

# MICHAEL MAY

YEAR OF CALL: 2014

Michael has a broad commercial and administrative law practice, with a particular focus on competition, corporations, tax litigation, equity and trusts, insolvency, class actions, professional negligence, estates and real property.

Chambers & Partners' Asia Pacific guide lists Michael as a leading junior in Dispute Resolution 2020-2022 and Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2017-2019 list Michael as a recommended junior barrister in a number of areas, including commercial litigation & disputes, insolvency & reconstruction, and tax. In addition, he is listed by the Australian Financial Review's *Best Lawyers*® as a recommended junior counsel for commercial law, competition law and litigation and The Legal 500 Asia Pacific guide recommends him as a Rising Star in Commercial Disputes.

He advises and appears (led and alone) for public and private corporations, insolvency practitioners, insurance companies and individuals in all State and Federal courts and specialist tribunals. He is also experienced in mediations and large-scale commercial arbitration.

He was admitted as a solicitor in 2007, and was a Senior Associate in Cooper Grace Ward's litigation and dispute resolution team prior to being called to the bar.

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

---

Appellate, Arbitration, Banking, Class Actions, Commercial Equity, Competition & Consumer, Contract, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests, Insurance, Intellectual Property, Judicial Review & Administrative, Land Law & Property, Media & Defamation, Planning & Environment, Professional Discipline & Regulatory, Professional Negligence, Resources & Energy, Succession, Tax.

## CASES

---

***Merchant v Commissioner of Taxation*** [2024] FCA 498

May 2024, Tax

***Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited v Murphy Operator Pty Ltd*** [2024] QCA 74

May 2024, Appellate

***CIP Group Pty Ltd v Watters in his capacity as receiver and manager of GGPG Pty Ltd*** [2024] FCAFC 5

LEVEL

TWENTY  
SEVEN

CHAMBERS



LEVEL 27, 239 GEORGE ST  
BRISBANE QLD, 4000

[level27chambers.com.au](http://level27chambers.com.au)

T +61 7 3008 3969

M +61 439 866 425

may@

[level27chambers.com.au](http://level27chambers.com.au)

February 2024, Corporations, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

***Income2Wealth Pty Ltd v ACN 114 733 569 Ltd [No 2][2023] QCA 254***

December 2023, Corporations, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

***Nerang Subdivision Pty Ltd & Ors v Hutson & Anor[2023] QSC 268***

December 2023, Tax

***Merchant & Ors v Ernst & Young (a firm) & Anor[2023] QSC 259***

November 2023, Tax

***Income2Wealth Pty Ltd v ACN 114 733 569 Limited[2023] QCA 215***

November 2023, Corporations, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

***Churchill v Clearview Life Assurance Ltd[2023] QSC 224***

October 2023, Insurance

***ACN 114 733 569 Limited v Income2Wealth Pty Ltd[2023] QSC 73***

April 2023, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

***CIP Group Pty Ltd v Watters in his capacity as receiver and manager of GGPG Pty Ltd[2023] FCA 329***

April 2023, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations

***Johnson v Kinetic Superannuation Ltd & Ors[2023] QDC 50***

March 2023, Tax

***BMG SP Pty Ltd v YFG Strathton Pty Ltd[2023] QSC 52***

March 2023

***Perpetual Trustees Victoria Limited v Mason[2022] QDC 246***

November 2022, Contract, Banking

***Lastavec & Anor v Effective Security & Anor[2022] QCA 218***

November 2022, Corporations, Contract

***Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District v Parups Waring Architects Pty Ltd[2022] QSC 214***

September 2022, Contract

***Golden Vision Gold Coast Pty Ltd v Orchid Avenue Pty Ltd & Anor[2022] QSC 49***

April 2022, Contract, Land Law & Property

***Canavan v ICRA Rolleston Pty Ltd (Receivers and Managers Appointed) (in liquidation)[2022] FCA 117***

February 2022, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

***Hutson v Nerang Subdivision Pty Ltd & ors[2021] QSC 323***

December 2021, Arbitration, Land Law & Property

**Braun v Hatzifotis [2021] QDC 263**  
November 2021, Media & Defamation

**DA Staal Property Pty Ltd v Commonwealth of Australia [2021] QSC 216**  
August 2021, Land Law & Property, Arbitration

**Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited v Murphy Operator Pty Ltd & Ors [2021] HCATrans 114**  
June 2021, Class Actions

**Le v Commissioner of Taxation [2021] FCA 303**  
March 2021, Tax, Appellate

**Murphy Operator & Ors v Gladstone Ports Corporation (No 8) [2021] QSC 57 15**  
March 2021, Class Actions

**Murphy Operator & Ors v Gladstone Ports Corporation (No 7) [2021] QSC 18**  
February 2021, Class Actions

**CFMG Land Limited v MacLaren [2020] QDC 335**  
December 2020, Corporations, Commercial Equity

**Re Octaviar Ltd [2021] QSC 353**  
November 2020, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

**Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited v Murphy Operator Pty Ltd & Ors [2020] QCA 250**  
November 2020, Class Actions

**Nerang Subdivision Pty Ltd v Hutson [2020] QSC 225**  
July 2020, Tax, Land Law & Property

**Murphy Operator & Ors v Gladstone Ports Corporation (No 6) [2020] QSC 192**  
June 2020, Class Actions

**Murphy Operator & Ors v Gladstone Ports Corporation & Anor (No 5) [2020] QSC 36**  
March 2020, Class Actions

**Connelly and Harris & Anor v McGrath & Anor [2019] QSC 304**  
December 2019, Commercial Equity, Corporations

**NGFZ and Commissioner of Taxation (Taxation) [2019] AATA 5410**  
October 2019, Tax

**Re Octaviar Limited (in liq) [2019] QSC 235**  
September 2019, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

***Murphy Operator v Gladstone Ports Corporation (No 4)***[2019] QSC 228

September 2019, Class Actions

***Harding v Commissioner of Taxation***[2019] FCAFC 29

February 2019, Tax, Appellate

***Murphy & Ors v Gladstone Ports Corporation Ltd***[2019] QSC 12

February 2019, Insurance, Class Actions

***Universal Supermodels Pty Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue***[2018] QCS 257

November 2018, Tax, Contract, Employment & Industrial

***Aurizon Network Pty Ltd v Queensland Competition Authority & Ors***[2018] QSC 246

October 2018, Judicial Review & Administrative, Competition & Consumer

***WB Rural Pty Limited v Commissioner of State Revenue & Anor*** [2018] QCA 225

October 2018, Appellate, Land Law & Property, Tax

***Trenfield v HAG Import Corporation (Australia) Pty Ltd (No.2)***[2018] QDC 129

July 2018, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations

***Trenfield v HAG Import Corporation (Australia) Pty Ltd***[2018] QDC 107

June 2018, Contract, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations

***Commissioner of Taxation v Hacon Pty Ltd***[2017] FCAFC 181

November 2017, Tax, Appellate

***WB Rural Pty Limited v Valuer-General for the State of Queensland***[2017] QSC 192

September 2017, Tax

***WB Rural Pty Limited v Valuer-General for the State of Queensland***[2017] QSC 192

September 2017, Land Law & Property

***WB Rural Pty Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue***[2017] QSC 141

June 2017, Judicial Review & Administrative, Tax

***Credit Suisse AG, Sydney Branch v Springsure Property Holdings Pty Ltd (in liquidation)***[2017] QSC 142

June 2017, Contract, Land Law & Property

***Hacon v Commissioner of Taxation***[2017] FCA 659

June 2017, Judicial Review & Administrative, Tax

***Aklia Holdings Pty Ltd v The Carter Group Pty Ltd (in liq)***[2017] QSC 75

May 2017, Commercial Equity, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations

***Body Corporate for 'Medici' CTS no 34361 and the Unit Owners Listed in Schedule A v Whybird & Partners Pty Ltd*** [2016] QSC 296

December 2016, Building & Construction

***Wyatt v Cutbush* [2016] QSC 253**

November 2016, Media & Defamation

***Westpac Life Insurance Services Limited v Mahony* [2016] FCA 1071**

September 2016, Insurance

***Bauer Equipment Australia Pty Ltd v ACN 153 866 114 Pty Ltd* [2016] QSC 76**

April 2016, Corporations, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

***Coles Group Ltd v Costin* [2016] HCATrans 58**

March 2016, Professional Negligence, Appellate

***Hii v Commissioner of Taxation (No 3)* [2016] FCA 58**

February 2016, Tax

***Flegg v Hallett* [2015] QSC 315**

November 2015, Media & Defamation

***Flegg v Hallett* [2015] QSC 167**

June 2015, Media & Defamation

***Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Spreets* [2015] FCA 382**

April 2015, Competition & Consumer

***Lean Field Developments Pty Ltd v E & I Global Solutions (Aust) Pty Ltd* [2014] QSC 293**

December 2014, Building & Construction

***Flegg v Hallett* [2014] QSC 278**

November 2014, Media & Defamation

***Flegg v Hallett* [2014] QCA 220**

September 2014, Media & Defamation

## RECOMMENDATIONS

---

### Australian Financial Review's Best Lawyers

- 2024-25 – Listed for Commercial Law, Competition Law and Litigation
- 2021-23 – Listed for Commercial Law and Competition Law
- 2017-2020 – Listed for Commercial Law

### Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific (Dispute Resolution)

- 2024 – *“Michael is brilliant and someone I would strongly endorse. He is meticulous.”*
- 2023 – *“has a deep mastery of the commercial law in a vast range of contexts, and has the ability to apply this practically to the situation at hand”.*
- 2022 – *“always commercial, thorough, easy to work with”.*
- 2021 – *“exceptional junior counsel”* and *“offer[s] insights from a different perspective”.*
- 2020 – *“extremely bright and responsive”* and *“also very commercial and astute in his understanding of client objectives”.*

### **Chambers & Partners Global (Dispute Resolution)**

Listed for Dispute Resolution

- 2024
- 2022
- 2021
- 2020

### **The Legal 500 Asia Pacific (Commercial Disputes)**

- 2024 – *“Michael is a very clear thinker with strong technical ability and excellent strategic and tactical sense. His paperwork is very good and he has a smooth and engaging style on his feet. He is hard working, efficient, and a pleasure to work with”.*
- 2023 – *“one of the stars at the Bar”.*
- 2022
- 2021 – *“An exceptional junior counsel”.*

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

- 2023 – Leading Tax Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2023 – Leading Insolvency & Restructuring Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2023 – Leading Commercial Litigation & Disputes Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2023 – Leading Construction & Infrastructure Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2022 – Leading Insolvency & Restructuring Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2022 – Leading Commercial Litigation & Disputes Barristers Queensland (Leading)
- 2022 – Leading Tax Barristers Queensland (Leading)
- 2021 – Leading Tax Barristers Queensland (Leading)
- 2021 – Leading Insolvency & Restructuring Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2021 – Leading Commercial Litigation & Disputes Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2020 – Leading Tax Barristers Queensland (Leading)
- 2020 – Leading Commercial Litigation & Disputes Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2020 – Leading Construction & Infrastructure Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2019 – Leading Commercial Litigation & Disputes Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2019 – Leading Tax Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2018 – Leading Insolvency & Restructuring Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2018 – Leading Commercial Litigation & Disputes Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2018 – Leading Tax Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2017 – Leading Tax Barristers Queensland (Recommended)

- 2017 – Leading Commercial Litigation & Disputes Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2017 – Leading Insolvency & Restructuring Barristers Queensland (Recommended)
- 2017 – Leading Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel Queensland (Emerging)
- 2016 – Leading Commercial Litigation & Disputes Barristers Queensland (Recommended)

## MEMBER

---

Bar Association of Queensland

Tax Committee of the Law Council of Australia, Business Law Section

## CAREER

---

**2014** Barrister (Brisbane)

**2007** Solicitor, Cooper Grace Ward (Brisbane)

## EDUCATION

---

**2007** LLB (Hons) - QUT

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### **Cryptocurrency and the law**

June 2022, Commercial Equity, Contract

### **Update on Defamation Law in Queensland**

September 2021, Media & Defamation

### **Commercial Mediations - Strategies and Tips to Achieve the Best Outcome for Your Client**

October 2020

### **Trenfield v Hag Import: Trading Agreements, ROT, PPSA Vesting and Valuing Security Interests**

August 2018, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

### **Onus of Proof**

November 2017, Tax

**Trends in Litigation Damages**

January 2015

**Essential Negotiation Strategies**

August 2014

**Oppression in the Context of Corporate Trustees**

March 2013, Corporations

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