CLAIRE SCHNEIDER

YEAR OF CALL: 2015

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Claire is a leading barrister with particular expertise in high-profile, complex, sensitive and novel matters across general commercial litigation, competition & consumer law and construction & infrastructure disputes. She appears led and unled in state and federal trial and appellate court divisions.

Since her call to the Bar in 2015, Claire has established herself as one of Australia's foremost junior counsel. She is consistently ranked as a leading barrister by Chambers & Partners, The Legal 500, and Doyle's Guide. Client testimonials describe her as "*outstanding in every respect*" with "*judgment beyond her years*" and praise her ability to provide "*pragmatic and commercial*" advice. As one peer notes: "*When it gets tough, she moves up a gear with grace and charm.*"

Prior to the Bar, Claire was a commercial litigation solicitor and senior associate at two major global firms, and Associate to Justice Patrick Keane in the Queensland Court of Appeal.

Beyond her practice, Claire has served on multiple charitable and not-for-profit boards, including the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation, the Multicultural Development Association Inc (now "MDA Ltd"), Brigidine College Indooroopilly, and the Mater Foundation's Community Fundraising Committee.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Banking, Building & Construction, Commercial Equity, Competition & Consumer, Contract, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests, Judicial Review & Administrative, Land Law & Property, Professional Discipline & Regulatory, Resources & Energy.

CASES

Stillwater Pastoral Company Pty Ltd v Stanwell Corporation Ltd (No 4) **[2025] FCA 1660**
December 2025, Competition & Consumer, Resources & Energy

Stillwater Pastoral Company Pty Ltd v Stanwell Corporation Ltd (No 3) **[2025] FCA 1433**
November 2025, Competition & Consumer, Corporations

Santos v Fluor **[2025] QSC 184**
August 2025, Building & Construction, Contract, Judicial Review & Administrative

Adani Mining Pty Ltd v Pennings (No 2) **[2025] QSC 139**
June 2025, Resources & Energy

Australia Pacific LNG Pty Ltd v Santos Toga Pty Ltd (No 2) **[2025] QSC 80**
April 2025

Stillwater Pastoral Company Pty Ltd v Stanwell Corporation Ltd (No 2) **[2025] FCA 316**
April 2025, Competition & Consumer, Corporations

Adani Mining Pty Ltd v Pennings **[2025] QSC 62**
March 2025, Resources & Energy

Australia Pacific LNG Pty Ltd v Santos Toga Pty Ltd **[2025] QSC 49**
March 2025, Contract, Resources & Energy

Adani Mining Pty Ltd v Pennings **[2024] QSC 302**
December 2024, Contract, Media & Defamation, Resources & Energy

Stillwater Pastoral Company Pty Ltd v Stanwell Corporation Ltd **[2024] FCA 1382**
December 2024, Class Actions, Competition & Consumer, Resources & Energy

Australian Securities and Investments Commission v BPS Financial Pty Ltd **[2024] FCA 457**
May 2024, Corporations, Contract, Banking, Insurance

Registrar of Personal Property Securities v Brookfield **[2024] FCA 29**
January 2024, Corporations, Professional Discipline & Regulatory

GHI v Queensland Police Service and Ors **[2023] QMC 12**
October 2023, Media & Defamation

Aurizon Network Pty Ltd v Queensland Competition Authority & Anor **[2023] QSC 167**
July 2023, Competition & Consumer

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Lactalis Australia Pty Ltd (No 2) **[2023] FCA 839**
July 2023, Competition & Consumer

Commonwealth of Australia v Rose Training Australia Pty Ltd **[2022] FCA 36**
February 2022, Professional Discipline & Regulatory, Competition & Consumer

Compass Marinas Australia Pty Ltd & Anor v State of Queensland **[2021] QCA 293**
December 2021, Contract

Santos Limited v Fluor Australia Pty Ltd & Anor (No 4) **[2021] QSC 296**
November 2021, Contract

Santos Limited v Fluor Australia Pty Ltd & Anor **[2021] QCA 204**
September 2021, Building & Construction, Contract

Compass Marinas Australia Pty Ltd v The State of Queensland; The State of Queensland v Compass Marinas Australia Pty Ltd & Anor **[2020] QSC 375**
December 2020, Contract

Santos Limited v Fluor Australia Pty Ltd & Anor (No 1) **[2020] QSC 372**
December 2020, Contract

Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (No 3) **[2020] FCA 1421**
October 2020, Competition & Consumer

Goldsmith & another v AMP Life Ltd **[2020] QDC 140**
June 2020, Contract

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Productivity Partners Pty Ltd (trading as Captain Cook College) (No 2) **[2020] FCA 863**
June 2020, Competition & Consumer

McConnell Dowell Constructors (Aust) Pty Ltd v Cardno (Qld) Pty Ltd & Anor **[2019] QSC 320**
December 2019, Building & Construction

Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited **[2019] FCA 1284**
August 2019, Competition & Consumer

Oakland Investment Group Limited v Sino-Resource Imp & Exp Co Ltd **[2019] QCA 92**
May 2019, Appellate, Contract, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Land Law & Property

Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation, and Financial Service Industry
February 2019, Banking, Competition & Consumer, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests, Professional Discipline & Regulatory

Santos Limited v BNP Paribas **[2019] QCA 11**
February 2019, Banking, Contract, Building & Construction

Cavalry Investments Pty Ltd v Minister for Revenue and Financial Services **[2018] AATA 3433**
September 2018, Competition & Consumer, Corporations, Professional Discipline & Regulatory

Securicom (NSW) Pty Ltd v Charter Pacific Corporation Ltd **[2018] QSC 109**
May 2018, Contract, Corporations

Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry
April 2018, Banking, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Cement Australia Pty Ltd **[2017] FCAFC 159**
October 2017, Appellate, Competition & Consumer

Santos Ltd v Fluor Australia Pty Ltd **[2017] QSC 153**
July 2017, Building & Construction, Resources & Energy

EXPERIENCE

Recent experience includes:

› Appearing with Senior Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry

› Appearing unled in the Supreme Court of Queensland for a national investment company in successfully opposing an application to set aside a statutory demand

› Acting for Santos Limited in an application to the Supreme Court of Queensland seeking access to the financial records of a contractor under an EPC contract

› Acting for the ACCC in an appeal to the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia against penalties in relation to anti-competitive arrangements

› Acting for Santos Limited in a claim brought in the Supreme Court of Queensland for repayment under an EPC Contract of amounts in excess of $1 billion

› Acting for a national commercial property lessor in an appeal brought in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal – Appeals

› Advising a national property development company in relation to the validity of conditions imposed under certain works permits

› Advising on breaches of the Australian Consumer Law and the availability, scope and quantum of loss of opportunity damages which might be claimed in response to the breach

› Advising on various disputes arising between the parties to an alliance agreement entered into in relation to a major infrastructure project

› Acting for lenders in enforcement proceedings against mortgagors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Australian Financial Review *Best Lawyers*®

2027 – Listed for Commercial Law, Competition Law and Construction/Infrastructure Law

2026 – Listed for Commercial Law, Competition Law, Construction & Infrastructure Law and Brisbane's Competition Law 'Lawyer of the Year'

2025 – Listed for Commercial Law, Competition Law, and Construction & Infrastructure Law

2021-24 – Listed for Competition Law and Construction & Infrastructure Law

2023 – Listed as Brisbane's Construction & Infrastructure 'Lawyer of the Year'

2020 – Listed for Competition Law

Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific

2026 – Construction & Infrastructure – *"She's the clear standout junior barrister in the country. She is intellectually superior, and her capacity to write clearly and persuasively is, I think, the best I've seen".*

2025 – Construction & Infrastructure – *"Claire is a delight. A strong advocate, clever and one of the best in the business", "No superlative is good enough for Claire. She is outstanding."*

2024 – Construction & Infrastructure – "*a name nationally in the construction space*" and "*super-smart, hard-working and got across complicated matters quickly*".

2023 – Construction & Infrastructure

2022 – Construction & Infrastructure – "*extremely well regarded*".

2021 – Construction & Infrastructure – "*incredibly gifted and in very high demand*".

2020 – Construction & Infrastructure – "*very pragmatic and commercial, and she's very thoughtful and generally very sensible*" and "*capacity to absorb all kinds of major information is very good. She has that judgement of what's likely to work even though all the evidence isn't there, and then the ability to tailor it as things go on*".

Chambers & Partners Global

2021-2022, 2024-2026 – Construction & Infrastructure

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific

2026

2025 – *"Claire is an outstanding barrister. She is outstanding in every respect, her written work is succinct, easy to read and most importantly persuasive. She is a first class cross examination and her verbal submissions clear and precise".*

2024 – "*Very clever and hard working. Delivers quality work on time".*

2023 – "*…an outstanding lawyer with judgment beyond her years and an absolute delight to work with. When it gets tough she moves up a gear with grace and charm. Cannot fault her at any level*".

2022

2021 – "*…a very diligent junior counsel with excellent strategic judgment and advocacy skills*".

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2026 – Preeminent Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (QLD), Leading Litigation & Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel (QLD), Recommended Litigation & Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel (Aus).

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2025 – Preeminent Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (QLD), Recommended Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution (QLD)

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2024 – Recommended Litigation & Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel (QLD), Preeminent Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (QLD), Leading Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Aus).

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2023 – Recommended Litigation & Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel (QLD), Preeminent Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (QLD), Leading Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Aus), Recommended Insolvency & Restructuring Junior Counsel (QLD).

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2021-22 – Leading Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel (QLD).

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2019-22 – Leading Construction & Infrastructure and Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel (Qld), Recommended Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Aus).

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2018 – Recommended Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Qld)

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2017 – Emerging Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Qld)

APPOINTMENTS

2017 Member of the Law Council of Australia's Competition and Consumer Committee

2015-present Member, Board of Advice of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation

2014–present Member, Mater Foundation Community Fundraising Committee

2014–2016 Director, Brigidine College Indooroopilly Limited

2009–2012 Member and Secretary to the Board of Management, Multicultural Development Association Inc (now MDA Ltd)

2007–2009 Vice President, Board of the Society of St Vincent de Paul Queensland

MEMBER

Bar Association of Queensland

Women Lawyers Association of Queensland

LawRight

CAREER

July 2013–April 2015 Senior Associate, Litigation, Norton Rose Fulbright Australia

August 2010–July 2013 Associate, Litigation, Norton Rose Fulbright Australia

January 2009–July 2010 Lawyer, Litigation, Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons)

January 2008–December 2008 Associate to the Hon Justice Patrick Keane, Queensland Court of Appeal

December 2008 Admitted as a legal practitioner, Supreme Court of Queensland

EDUCATION

2001–2007 Bachelor of Laws (Hons IIA), University of Queensland

2001–2007 Bachelor of Arts (Political Science), University of Queensland

2004 Australian National Internships Program (Hons), Australian National University

AWARDS

2014 Women in Law Awards – Finalist, National Pro Bono Award

2014 Australasian Lawyer 50 Rising Stars Award

2013 Lawyers Weekly Top 30 Lawyers under 30 – Winner, “Dispute Resolution” Award

PUBLICATIONS

Commissions of Inquiries and Coronial Inquests - perspectives from the bench and each side of the Bar Table
July 2020, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests

Can my contract be varied by what happens on site or how claims are treated?
August 2019, Building & Construction, Contract

Raising the bar for businesses: the ACL's reach in business negotiations and brand protection
October 2018, Competition & Consumer, Corporations, Contract

2017 Construction Law Wrap Up
November 2017, Building & Construction

Catastrophic Failures in Construction
June 2017, Building & Construction

Interpreting Contracts of Insurance
September 2012, Insurance

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation