

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSTONE

YEAR OF CALL: 2007

Christopher has a broad commercial practice in State and Federal Courts, with a particular focus in the areas of insolvency, equity, trade practices and intellectual property.

He has expertise in sports law and has advised athletes and ASADA in respect of anti-doping matters and has appeared for ASADA in the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He has also assisted Australian athletes in appeals against selection for Commonwealth Games and Olympic teams, and has appeared in various tribunals in respect of disciplinary matters.

Christopher previously worked as a solicitor with Malleson Stephen Jaques and Clayton Utz in Sydney and with Clifford Chance LLP in London and the Middle East. Since 2015, he has appeared each year in Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession where he has been described as a preeminent, leading or recommended junior in commercial litigation & dispute resolution and insolvency & restructuring. He was nominated as a preferred counsel by Chambers Global during his employment with Clifford Chance in the Middle East.

He is also an Officer in the RAAF and appears in military tribunals (including courts-martial) and inquiries.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Appellate, Banking, Commercial Equity, Competition & Consumer, Contract, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations, Insurance, Intellectual Property, Land Law & Property, Professional Discipline & Regulatory, Professional Negligence, Resources & Energy, Shipping, Sport.

CASES

The Star Entertainment Qld Limited v Yew Choy Wong[2021] QSC 67

March 2021, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

Calmmouth Pty Ltd v AV Jennings Properties Limited[2021] QSC 3

January 2021, Contract

LEVEL

TWENTY
SEVEN

CHAMBERS



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Rozario & Anor v Delta Law Pty Ltd & Ors [2019] QSC 159

June 2019, Corporations

Blue Sky Water Partners Pty Ltd v Blakeney [2019] FCA 549

April 2019, Contract, Corporations

Sentinel Citilink Pty Ltd v PS Citilink Pty Ltd [2018] QSC 239

October 2018, Land Law & Property, Contract

Guo v Austree Enterprise Pty Ltd [2018] SBCA 1

August 2018, Appellate, Commercial Equity, Contract, International

Anderson v Bourke; Myrteza v North Burleigh Pty Ltd [2018] QSC 126

May 2018, Land Law & Property

Access Group International Ltd v Dreamfield Pty Ltd [2017] QSC 276

November 2017, Commercial Equity, Contract

Zhou v Gou [2017] SBHC 1

May 2017, Commercial Equity, Contract, International

Westpac Banking Corporation v Zilzie Pty Ltd [2016] QSC 238

October 2016, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations

Schoch v Palmer [2016] QSC 147

June 2016, Media & Defamation

Robson v The White Ant Co Pty Ltd [2016] HCASL 76

April 2016, Appellate, Contract

Infa-Secure Pty Ltd v Crocker (No.2) [2016] FCA 202

March 2016, Appellate, Corporations, Competition & Consumer

The White Ant Co Pty Ltd v Robson [2015] NSWCA 345

November 2015, Appellate, Contract

Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority, on behalf of Australian Canoeing and the Australian Sports Commission v Tate Smith CAS 2015/A/1

October 2015, Professional Discipline & Regulatory, Sport

Canehire Pty Ltd v Themis Holdings Pty Ltd [2014] QCA 296

November 2014, Commercial Equity, Appellate

Black Diamond Group Pty Ltd v Manor of Maluka Pty Ltd [2014] QSC 219

September 2014, Land Law & Property

Bank of Queensland Limited v Pascoe [2014] FCCA 1394

July 2014, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Appellate

Themis Holdings Pty Ltd v Canehire Pty Ltd & Anor[2014] QSC 238

March 2014, Commercial Equity

Perrin v Williams (2014) 284 FLR 390; [2014] QSC 021

February 2014, Corporations

Shaft Drillers International LLC v Australian Shaft Drilling P/L[2013] QSC 79

March 2013

Erol v Cavus [2012] QSC 371

November 2012, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

Deputy Commissioner of Taxation v Starpicket Pty Ltd[2012] FCA 1196

October 2012, Appellate, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

Plastec Australia Pty Ltd v Plumbing Solutions Pty Ltd (No. 2)[2012] FCA 730

July 2012

Williams (as liquidator of Willahra Pty Ltd (in liq)) v Kim Management Pty Ltd[2012] QSC 143

June 2012, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

Kotku Bread Pty Ltd v Vero Insurance Ltd[2012] QSC 109

April 2012, Insurance

Campbell v Bank of Queensland[2011] QSC 122

May 2011, Banking

EXPERIENCE

In addition to the cases referred to above, Christopher has advised on various corporate restructures including court approved Schemes of Arrangement and Deeds of Company Arrangement. He also provides specialist corporate advice to a number of listed entities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Australian Financial Review's Best Lawyers

- 2021-22 – Listed for Insolvency & Reorganisation and Litigation
- 2018-2020 – Listed for Insolvency & Reorganisation

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession

Insolvency & Restructuring

- 2018-21 – ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2017 – ‘Recommended’ junior (Queensland)
- 2016 – ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2016 – ‘Recommended’ junior (National)
- 2015 – ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2015 – ‘Recommended’ junior (National)

Commercial litigation & Dispute Resolution

- 2021 – ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2020 – ‘Recommended’ junior (Queensland)
- 2019 – ‘Recommended’ junior (Queensland)
- 2018 – ‘Recommended’ junior (Queensland)
- 2017 – ‘Recommended’ junior (Queensland)
- 2016 – ‘Recommended’ junior (Queensland)
- 2015 – ‘Recommended’ junior (National)
- 2015 – ‘Preeminent’ junior (Queensland)

APPOINTMENTS

2011-present Reserve Legal Officer, Royal Australian Air Force (currently posted to HQ82Wing)

2020-present Appointed as an inaugural member (part-time) of the National Sports Tribunal

MEMBER

Australian Bar Association

Queensland Bar Association

Australia and New Zealand Sports Law Association

Australia and New Zealand Banking Law Association

CAREER

2018 Nationally Accredited Mediator

2011-present Reserve Legal Officer, Royal Australian Air Force (currently posted to HQ82Wing)

2010-present Ad hoc adjunct associate professor University of Queensland lecturing in Sports Law; Evidence Law; Banking and Finance Law; Equity and Commercial Law

2007 Admitted as a Barrister Supreme Court of Queensland; High Court of Australia

2006 Solicitor at Clayton Utz (Sydney): specialising in insolvency litigation

2004 Admitted as a solicitor England & Wales

2000-2006 Solicitor/Senior Associate at Mallesons Stephen Jaques (Sydney); Clifford Chance LLP (London and Middle East) specialising in finance law and commercial arbitration

2000-2002 Solicitor at Public Interest Advocacy Centre; Mallesons Stephen Jaques (Sydney)

1998-2000 Associate to the Honourable DK Derrington (Supreme Court of Queensland); Associate to the Honourable JA Dowsett AM, Federal Court of Australia

1994-1998 Associate to Honourable DK Derrington (Supreme Court of Queensland)

1990-91 Associate to the Honourable P De Jersey AC (Supreme Court of Queensland, now Governor of Queensland)

EDUCATION

BA(Hons) LLB, LLM

Degree in Military Law from the Australian National University

PUBLICATIONS

A Lighthouse in the Fog? Impacts of the New Financial Accountability Regime on Policy Interpretation & Coverage

April 2020, Insurance

Impacts of the New Financial Accountability Regime on Policy Interpretation & Coverage

April 2020, Insurance

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation