

# MEI BARNES

YEAR OF CALL: 2018

Versatile, client focused 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

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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

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***General Trade Industries Pty Ltd (in liquidation) v AGL Energy Limited***[2020] FCA 1562  
October 2020, Contract

***Alvoen on behalf of the Wakaman People #5 v State of Queensland (No 2)***[2020] FCA 960  
July 2020, Native Title & Cultural Heritage

***Rainbow on behalf of the Kurtijar 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

LEVEL

TWENTY  
SEVEN

CHAMBERS



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February 2019, Competition & Consumer

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

December 2018, Appellate, Contract

## EXPERIENCE

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### 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**

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### **Doyles Guide to the Australian Profession**

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

## **MEMBER**

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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**

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**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**

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**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**

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### **Managing Class Action Disputes - Class Definition**

July 2020, Class Actions

### **Moral obloquy or commercial autonomy? Debating statutory unconscionability**

May 2020, Competition & Consumer

### **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

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