

# CLAIRE SCHNEIDER

YEAR OF CALL: 2015

Claire has a civil and commercial practice, with particular expertise in the areas of construction & infrastructure, competition & consumer law, financial services regulation, corporations law, commercial property, and banking & insolvency. She has appeared led and unled in both state and federal jurisdictions at trial and appellate level. In 2018, Claire was briefed to appear with Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry.

Claire has been recognised by Australasian Lawyer as one of the 50 Rising Stars of the legal profession and is listed in the Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession as a Leading Construction & Infrastructure and Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel. She is also one of only six junior barristers in Australia listed in the Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific guide as a leading junior for Construction & Infrastructure and ranked for Construction by The Legal 500 Asia Pacific. Claire is a member of the Law Council of Australia's Competition & Consumer Committee.

She has been a director and board member of companies, charitable associations and community groups, 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.

Before being called to the Bar, Claire worked as a Senior Associate in the commercial litigation group of a global firm. Prior to that, she was the Associate to Justice Patrick Keane in the Queensland Court of Appeal.

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

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

## CASES

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### ***Adani Mining Pty Ltd v Pennings* [2024] QSC 302**

December 2024, Contract, Media & Defamation, Resources & Energy

LEVEL

TWENTY  
SEVEN

CHAMBERS



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***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**

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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

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### **Australian Financial Review *Best Lawyers*®**

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**

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 off”*.

### **Chambers & Partners Global**

2021-2022, 2024 – Construction & Infrastructure

### **The Legal 500 Asia Pacific**

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 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

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**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

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Bar Association of Queensland

Women Lawyers Association of Queensland

LawRight

## CAREER

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**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

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**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

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**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

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**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*