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills (scheme of arrangement)

Advising **Accolade Wines** on Australian law in connection with a global restructuring (cross-border restructuring)

Acting for Credit Suisse Asset Management in connection with some of its exposures to **Greensill Capital UK**, (2022 and 2023), led by R Higgins SC and R Newlinds SC (now Judge Newlinds), instructed by Gilbert + Tobin (cross-border insolvency)

**Shiny (Trustee), in the matter of Navigate Global Payments Pty Ltd (Receivers and Managers Appointed)** [2023] FCA 1089, unled for the Receivers and Managers, instructed by Marque Lawyers (termination of a deed of company arrangement)

**Duncan (Trustee) v Shrestha, in the matter of Shrestha** [2022] FCA 1601, unled, instructed by Gilbert + Tobin (cross-border insolvency)

**Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Westpac Banking Corporation (Omnibus)** [2022] FCA 515, led by D Hogan-Doran SC and J Hewitt, instructed by AGS (financial services regulation)

**Kelly (liquidator), in the matter of Halifax Investment Services Pty Ltd (in liquidation) v Loo** [2021] FCA 531; **In the matter of Halifax New Zealand Limited (in liquidation)** [2021] NZHC 1113, led by R Scruby SC, instructed by Gilbert + Tobin (cross-border insolvency; financial services insolvency)

**Krejci, in the matter of Union Standard International Group Pty Ltd (in liq)** [2021] FCA 1483, led by S Gollidge SC, instructed by Bartier Perry (financial services insolvency)

**Michele Bottiglieri Amatore SpA, in the matter of Michele Bottiglieri Amatore SpA** [2021] FCA 795 unled, instructed by HWL Ebsworth (cross-border insolvency)

**In the matter of Colour Metal Pty Ltd** [2021] NSWSC 1012 unled, instructed by HFW (set-aside statutory demand)

**In the matter of Pacific Steelfixing Pty Ltd** [2021] NSWSC 655 unled, instructed by McInnes Wilson (unfair preference; insolvent transaction); [2021] NSWSC 1129, (personal costs against liquidator)

**Strawbridge, in the matter of Virgin Australia Holdings Ltd (administrators appointed) (No 8)** [2020] FCA 1344, led by A McGrath SC, instructed by Gadens (deed of company arrangement)

**Hutson (liquidator), in the matter of WDS Limited (in liq) (Receivers and Managers Appointed)** [2020] FCA 299, led by F Assaf SC, instructed by Gilbert + Tobin (liquidation; pooling)

**In the matter of Rizzo-Bottiglieri-de Carlini Armatori SpA (trustees in bankruptcy appointed) (no. 2)** [2018] FCA 1067, led by A M Stewart SC, instructed by HWL Ebsworth (cross-border insolvency)

**In the matter of Plutus Payroll Pty Limited & others** [2017] NSWSC 1854, led by J White, instructed by AGS (appointment of provisional liquidators)

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## Commercial, Equity & Arbitration, Shipping

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**In the matter of DSG Electronics Pty Ltd (in liq)**, instructed by Colin Biggers & Paisley, unled (public examinations, unfair preferences),

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Acting for **Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd** in proceedings in the Supreme Court of Western Australia (Civ 3041 of 2010 and CIV 2617 of 2012), (ongoing) led by N Hutley SC, P Brereton SC, J Lockhart SC, C Bova SC, C Colquhoun SC and J Hutton SC (and others), instructed by Corrs Chambers Westgarth (partnership, contract, directors' duties)

Acting for a listed Singapore company in a **SCMA arbitration**, (ongoing) led by R Cordara KC, instructed by HFW (commercial shipping)

**Aberdeen Bear Pty Ltd v MJJK Investments Pty Ltd; MJJK Investments Pty Ltd v Calvert** [2024] NSWSC 722, led by D A McLure SC, (shareholder dispute / contractual interpretation)

Acting for **LOGOS** in a dispute concerning the Moorebank Industrial Precinct (settled), led by L Livingston SC, instructed by Herbert Smith Freehills (commercial litigation)

**Chandrasekaran v Western Sydney Local Health District & Charterhouse Medical Pty Ltd** [2023] NSWCA 288; [2021] NSWSC 920, unled at first instance and in the appeal, instructed by Norton Rose Fulbright

**Magellan Asset Management Limited as responsible entity for the Magellan Global Fund** [2023] NSWSC 1332, led by C N Bova SC, instructed by Allen & Overy (shareholder dispute)

**Maersk A/S v Patti** [2022] FCA 663, led by J Hogan-Doran SC, instructed by HWL Ebsworth (shipping, strike-out of defence)

**Lepcanfin Pty Ltd v Lepfin & ors** [2020] NSWCA 155; [2019] NSWSC 1328, led by V Whittaker SC, instructed by HFW (review of expert determination; interpretation of dispute resolution clauses)

**Delor Vue Apartments CTS 39788 v Allianz Australia Insurance Ltd** [2021] FCAFC 121; (2021) 396 ALR 27; [2020] FCA 588; led by D A McLure SC, instructed by Holman Webb (estoppel, election, waiver and insurer's duty of utmost good faith)

**Network Ten Pty Ltd v TX Australia Pty Ltd & ors**, in the Court of Appeal [2018] NSWCA 312, led by D R Sulan, instructed by Addisons (review of expert determination)

Other domestic and international commercial arbitrations, including as Australian counsel in a **SIAC international arbitration**; and acting for **SAI Global** in a commercial arbitration, led by I M Jackman SC (now Jackman J)

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