

MEI BARNES

YEAR OF CALL: 2018

Versatile, client focused, open and approachable, Mei practises predominantly in the areas of construction, competition and property (including Native Title). She advises and appears (both led and alone) for public and private corporations, State and Federal Government agencies, and individuals on contentious matters in all State and Federal courts. She also has experience in mediation, negotiation and domestic arbitration, and is admitted to practice in Australia and New York. Mei is listed in Doyle's Guide to the Legal Profession as a recommended junior counsel for construction & infrastructure disputes.

Mei previously worked as a solicitor at Herbert Smith Freehills, as the associate to the Hon. Justice Margaret Wilson of the Supreme Court of Queensland, and in house at the Commonwealth Department of Resources and Energy. She holds a Bachelor of Laws (with First Class Honours) from the Australian National University, and a Master of Laws from Columbia University, New York, where she graduated as a James Kent Scholar.

She is a member of the Law Council of Australia's Competition and Consumer Law Committee, and a sessional academic in Dispute Resolution at the Queensland University of Technology.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Appellate, Arbitration, Banking, Building & Construction, Commercial Equity, Competition & Consumer, Contract, Corporations, Employment & Industrial, Insurance, Intellectual Property, Land Law & Property, Native Title & Cultural Heritage, Resources & Energy.

CASES

***Rainbow on behalf of the Kurtjar People v State of Queensland*[2019] FCA 1683**

August 2019, Native Title & Cultural Heritage, Judicial Review & Administrative

***B&K Holdings (Qld) Pty Ltd v Garmin Australasia Pty Ltd*[2019] FCA 64**

February 2019, Competition & Consumer

***Garmin Australasia Pty Ltd v B & K Holdings (Qld) Pty Ltd*[2018] QCA 353**

December 2018, Appellate, Contract

LEVEL

TWENTY
SEVEN

CHAMBERS



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EXPERIENCE

COMPETITION & CONSUMER

- > Appearing for a retailer and distributor of fitness products in a claim against an international supplier for alleged misuse of market power, exclusive dealing and misleading and deceptive conduct.
- > Acting for the ACCC in civil penalty proceedings concerning alleged cartel conduct and exclusive dealing.
- > Acting for the ACCC in civil penalty proceedings concerning alleged breaches of the *Australian Consumer Law*.

BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

- > Appearing on applications under the *Subcontractors' Charges Act*.
- > Acting for a global design and consultancy firm in a dispute with a building contractor regarding a water treatment facility.
- > Appearing for and advising a Tier 1 construction company in relation to a licencing dispute with the Queensland Building and Construction Commission.
- > Advising construction companies on delay and defective work claims arising on commercial and public infrastructure projects.
- > Advising (as solicitor) on a number of building and construction claims, including the construction of the Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal; residential, commercial and retail redevelopments; major regional shopping centres; and underground infrastructure including tunnels and gas pipelines.

LAND LAW & PROPERTY

- > Appearing and advising on residential and commercial property disputes in the Supreme Court of Queensland.
- > Acting for a large farming business in a claim for breach of contract and misleading and deceptive conduct arising from the sale of the business.
- > Appearing for and advising an Australian commercial property developer in relation to a major residential property development in Mango Hill, Brisbane.
- > Appearing for a leading property investment firm to obtain urgent search and freezing orders in the Queensland Supreme Court.
- > Appearing for and advising for pastoralists in northern Queensland resisting a Native Title Claim particularly involving issues of succession.

> Acting for the State of Queensland in a Native Title Claim involving issues of succession, coalescence and multiple Indigenous claim groups.

BANKING

> Acting for banks in relation to disputes over loan agreements.

> Acting for a leading property investment firm to obtain urgent search and freezing orders in the Queensland Supreme Court.

> Appearing on bankruptcy matters in the Federal Circuit Court.

> Advising a large Australian bank in civil penalty proceedings brought by AUSTRAC.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Doyles Guide to the Australian Profession

2020 – Leading Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (QLD, 'Recommended')

MEMBER

Bar Association of Queensland

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

Member of the Society of Construction Lawyers Australia

Member of the New York State Bar Association (Antitrust Section)

EDUCATION

2017 Master of Laws (James Kent Scholar), Columbia University

2013 Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, Australian National University

2012 Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours), Australian National University

2012 Bachelor of Arts, Australian National University

AWARDS

2017 James Kent Scholar

2017 Parker Certificate for International and Comparative Law

2009-2012 ANU Chancellor's Commendation for Academic Excellence

2011 International Alliance of Research Universities Scholarship – Cambridge University

PUBLICATIONS

Strategies for Persuasive Expert Evidence

December 2019, Building & Construction

Raising the bar for businesses: the ACL's reach in business negotiations and brand protection

October 2018, Competition & Consumer, Corporations, Contract

But can't I just rely on the words in the contract? Recent appellate cases for and against

August 2018, Building & Construction, Contract

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation