

# 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

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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

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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

LEVEL

TWENTY  
SEVEN

CHAMBERS



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***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

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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

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### Australian Financial Review's Best Lawyers

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

### Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession

#### *Insolvency & Restructuring*

- 2018-20 – '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*

- 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**

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**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**

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Australian Bar Association

Queensland Bar Association

Australia and New Zealand Sports Law Association

Australia and New Zealand Banking Law Association

## **CAREER**

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**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

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BA(Hons) LLB, LLM

Degree in Military Law from the Australian National University

## PUBLICATIONS

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### **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*