

# DAVID CHESTERMAN KC

YEAR OF CALL: 2009 | YEAR OF SILK: 2022

David is an experienced advocate who specialises in complex and high value litigation and arbitration. He was appointed King's Counsel in 2022, having been called to the Bar in 2009.

With over 17 years of experience, David is known for his work-ethic, personable style, and attention to detail. His knowledge and expertise across a broad range of commercial practice areas has seen David act for domestic and international clients, as well as government bodies primarily in the areas of insolvency, contracts, equity, corporations, real property (including body corporate issues), building and construction, intellectual property, professional negligence and regulatory matters.

He has been recognised for his expertise in commercial litigation and insolvency by Doyle's Guide and for insolvency by the Australian Financial Review's *Best Lawyers*® (the details of which are provided below). Additionally, David has a wealth of experience in franchising disputes (acting for either the franchisor or franchisee) and pharmaceutical matters.

Complementing his practice, David's negotiation and communication skills are regularly sought after to mediate a wide range of commercial disputes.

He has previously served as a member of the Bar Council, and as the Honorary Assistant Secretary, for the Bar Association of Queensland.

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

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Arbitration, Banking, Building & Construction, Commercial Equity, Competition & Consumer, Contract, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations, Insurance, Intellectual Property, Judicial Review & Administrative, Land Law & Property, Professional Discipline & Regulatory, Professional Negligence, Resources & Energy.

## CASES

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***Goldsmith & Tippett v AMP Life Ltd; Goldsmith & Tippett v Resolution Life Australasia Limited* [2024] QCA 184**

October 2024, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Land Law & Property

LEVEL

TWENTY  
SEVEN

CHAMBERS



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***Legal Services Commissioner v Li*[2023] QCAT 383**

October 2023, Judicial Review & Administrative, Professional Discipline & Regulatory

***Austin BMI Pty Ltd v Deputy Premier*[2023] QSC 95**

May 2023, Judicial Review & Administrative

***Imam v Life (China) Company Limited & Or*[2023] QCA 19**

February 2023, Contract

***Goldsmith & Anor v AMP Life Ltd*[2023] QSC 15**

February 2023, Contract

***EMClarity Pty Ltd v BSO Network Inc & Anor [No2]*[2023] QCA 11**

February 2023, Contract

***EMClarity Pty Ltd v BSO Network Inc & Anor*[2022] QCA 177**

September 2022, Contract

***Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland v Queensland Master Builders Association, Industrial Organisation of Employees, in the matter of BUSS (Queensland) Pty Ltd* [2022] FCA 283**

March 2022, Corporations

***Allwood v Dr J Sundin, Dr A Chung and Dr C Greaves constituting the general Medical Assessment Tribunal - Psychiatric & Anor*[2022] HCASL 51**

March 2022, Appellate, Judicial Review & Administrative

***Goldsmith & Anor v AMP Life Ltd*[2021] HCASL 133**

October 2021, Appellate, Contract, Land Law & Property

***Tax Practitioners Board v Hacker (No 4)*[2021] FCA 940**

August 2021, Professional Discipline & Regulatory

***Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd v Prichard*[2021] QSC 179**

August 2021, Contract

***Goldsmith & Anor v AMP Life Limited*[2021] QCA 20**

February 2021, Appellate, Contract, Land Law & Property

***Freeman v Montgomery*[2021] QDC 53**

February 2021, Commercial Equity, Contract, Land Law & Property

***Tax Practitioners Board v Hacker (No 3)*[2020] FCA 1814**

December 2020, Professional Discipline & Regulatory

**Wallace v Byres [2020] QSC 391**

December 2020, Contract

**Wagners Cement Pty Ltd & Anor v Boral Resources (Qld) Pty Limited & Anor[2020] QCA 289; [2021] QCA 79**

December 2020, Appellate, Contract

**The Australian Institute for Progress Ltd v The Electoral Commission of Queensland & Ors (No 2)[2020] QSC 174**

June 2020, Judicial Review & Administrative

**Wallace v Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited & Anor[2020] QCA 122**

June 2020, Appellate, Land Law & Property

**Wagners Cement Pty Ltd & Anor v Boral Resources (Qld) Pty Ltd & Anor[2020] QSC 124**

May 2020, Contract

**The Australian Institute for Progress Ltd v The Electoral Commission of Queensland & Or[2020] QSC 54**

March 2020, Judicial Review & Administrative

**New Emerald Coal Pty Ltd v Manlam Pty Ltd[2019] QLC 43**

November 2019, Land Law & Property, Resources & Energy

**Wilmar Sugar Australia Limited v Queensland Sugar Limited[2019] QSC 116**

May 2019, Contract

**Guirguis Pty Ltd & Another v Michel's Patisserie System Pty Ltd & Ors (No 2)[2019] QDC 11**

February 2019, Competition & Consumer, Contract

**Fricke & Anor v WH Frier Building Contractors Pty Ltd & Ors[2019] QSC 6**

January 2019, Building & Construction

**Coast Corp Pacific Pty Ltd v Stockland Development Pty Ltd[2018] QSC 305**

December 2018, Contract, Land Law & Property

**GPS Power Pty Ltd & Ors v CS Energy Ltd[2018] QSC 294**

December 2018, Contract, Corporations

**Currie, Re Country Wellness Group[2018] FCA 1455**

September 2018, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations

**The Commissioner of Taxation of the Commonwealth of Australia v Thomas[2018] HCA 31**

August 2018, Appellate, Judicial Review & Administrative, Tax

**Sloven Main Pty Ltd (Trustee) v Hope[2017] FCAFC 203**

December 2017, Appellate, Judicial Review & Administrative

**Montserrat Holdings Pty Ltd v Wheeler**[2017] QCA 235

October 2017, Land Law & Property

**Papale v Wilmar Sugar Australia Ltd**[2017] QSC 72

May 2017, Contract

**Guirguis Pty Ltd v Michel's Patisserie System Pty Ltd Ltd**[2017] QCA 83

May 2017, Appellate, Competition & Consumer, Contract

**Guirguis Pty Ltd & Ors v Michel's Patisserie System Pty Ltd & Ors**[2016] QDC 117

May 2016, Competition & Consumer

**Thorne Developments Pty Ltd v Thorne and Anor**[2016] QCA 63

March 2016, Appellate, Corporations

**Mineralogy Pty Ltd v Sino Iron Pty Ltd (No 6)**[2015] WASC 80

March 2015, Contract

**Fletcher v Fortress Credit Corp (Aust) II Pty Ltd**[2014] QSC 303

December 2014, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations

**LQ Management Pty Ltd and Ors v Laguna Quays Resort Principal Body Corporate**[2014] QCA 122

May 2014, Appellate, Land Law & Property

**Westpac Banking Corp v Body Corporate for the Wave Community Title Scheme 36237**[2014] QCA 73

April 2014, Appellate, Land Law & Property

**Maley v Australian Securities and Investments Commission**[2013] AATA 924

December 2013, Corporations

**Laguna Quays Resort Principal Body Corporate v Laguna Quays Resort Primary Thoroughfare Body Corporate** [2013] QSC 303

November 2013, Land Law & Property

**Re Health World Ltd and Minister for Health and Ageing**[2013] AATA 388

June 2013, Judicial Review & Administrative

**Camm v Linke Nominees Pty Ltd (No 4)**[2013] FCA 223

March 2013, Appellate, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

**Fletcher and Ors v Fortress Credit Corporation (Australia) II Pty Ltd and Ors**[2012] QSC 359

November 2012, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

**Pinehurst Nominees Pty Ltd v Coeur De Lion Investments Pty Ltd**[2012] QSC 314

October 2012, Land Law & Property

**Downer EDI Mining Pty Ltd v Wambo Coal Pty Ltd**[2012] QSC 290

September 2012, Contract

***Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Storm Financial Ltd (ACN 064 804 691) (recs and mgrs apptd) (in liq) and Others (No 5)[2012] 91 ACSR 122***

September 2012, Appellate, Corporations

***Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Storm Financial Ltd (ACN 064 804 691) (recs and mgrs apptd) (in liq) and Others (No 5)[2012] FCA 954***

September 2012, Corporations

***Edgetec International Pty Ltd (ACN 010 728 784) v Zippykerb (NSW) Pty Ltd (ACN 109 959 337) and Another[2012] FCA 281***

March 2012, Appellate, Intellectual Property

***Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Administrative Appeals Tribuna[2011] FCAFC 114***

August 2011, Corporations

***Quinlivan v Australian Securities and Investments Commission[2011] HCATrans 208***

August 2011, Appellate, Corporations

***Quinlivan v Australian Securities and Investments Commission[2010] FCAFC 161***

December 2010, Appellate, Corporations

***Re Opus Capital Limited and Australian Securities and Investments Commission[2010] AATA 723***

September 2010, Corporations

***Bank Polska Kasa Opieki Spolka Akcyjna v Richard Zbigniew Opara and Anor[2010] QSC 93***

March 2010, International

***Re Quinlivan and Australian Securities and Investments Commission[2010] AATA 113***

February 2010, Corporations

## EXPERIENCE

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David has been retained in a wide range of matters, including the following of note:

### Contracts

- Representing a cement supplier in a dispute with its principal customer concerning the proper construction of a long-term supply agreement.
- Acting for a large property developer defending a claim of a collateral contract stemming from precontractual negotiations.
- Representing an electricity retailer in a complex contractual dispute with the owners of the power station.
- A dispute over substantial royalties payable for the mining of iron ore in Western Australia.
- A dispute between a franchisor and a franchisee in a large international franchise about supply chain

logistics.

- Acting for franchisors or franchisees in numerous disputes arising out of the franchise relationship.
- Representing a large international sugar miller in wide ranging and protracted disputes with its suppliers and its international marketing agency concerning futures trading losses in excess of AUD 100m.
- A dispute about the proper construction, and performance of, several separate contracts concerning the development of wireless technology for use in equity markets (appeal).
- A dispute about the proper construction, and performance of, a contract concerning a large fashion business conducted in China (appeal).
- Acting for Racing Queensland in a dispute about the proper construction of a settlement deed.
- A dispute enforcing exclusive advertising rights involving the City of Brisbane.

### **Professional Negligence and Regulatory**

- Acting for an engineer in relation to a fire at a resort-style residential complex in the Brisbane CBD which caused extensive damage.
- A dispute involving a fire at a large mine in Central Queensland.
- Acting for the Queensland Law Society.
- A dispute about advice given to use certain chemicals to treat pest infestation on crops.
- Acting for the Tax Agents Board in an action for the imposition of injunctions and penalties on an unregistered tax agent.
- Representing an accountant sued in respect of investment advice.
- Acting for a client to recover shares and dividends misappropriated by a stockbroker.
- Acting for ASIC in several disciplinary matters.
- Representing bank officers and lawyers against whom private criminal prosecutions were brought by borrowers.

### **Construction**

- Urgently applying for injunctive relief before an arbitrator in Singapore to prevent one party to a large construction contract calling on bank guarantees.
- A large and complex dispute about many aspects of the construction of the Gold Coast Light Rail.
- Representing the supplier of electrical equipment in relation to a fire at a cement plant in Gladstone (arbitration).
- A large dispute about the engineering of a landfill in Petrie.
- Advising a large construction company in relation to construction works for the expansion of a major airport in Western Australia.

### **Property**

- Acting for a shopping centre owner in relation to a claim for compensation by a tenant for disruption during a substantial renovation (appeal and special leave).
- Representing the developer of a major site in the Brisbane suburb of Teneriffe in proceedings commenced by a resident for breach of contract and misleading or deceptive conduct based on the expansion of the development.
- Actions by a developer of a residential tower to enforce contracts against purchasers who failed to settle.
- A dispute about the obligation to pay rent under the *Retail Shop Leases and Other Commercial Leases (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020(Q.)*.

- A dispute about a development at Carseldine, Queensland, involving the quality of the works and the proper construction of the development agreement.
- Acting for several body corporates in various disputes.

### **Corporate & Insolvency**

- Advising in relation to a shareholder dispute involving a listing on the NYSE.
- Proceedings to recover an uncommercial transaction in excess of AUD 210m.
- Proceedings to recover unfair preferences and director related transactions in the order of AUD 20m.
- Acting for the corporate regulator in proceedings to disqualify persons from managing corporations.
- Acting for the corporate regulator in proceedings concerning the collapse of large financial advisory firms.
- Seeking judicial directions and relief from personal liability for administrators appointed to a large group of pharmacies.
- Representing a bank seeking to recover loans made to investors in a large managed investments scheme which failed.
- Various disputes about the application of the PPSA.
- Representing several banks in numerous disputes with borrowers.
- Representing examinees at public examinations in complex liquidations.

### **Judicial Review & Administrative**

- Appearing in the High Court of Australia for the Attorney-General for Queensland in a matter concerning s 118 of the Australian Constitution.
- A judicial review of a decision to grant approval to supply pharmaceutical benefits at premises in Tasmania (trial and appeal).
- Acting for the Electoral Commission of Queensland in a matter concerning the proper interpretation of the *Electoral Act 1992 (Q.)*.
- Special leave application in respect of a decision not to extend time for the review of a decision under the *Judicial Review Act 1991 (Q.)*.
- Advising in relation to decisions made by the Federal Minister for the Environment.
- Acting in a judicial review of a decision to call in a development application in relation to a significant recycling facility.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

2024 – Recommended KC for Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution (Queensland) and Insolvency & Restructuring (Queensland)

2023 – Recommended KC for Insolvency & Restructuring (Queensland)

2022 – Leading junior counsel for Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution, Recommended junior counsel for Insolvency & Restructuring (Australia)

2021-22 – Leading junior counsel for Insolvency & Restructuring (Queensland)

2021-22 – Preeminent junior counsel for Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution (Queensland)

2020 – Preeminent junior counsel for Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution (Australia)

2020 – Preeminent junior counsel for Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution (Queensland)

2019-20 – Leading junior counsel for Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution (Queensland)

2018 – Recommended junior counsel for Insolvency (Queensland)

2018 – Recommended junior counsel for Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution (Queensland)

2017 – Recommended junior counsel for Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution (Queensland)

2015 – Recommended junior counsel for Insolvency (Queensland)

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

2022-25 – Listed for Commercial and Insolvency and Reorganization Law

2021 – Listed for Insolvency and Reorganization Law

## **APPOINTMENTS**

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**2016-2020** Bar Council Member and Assistant Honorary Secretary, Bar Association of Queensland

## **MEMBER**

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Bar Association of Queensland

## **CAREER**

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**2022** Appointed King's Counsel

**2009** Barrister (Brisbane)

**2007** Solicitor, Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons) (Brisbane)

**2006** Associate to Justice JS Douglas, Supreme Court of Queensland (Brisbane)



## EDUCATION

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2005 LLB (Hons), B Int Bus (Griffith)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### **The "momentous" UK Supreme Court Decision on Directors Duties in Respect of Creditors' Interests You Need to Know About**

December 2022, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations

### **All cards face up: practical and ethical considerations when applying for ex parte relief**

February 2019, Banking, Building & Construction, Commercial Equity, Competition & Consumer, Contract, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations, Employment & Industrial, Insurance, Intellectual Property, International, Land Law & Property, Media & Defamation, Planning & Environment, Professional Negligence, Resources & Energy, Succession

*Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation*