



Geoffrey Watson SC

NEW/CHAMBERS

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Admitted to the legal profession	1982
Admitted as a barrister in NSW	1984
Appointment as Senior Counsel	2002
Also entitled to practise in	All Australian jurisdictions and Fiji

Principal areas of practice

Appellate
Insurance and reinsurance
Product liability
Professional indemnity

Professional Summary

Geoffrey Watson specializes in product liability, professional negligence, general insurance and appeals. He has a national practice, appearing in the High Court, the Federal Court and the Supreme Courts of each of the States and Territories. His clients have included the Australian, British, American, New Zealand and Fijian governments; the NSW and other State governments; many State and federal government agencies; all major insurers; and the major mining, industrial and banking houses.

Mr Watson has appeared as counsel assisting in several large scale public inquiries, investigating allegations of corruption amongst NSW politicians and police misconduct and corruption. He is a director of The Centre for Public Integrity, and has acted as an adviser to federal, State and Territory politicians on integrity and corruption issues.

Mr Watson is active in *pro bono* work for asylum seekers, especially for the children on Nauru.

In addition to his professional commitments, Mr Watson pursues an interest in academic work. He writes and lectures on the subjects of tort law, insurance, anti-corruption law, and legal history. He is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Notre Dame.

These are just a few of the reported cases in which Mr Watson has presented the arguments:

Selected cases

- *Optus Administration v Wright* (2017) 94 NSWLR 229 – liability in cases of pure psychiatric injury
- *Alcan Gove v Zabic* (2015) 257 CLR 1 – sufficiency of damage required to found an action in tort
- *Duncan v ICAC* (2015) 256 CLR 83 – constitutional validity of anti-corruption legislation
- *Dionisatos v Acrow Formwork* (2015) 91 NSWLR 34 – the rule against double compensation
- *ICAC v Kinghorn* (2015) 90 NSWLR 682 – finality of litigation and setting aside final orders
- *Motorcycling Events v Kelly* (2014) 86 NSWLR 55 – consumer protection
- *Idameneo Pty Ltd v Gross* (2013) 83 NSWLR 643 – the doctrine of equitable contribution
- *Amaba v Booth* (2011) 246 CLR 36 – causation in asbestos-related mesothelioma
- *Miller v Miller* (2011) 242 CLR 446 – the leading Australian case on illegality in tort
- *Amaca v Ellis* (2010) 240 CLR 111 – causation involving concurrent agents
- *Precision Products v Hawkesbury CC* (2008) 74 NSWLR 102 – environmental protection and anti-pollution laws
- *Macpherson's Ltd v Eaton* (2005) 65 NSWLR 187 – the leading case on the liability of a retailer for the resale of defective products