



MATT KARAM

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Admitted to the legal profession
2003

Admitted as a barrister in NSW
2014

Admitted as a barrister in NZ
2007

Also entitled to practise in
Australian jurisdictions (Commonwealth,
State and Territory); Republic of Vanuatu

Matt specialises principally in commercial, insolvency and insurance litigation. He frequently appears led and unled in disputes in the State Supreme Courts and Federal Court at first instance and appellate level. Matt also has an extensive practice in the areas of professional negligence and sports law.

Matt is regularly briefed to appear in urgent interlocutory applications in corporations and insolvency matters including on applications for freezing orders, search orders, appointments of provisional liquidators and restraining anticipated breaches of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) as well as in relation to restraint of trade issues and property disputes.

PRINCIPAL AREAS OF PRACTICE

Appellate	Corporations	Professional liability
Banking and Financial Services	Defamation	Property
Bankruptcy and Insolvency	Equity and Trusts	Restraint of trade
Contracts	Insurance	Sports law

PUBLICATIONS

Perils and pitfalls in the winding up insolvent trading trusts – Presentation to Australian Restructuring Insolvency & Turnaround Association, Canberra, May 2018.

Warrants to liquidators to seize property removed prior to liquidation (2015) 23 Insolv LJ 45.

Appointment of Provisional Liquidators (2006) 16 JBFLP 259.

Company charges under section 267 of the Corporations Act 2001 (2006) 17 JBFLP 1.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

New South Wales Bar Association

Australian Bar Association

ACT Bar Association

Commercial Law Association of Australia

Communications and Media Law Association

Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association

SELECTED CASES

- **Sino Iron Pty Ltd v Mineralogy Pty Ltd [No 15]** [2023] WASC 56 (K Martin J). Led by P J Dunning KC. Counsel for defendant in successfully resisting claims in breach of contract, estoppel and pursuant to *Australian Consumer Law* after 33-day trial in WA Supreme Court. Under appeal.
- **McKay v Findex Group Ltd; Findex Group Ltd v McKay** [2023] ACTSC 58; [2023] ACTSC 108 (McCallum CJ). Unled. Counsel for McKay in long running dispute involving claims and counterclaims alleging breach of contract, trespass, defamation among others. Ongoing.
- **Hannover Life Re of Australasia Ltd v Minister for Families and Communities** [2023] FCA 207 (Allsop CJ). Unled. *Amicus curiae* appointed by Allsop CJ to assist the Court on issue of appropriate recipient of proceeds of life insurance policy.
- **Hundy (liquidator), in the matter of 3 Property Group 13 Pty Ltd (in liquidation) (No 2)** [2023] FCA 173 (Wigney J). Unled. Counsel for liquidator plaintiff on successful applications for retrospective approval of litigation funding agreements and related relief. Eight-day trial fixed for late 2023.
- **Reliance Financial Services Pty Ltd v Antalija Developments No 4 Pty Ltd (No 2)** [2023] NSWSC 141 (Robb J). Unled. Counsel for defendants on claims for breach of fiduciary duty. Plaintiffs refused late application for amendment and joinder. Trial pending.
- **Palmer v CITIC Ltd** [2023] WASC 44 (K Martin J). Led by P J Dunning KC. Counsel for plaintiffs in two proceedings where damages are sought pursuant to contractual indemnity provision in respective sums of \$2.6 billion and \$1.85 billion. Substantive proceedings ongoing.
- **Richards v Han** [2022] FCA 1539 (Halley J). Unled. Counsel for respondents in resisting claims for alleged breaches of contract, the Australian Consumer Law and for restitution assessed on a quantum meruit basis after two-week trial.
- **Hundy (liquidator), in the matter of 3 Property Group 13 Pty Ltd (in liquidation)** [2022] FCA 1216 (Wigney J) Unled. Counsel for liquidator in resisting application for leave to be heard on applications for approval of funding agreements.
- **Paule v McKay (No 2)** (2022) 18 ACTLR 135; [2022] ACTSC 190 (McWilliam AJ). Unled. Counsel for respondent on application for extension of limitation period in defamation proceedings to final day of three-year extension period.
- **Cardiac Defibrillators Australia Pty Ltd (in liq) v Cardiac Defibrillators Australia Pty Ltd (in liq)** [2022] FCA 167 (Halley J). Unled. Counsel for applicant on successful application pursuant to s 500(2) of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (**Act**) for leave to proceed against company in liquidation and final mandatory injunctive relief compelling provision of information and production of documents.
- **Sino Iron Pty Ltd v Mineralogy Pty Ltd** [2022] WASC 476; [2022] WASC 474; [2022] WASC 473; [2022] WASC 472; [2022] WASC 471; [2022] WASC 25; [2021] WASC 475; [2021] WASC 451 (K Martin J). Led by P J Dunning QC. Counsel for first defendant in ongoing dispute regarding rights arising under various mining agreements.
- **Bridging Capital Holdings Pty Ltd v Self Directed Super Funds Pty Ltd** (2021) 396 ALR 415; [2021] FCA 1625 (Stewart J). Unled. Counsel for applicant minority shareholder in successful application for relief from oppression pursuant to s 233(1)(d) of the Act requiring purchase of the minority shareholding without applying any minority discount.
- **3 Property Group 13 Pty Ltd (In Liq) v 3 Property Group 17 Pty Ltd** [2021] FCA 1158 (Halley J). Unled. Counsel for applicant in obtaining continuation of caveat challenged on grounds of competing priorities. Proceeding ongoing – fixed for trial late 2023.

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- **In the matter of Peak Invest Pty Ltd (admins apptd)** [2021] NSWSC 1714 (Black J). Counsel for interested party on application for replacement of trustees and appointment of administrators as receivers over trust property.
 - **Kookaburra Educational Resources Pty Limited v MacGear Limited Partnership; in the matter of Kookaburra Educational Resources Pty Limited** [2021] FCA 797; (No 2) [2021] FCA 1049 (Halley J). Unled. Counsel for respondent in successfully resisting application to set aside statutory demand under section 459G of the Act on the basis of alleged non-compliance with the *Service and Execution of Process Act 1992* (Cth) and related grounds. Indemnity costs ordered.
 - **Mineralogy Pty Ltd v State of Western Australia** (2021) 393 ALR 551; (2021) 95 ALJR 832; [2021] HCA 30 (Kiefel CJ, Gageler, Keane, Gordon, Edelman, Steward & Gleeson JJ). Led by D F Jackson QC. Counsel for plaintiff in constitutional challenge to legislation passed by defendant extinguishing contractual liability to plaintiff estimated to be in the order of \$30 billion.
 - **Colwell (Deed Administrator), re Wealth Mining Pty Ltd (Subject to DOCA) v Wealth Resources Pty Ltd** [2021] FCA 857 (Derrington J). Unled. Counsel for defendant in ongoing application for leave to transfer shares in a company in administration pursuant to s 444GA of the Act.
 - **Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd (in liq) v QNI Metals Ltd** [2021] QCA 138 (Fraser and Morrison JJA, Burns J). Led by P J Dunning QC. Counsel for respondent in appeal relating to whether Queensland Nickel joint venture agreement gives rise to trust obligations.
 - **Haider v Gudelj** (2021) 16 ACTLR 1; [2021] ACTCA 9 (Murrell CJ, Loukas-Karlsson and Perry JJ). Unled. Counsel for appellant in appeal relating to operation of principles regarding equitable contribution between guarantors.
 - **ACN 052 469 164 Pty Ltd (in liq) v Newham** [2021] VUCA 3 (Court of Appeal of Republic of Vanuatu: Lunabek CJ, Mansfield, Hansen, Trief, Wiltens and Aru JJ). Unled. Counsel for appellant in successful appeal to Vanuatu Court of Appeal obtaining reinstatement of proceedings that had been dismissed for asserted failure to comply with Court order.
 - **In the matter of Gondon Five Pty Ltd (In Liq)** [2020] NSWSC 1769 (Leeming JA). Unled. Counsel for applicant in obtaining declarations as to unreasonable director related transaction pursuant to section 588FDA of the Act and related relief.
 - **Findex Group Ltd v McKay** [2020] FCAFC 182 (Markovic, Banks-Smith and Anderson JJ). Led by E A Cheeseman SC. Counsel for successful respondent on appeal from determination that restraint of trade provisions in a shareholders' agreement were unenforceable. Application for special leave to appeal to High Court pending.
 - **Richards v Han** [2020] FCA 1886 (Thawley J). Unled. Counsel for respondent in successfully resisting applications for summary dismissal and related relief.
 - **Reliance Financial Services Pty Ltd v Altair Investments Pty Ltd** [2020] NSWSC 1138 (Kunc J). Unled. Counsel for applicant on successful application for costs the indemnity basis in a gross sum payable forthwith after success on earlier motion for summary dismissal of plaintiffs' claim.
 - **Parbery v QNI Metals Pty Ltd** [2020] QSC 143 (Mullins J). Led by C S Ward SC. Acting for Palmer interests in successfully resisting significant monetary claims by liquidator in lengthy multi-party trial arising from the collapse of Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd.
 - **DWA Insurance Pty Ltd v Community Broker Network Pty Ltd (No 2)** [2020] NSWSC 376 (Robb J). Led by E A Cheeseman SC. Application for discharge of *ex parte* injunction on balance of convenience and material non-disclosure grounds.
 - **Classic Deco Pty Ltd v Fine Touch Pty Ltd** [2020] ACTSC 209 (Mossop J). Unled. Counsel for successful defendant in resisting claims to set aside settlement agreements on economic duress grounds.
 - **Diamond Ace Super Fund Pty Ltd v Rodapa Development Pty Ltd** [2020] FCA 1582 (Griffiths J). Unled. Successful application by plaintiffs for non-party costs order on capitulation by respondent to relief claimed.
 - **McLennan v Meyer Vandenberg** [2020] ACTCA 35 (Burns and Mossop JJ and Robinson AJ). Led by M J Walsh SC. Counsel for successful respondent on appeal relating to extent of damages awarded in professional negligence action.
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- **In the matter of AFG International Pty Ltd (in liq)** [2020] FCA (8 July 2020, Markovic J). Unled. Successful application for termination of winding up under s 482(1) of the Act.
 - **Forza Marketing Pty Ltd v Sie** [2020] NSWSC (3 July 2020, Kunc J). Unled. Counsel for successful applicant on application for freezing order on fraud grounds.
 - **Free v Ma** [2020] FCA 226 (Abraham J). Unled. Counsel for liquidator in successfully obtaining leave pursuant to s 58(3) of the *Bankruptcy Act 1966* (Cth) to commence proceedings in respect of provable debts in a bankrupt estate.
 - **Dobrinski v Shepard (Trustee); in the matter of Slade (No 2)** [2020] FCA 197 (Flick J). Unled. Counsel for respondent bankruptcy trustee in successfully resisting claims of breach of duty by trustee in bankruptcy after 3-day trial.
 - **Coeur De Lion Investments Pty Limited v The President's Club Limited** [2020] FCA 456 (Greenwood J). Led by P J Dunning QC. Application to restrain company from financially assisting a person to acquire its own shares in contravention of s 260A(1) of the Act and to restrain meeting of shareholders.
 - **Palmer Leisure Coolum Pty Ltd v Magistrates Court of Queensland** (2020) 3 QR 546; [2020] QCA 47 (Fraser and Morrison JJA and Boddice J). Led by C S Ward SC. Counsel for appellant in challenge to criminal prosecution on abuse of process grounds.
 - **Findex Group Ltd v McKay** (2019) 148 IPR 284; [2019] FCA 2129 (Stewart J). Unled. Counsel for respondent in successfully resisting claim for breach of restraint of trade provision in shareholders agreement after 5-day trial.
 - **In the matter of Cartwright Transport Pty Ltd** [2019] NSWSC 1367 (Gleeson JA). Unled. Successful application for winding up orders on just and equitable ground pursuant to s 461(1)(k) of the Act.
 - **Li v Wu** [2019] ACTCA 14 (Elkaim, Loukas-Karlsson and Rangiah JJ). Unled. Counsel for successful respondent on appeal from primary judgment permitting the respondent to bring a non-statutory derivative proceeding in the name of a company in liquidation.
 - **Cohen v Double Bay Bowling Club** [2019] NSWSC 1625 (Henry J). Unled. Counsel for co-respondent in successfully resisting application for orders that respondents were guilty of criminal contempt.
 - **Young v Racing NSW & Ors** [2019] NSWDC 662 (Gibson DCJ). Unled. Counsel for co-respondent in successfully seeking summary dismissal of defamation proceedings.
 - **Findex Group Ltd v iiNet Ltd** [2019] NSWSC 1198 (Ward CJ in Eq). Unled. Counsel for successful respondent on application for release of *Harman* undertaking relating to use of documents seized under search orders.
 - **Dobrinski v Shepard (Trustee); In the matter of Slade** [2019] FCA 843 (Flick J). Unled. Counsel for respondent on application under rule 9.63 of the *Federal Court Rules 2011* (Cth) for the appointment of litigation representative.
 - **Findex Group Ltd v McKay** [2019] NSWCA 93 (Basten JA, Sackville AJA, Emmett AJA). Led by E A Cheeseman SC. Counsel for successful respondent on appeal from primary judgment relating to the use of documents seized pursuant to a search order.
 - **Kavanagh v Racing NSW** [2019] NSWSC 40 (Fagan J). Unled. Counsel for plaintiff on successful review of decision of Racing Appeals Tribunal obtaining orders quashing decision that the plaintiff horse trainer was liable for administering cobalt for the purpose of affecting performance in a race and penalties imposed for various alleged cobalt administration breaches.
 - **McLennan v Clapham** [2019] ACTSC 1 (McWilliam AsJ). Unled. Counsel for defendant law firm in successfully resisting claim in negligence for over \$1.8m (37k awarded) after 3-day trial and establishing that damages for distress and disappointment are not available for negligence claims in the ACT unless the plaintiff can establish that they suffer from a recognised psychiatric illness.
 - **The President's Club Limited v Palmer Coolum Resort Pty Ltd** [2019] QSC 209 (Wilson J). Led by P J Dunning QC. Counsel for respondent in successfully opposing transfer of proceeding from Queensland Supreme Court to Federal Court pursuant to s 1337H of the Act and s 5 of the *Jurisdiction of Courts (Cross-vesting) Act 1987* (Cth).
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- **In the matter of Tresdar Pty Ltd** [2019] NSWSC 179 (Rees J). Led by P S Braham SC. Successful application for delivery up of transfer of shares and related relief on finding of fraud and breach of trust by defendant director/shareholder after 4-day trial. Costs judgment (indemnity costs awarded): **Re Tresdar Pty Ltd (No 2)** [2019] NSWSC 544.
- **In the matter of Jagim Developments Pty Ltd** [2019] FCA (23 January 2019, Perry J). Unled. Successful application for urgent appointment of liquidators on just and equitable ground pursuant to s 461(i)(k) of the Act.
- **Palmer Leisure Coolum Pty Ltd v Magistrates Court of Queensland** [2019] QSC 8 (Ryan J). Led by Dr C Ward SC. Counsel for respondent on challenge to continuation of criminal prosecutions brought under s 631(i) of the Act.
- **Mujkic Family Company Pty Ltd v Clarke & Gee Pty Ltd** [2018] TASFC 4 (Blow CJ, Brett J and Marshall AJ). Unled. Counsel for appellant in successful appeal permitting a company formerly in liquidation to bring a claim for professional negligence against the former solicitors of its shareholders in carrying out instructions to terminate the winding up of the company under s 482 of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (Act).
- **Hayes, In the matter of Denham Constructions Pty Ltd (in liq)** [2018] FCA 2025 (Gleeson J). Unled. Counsel for liquidator on application for orders relating to attendance by proposed examinee of liquidator's public examination under s 596B of the Act.
- **ACN 052 469 164 Pty Ltd (in liq) v Newham** [2018] VUCA 30 (Court of Appeal of Republic of Vanuatu: Mansfield, Saksak, Aru, Wiltens JJ). Unled. Counsel for appellant in successful appeal to Vanuatu Court of Appeal relating to use of funds subject to a freezing order.
- **In the matter of Forge Outcomes Pty Ltd** [2018] NSWSC (11 October 2018, Black J). Unled. Successful application for freezing orders relating to funds to be imminently transferred out of the jurisdiction.
- **Wu v Li** (2018) 181 ACTR 48; [2018] ACTSC 224 (McWilliam AsJ). Unled. Counsel for plaintiff on successful application pursuant to inherent jurisdiction of Court for leave to bring derivative proceeding by shareholder where company in liquidation.
- **In the matter of Legal Practice Management Group Pty Ltd** (2018) 125 ACSR 513; [2018] NSWSC 527 (Black J). Led by N C Hutley SC. Successful application for leave to bring derivative proceedings pursuant to s 237 of the Act and related claims.
- **In the matter of NTLV Pty Ltd (in liq)** [2018] FCA 1000 (Perram J). Unled. Successful application for termination of winding up of a corporate trustee under s 482(i) of the Act and discharge of receivers appointed over trust assets.
- **Findex Group Ltd v iiNet Ltd** [2018] NSWSC 1567 (Ward CJ in Eq). Led by A J Sullivan QC. Counsel for successful respondent on application relating to use of documents seized under search orders.
- **In the matter of Legal Practice Management Group Pty Ltd & Ors** [2017] NSWSC 1500 (Black J). Led by NC Hutley SC. Successful application for interim leave to bring derivative proceedings pursuant to s 237 of the Act to preserve limitation period.
- **In the matter of DH International Pty Ltd (in liq); Challis v Hoffmann** (2017) 121 ACSR 585; [2017] NSWSC 870 (Gleeson JA). Led by P S Braham SC. Successful application for leave to bring derivative action relating to breach of directors' duties in Court's inherent jurisdiction.
- **In the matter of Alford; Fuller Jr v Alford** (2017) 252 FCR 168; [2017] FCA 782 (Perry J). Unled. Counsel for successful applicant in leading case relating to requirements for bankruptcy notices and creditors' petitions under *Bankruptcy Act 1966* (Cth).
- **Wu v Li** [2017] FCA 500 (Rares J). Unled. Successful appeal from making of sequestration order where creditor's petition had expired under section 52(4) of the *Bankruptcy Act 1966* (Cth) and trial judge had incorrectly applied the slip rule to retrospectively extend its operation. Costs judgment: **Wu v Li (No 2)** [2017] FCA 501.
- **Australian Conservation Services Pty Ltd v Liladel Holdings Pty Ltd (No 2)** [2017] ACTSC 170 (Mossop J). Unled. Successful application for order for costs payable on solicitor-client basis and to be payable by director of plaintiff in his personal capacity on a joint and several basis.
- **Maviglia Investments Pty Ltd v BKSL Investments Pty Ltd (in liq)** [2017] NSWSC 490 (Slattery J). Unled. Counsel for successful respondent in resisting application for relief against forfeiture and restraint of mortgagee sale.

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- **Australian Conservation Services Pty Ltd v Liladel Holdings Pty Ltd** (2017) 12 ACTLR 124; (2017) 319 FLR 401; [2017] ACTSC 162 (Mossop J). Unled. Successful opposition to application seeking declarations that appointment of trustee was invalid.
 - **Sydney Recycling Park Pty Ltd v Cardinal Group Pty Ltd (in liq)** (2016) 93 NSWLR 251; (2016) 341 ALR 313; (2016) 315 FLR 276; (2016) 118 ACSR 15; [2016] NSWCA 329 (Bathurst CJ, Beazley P, Ward & Payne JJA, Bergin CJ in Eq). Led by M K Condon SC. Counsel for successful respondent on appeal against Supreme Court decision permitting leave to amend voidable transaction proceeding under s 588FF of the Act to include additional transactions after expiry of 3-year period from relation-back day.
 - **Jones v University of Canberra** (2016) 311 FLR 1; [2016] ACTSC 78; [2016] ACTSC 99 (Refshauge J). Unled. Counsel for board of directors of ACT Brumbies in dispute with former CEO including in relation to application to dissolve injunction obtained under *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (ACT).
 - **Dimarti v Dimarti; In the matter of Naro Investments Pty Ltd** [2016] NSWSC 1887 (White J). Unled. Counsel for applicant in obtaining rectification of share register pursuant to section 175 of the Act, damages and related orders after 3-day trial.
 - **Victory Projects Pty Ltd v AAA Self Storage Pty Ltd** [2016] NSWSC 1758 (Black J). Led by P S Braham SC. Counsel for defendants in successfully resisting claim of oppression under ss 232-233 and derivative action under s 237 of the Act.
 - **In the Matter of J A Westaway Pty Ltd** [2016] NSWSC 868 (Black J). Unled. Counsel for applicant in successful application for personal costs award against liquidator on unreasonable conduct grounds.
 - **In the matter of Therma Truck Pty Ltd** [2016] NSWSC 266 (Black J). Unled. Successfully opposing application for appointment of provisional liquidator under s 472(2) of the Act.
 - **In the matter of Cardinal Group Pty Ltd (in liq)** (2015) 110 ACSR 175; [2015] NSWSC 1761 (Black J). Unled. Counsel for liquidator on successful application for leave to amend voidable transaction proceeding under s 588FF of the Act to include additional transactions despite expiry of 3-year period after relation-back day.
 - **In the matter of Metal Storm Pty Ltd (subject to Deed of Company Arrangement)** [2015] NSWSC 1699 (Black J). Unled. Counsel for Court-appointed receivers on successful application for specified remuneration without reference to Registrar's assessment.
 - **In the matter of J A Westaway Pty Ltd (in liq)** [2015] NSWSC (9 October 2015, Black J). Unled. Counsel for plaintiff on successful injunction application to restrain final meeting of creditors convened by liquidator pursuant to s 509 of the Act.
 - **In the matter of Metal Storm Pty Ltd (subject to Deed of Company Arrangement)** [2015] NSWSC 1698 (Black J). Unled. Counsel for receivers on successful application for approval of asset sale agreement brought pursuant to s 424 of the Act.
 - **In the matter of Ikon Group Ltd** (2015) 107 ACSR 146; [2015] NSWSC 980 (Brereton J). Led by M K Condon SC. Counsel for plaintiff on applications for various interlocutory and final relief relating to Australian arm of multi-national group of foreign exchange companies.
 - **Hussey v Ramsay Healthcare Australia Pty Ltd** [2015] NSWSC 1769 (McCallum J). Unled. Defamation – imputations – particulars of aggravated damages.
 - **In the matter of Steel Tigers Pty Ltd (in liq)** [2014] NSWSC 1748 (Black J). Unled. Counsel for liquidator on successful application for issue of warrant pursuant to s 530C of the Act to seize property removed from company shortly prior to liquidation and preservation of property orders pursuant to r 25.3 UCPR (NSW).
 - **Slater v Blomfield** [2014] 3 NZLR 835. Unled. Counsel for respondent on interlocutory appeal in defamation action concerning the issue of whether bloggers are entitled to the protection afforded to journalists from disclosing identities of sources pursuant to s 68 *Evidence Act 2006* (NZ) (precursor to s 126 *Evidence Act 1995* (Cth) & s 126J *Evidence Act 1995* (NSW)).
 - **Teat v Willcocks** [2014] 3 NZLR 129. Led by R B Stewart QC. Counsel for appellant in leading NZ Court of Appeal case regarding the necessity for consideration to support binding variations of contract.
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- **Skids Programme Management Ltd v McNeill** [2013] 1 NZLR 1; (2012) 98 IPR 324. Unled. Counsel for successful appellant in leading NZ Court of Appeal case addressing restraint of trade provisions in franchise agreements, breach of confidence, and additional damages for flagrant breach of copyright.
 - **Field v R (SC)** [2012] 3 NZLR 1. Led by H A Cull QC. Counsel for appellant in leading New Zealand authority regarding interpretation of provisions relating to bribery and corruption of Members of Parliament and Ministers of the Crown contained in Part VI of *Crimes Act 1961* (NZ).
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