MICHAEL TRIM KC

YEAR OF CALL: 1998 | YEAR OF SILK: 2025



LEVEL 27, 239 GEORGE ST
BRISBANE QLD, 4000

level27chambers.com.au

T +61 7 3008 3920
M +61 413 206 342

michael.trim@
level27chambers.com.au

Michael has a broad commercial practice providing advice and assistance with disputes in the following fields: building and construction, general commercial matters, insolvency, banking & finance, insurance & re-insurance, professional negligence and commercial property.

Michael's practice encompasses appearances in courts, arbitrations, mediations and commissions and work as a mediator or arbitrator.

He is listed in Band 1 and one of only six ranked junior barristers in Australia for Construction & Infrastructure by Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific 2025, having been listed in Band 1 by Chambers & Partners in 2016 to 2025.

The current edition of Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession lists Michael as a 'preeminent', 'leading' or 'recommended' junior for the following areas: Commercial Litigation & Disputes (National and Queensland); Construction & Infrastructure (National and Queensland); and Insolvency & Restructuring (National and Queensland).

Legal 500's Asia Pacific guide to the Australian Bar has ranked Michael in Band 1 for Construction since 2021.

In addition, Michael is listed in the Australian Financial Review's *Best Lawyers*® 2017-2025 for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Construction & Infrastructure and Litigation, and for International Arbitration in 2021-25. The 2023 guide listed him as Brisbane's 'Lawyer of the Year' for International Arbitration.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Appellate, Arbitration, Banking, Building & Construction, Commercial Equity, Competition & Consumer, Contract, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests, Insurance, International, Land Law & Property, Professional Discipline & Regulatory, Professional Negligence, Resources & Energy, Tax.

CASES

Ely Projects Pty Ltd v Stockton and Anor **[2025] QDC 178**
November 2025, Contract

Ely Projects Pty Ltd v Stockton & Anor **[2025] QDC 151**
October 2025, Building & Construction

HealthX Group Pty Ltd v Palling (No 2) **[2025] FCA 1300**
October 2025, Employment & Industrial

Millwood Rise Developments Pty Ltd v Winslow Pty Ltd **[2025] QSC 238**
September 2025, Arbitration, Building & Construction, Contract

Ahern v Brisbane City Council **[2025] QSC 220**
September 2025, Judicial Review & Administrative, Land Law & Property

Inquest into the death of Jordan Robert Crocker
July 2025, Employment & Industrial, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests

Clarke Energy (Australia) Pty Ltd v Power Generation Corporation (Trading as Territory Generation) [No 2] **[2025] QSC 111**
May 2025, Arbitration

Forme Two Pty Ltd v McNab Developments (Qld) **[2025] QSC 96**
May 2025, Building & Construction, Contract

HealthX Group Pty Ltd v Palling **[2025] FCA 298**
April 2025, Employment & Industrial

Clarke Energy (Australia) Pty Ltd v Power Generation Corporation (Trading as Territory Generation) and Robert Holt KC **[2025] QSC 64**
March 2025, Arbitration, Judicial Review & Administrative

Ingeteam Australia Pty Ltd v Susan River Solar Pty Limited & Ors **[2024] QSC 30**
March 2024, Building & Construction, Contract

J Hutchinson Pty Ltd v Australian Competition and Consumer Commission **[2024] FCAFC 18**
February 2024, Competition & Consumer

Alpine Pty Ltd v Brisbane City Council **[2023] QSC 233**
October 2023, Judicial Review & Administrative

ThoughtWare Australia Pty Limited v IonMy Pty Ltd **[2023] FCA 906**
August 2023, Contract

Mount Cathay Pty Ltd & Anor v The Trust Company Ltd & Anor **[2023] QSC 102**
May 2023, Contract

Schlumberger Australia Pty Ltd v Workers' Compensation Regulator **[2023] ICQ 007**
May 2023, Insurance

GCB Constructions Pty Ltd v SEQ Formwork Pty Ltd & Ors **[2023] QSC 71**
April 2023, Contract

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v J Hutchinson Pty Ltd (No 2) **[2022] FCA 1007**
August 2022, Competition & Consumer

Enhance Property Investments No 3 Pty Ltd v Pier Traders Pty Ltd **[2022] QSC 160**
August 2022, Land Law & Property

Devine Constructions Pty Ltd v Stowe Australia Pty Ltd & Ors **[2022] QSC 51**
April 2022, Building & Construction, Contract, Professional Negligence

Imam v Life (China) Company Limited & Ors **[2021] QSC 124**
May 2021, Contract

Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited v Sooner Insurance Company **[2021] QSC 43**
March 2021, Insurance

Kelsey v Logan City Council & Ors (No.8) **[2021] QIRC 114**
March 2021, Employment & Industrial

Kangaroo Point Developments MP Property Pty Ltd v RHG Construction Fitout and Maintenance Pty Ltd & Ors **[2021] QSC 30**
February 2021, Building & Construction, Contract

KDR Gold Coast Pty Ltd v CPB Contractors Pty Ltd **[2020] QSC 303**
October 2020, Contract

Somerset Civil Pty Ltd v Sugarbag Road Pty Ltd **[2020] QSC 203**
July 2020, Contract

Smith v Kelsey & Ors; Dalley & Ors v Kelsey & Ors **[2020] QCA 55**
March 2020, Employment & Industrial

Hambleton & Anor v Idec Solutions Pty Ltd **[2020] QDC 17**
March 2020, Building & Construction, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Contract

Lake v GBST Holdings Limited **[2019] QSC 253**
October 2019, Competition & Consumer, Contract, Employment & Industrial

Tisdall v Omeros **[2019] QSC 220**
September 2019, Competition & Consumer, Contract, Corporations

Johnston v Brisbane City Council & ors (No 2) **[2019] QSC 2193**
August 2019, Judicial Review & Administrative

Dalley & Ors v Kelsey & Ors **[2019] ICQ 8**
July 2019, Employment & Industrial

Kelsey v Logan City Council & Ors (No.7) **[2019] QIRC 085**
June 2019, Judicial Review & Administrative

Johnston v Brisbane City Council **[2019] QSC 130**
May 2019, Judicial Review & Administrative

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

Aurizon Network Pty Ltd v Queensland Competition Authority & Ors **[2018] QSC 246**
October 2018, Judicial Review & Administrative, Competition & Consumer

Kelsey v Logan City Council **[2018] QIRC 108**
August 2018, Employment & Industrial

Kelsey v Logan City Council **[2018] QIRC 099**
July 2018, Employment & Industrial

Dalley v Kelsey **[2018] ICQ 006**
June 2018, Employment & Industrial

Garmin Australasia Pty Ltd v B & K Holdings (Qld) Pty Ltd **[2018] QSC 117**
May 2018, Contract

Kelsey v Logan City Council **[2018] QIRC 53**
May 2018, Employment & Industrial

National Australia Bank Ltd v Bluanya Pty Ltd (no2) **[2018] QSC 93**
May 2018, Banking, Land Law & Property

National Australia Bank Ltd v Bluanya Pty Ltd **[2018] QSC 49**
March 2018, Banking, Land Law & Property

Kelsey v Logan City Council (no.2) **[2018] QIRC 017**
February 2018, Employment & Industrial

Kelsey v Logan City Council **[2018] QIRC 009**
February 2018, Employment & Industrial

Palermo v National Australia Bank Ltd **[2017] QCA 321**
December 2017, Banking, Land Law & Property

Forsythe v Big Gold Corporation Ltd **[2017] QSC 277**
November 2017, Commercial Equity, Land Law & Property

Access Group International Ltd v Dreamfield Pty Ltd **[2017] QSC 276**
November 2017, Commercial Equity, Contract

McQueen v Mount Isa Mines Ltd; CMA Assets Pty Ltd v Mount Isa Mines Ltd **[2017] QCA 259**
November 2017, Appellate, Building & Construction, Contract

Crime & Corruption Commission - Operation Belcarra – second set of hearings
June 2017, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests

National Australia Bank Ltd v Palermo **[2017] QCA 118**
June 2017, Banking, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Land Law & Property

Crime & Corruption Commission - Operation Belcarra
April 2017, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests

CKP Constructions Pty Ltd v Gabba Holdings Pty Ltd **[2016] QDC 356**
December 2016, Building & Construction

ALS Ltd v ECF Asia Pacific Pty Ltd **[2016] QDC 340**
December 2016, Contract

Mt Isa Mines Ltd v CMA Assets Pty Ltd **[2016] QSC 260**
November 2016, Contract, Resources & Energy

Godden v State of Queensland **[2016] QSC 224**
October 2016, Insurance

Inquest into the death of Sean Edwards
February 2016, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests

Commissioner of Taxation v Australian Building Systems Pty Ltd **[2015] HCA 48**
December 2015, Appellate, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Tax

Wiggins Island Coal Export Terminal Pty Ltd v Monadelphous **[2015] QSC 309**
November 2015, Building & Construction

Commissioner of Taxation v Australian Building Systems Pty Ltd (in liq) **[2015] HCA Trans 82**
April 2015, Tax, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

Gekko Developments Pty Ltd v Centa Company Pty Ltd **[2015] QSC 87**
April 2015, Contract, Land Law & Property

Sandhurst Trustees Limited v Clarke **[2015] FCAFC 21; (2015) 321 ALR 1**
February 2015, Appellate, Banking

Johnston v Brisbane City Council **[2014] QSC 268**
October 2014

J M Kelly (Project Builders) Pty Ltd v Toga Development No. 31 Pty Ltd (No 6) **[2014] QSC 262**
October 2014, Building & Construction, Contract

Commissioner of Taxation v Australian Building Systems Pty Ltd (in liq) **[2014] FCAFC 133**
October 2014, Tax, Appellate

Siemens Limited v Forge Group Power Pty Ltd (in liq) **[2014] QSC 184**
August 2014, Building & Construction

Sandhurst Trustees Limited v Clarke **[2014] FCA 84**
July 2014, Corporations, Appellate

Clarke v Sandhurst Trustees Limited **[2014] FCA 580**
June 2014, Corporations, Appellate

Australian Building Systems Pty Ltd v Commissioner of Taxation **[2014] FCA 116**
February 2014, Tax, Appellate

Re : Equitrust Limited (in liq) **[2013] QSC 346**
December 2013, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

Murphy v Legal Services Commissioner (No 2) **[2013] QSC 253**
September 2013, Judicial Review & Administrative

Humphreys and Carter as receivers and managers v McDaniels & Seachange Storage **[2013] FCA 1061**
August 2013, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations, Appellate

Inquest into the deaths of Matthew James Fuller, Reuben Kelly Barnes and Mitchell Scott Sweeny
July 2013, Inquiries & Coronial Inquests

Gekko Developments Pty Ltd v Centa Company Pty Ltd **[2013] QSC 126**
May 2013, Contract, Corporations

Seeker Aircraft America Inc v Seabird Aviation Australia Pty Ltd & Anor **[2013] QSC 121**
May 2013, Contract, Intellectual Property

Weis Restaurant Toowoomba v Gillogly **[2013] QCA 21**
February 2013, Insurance, Appellate

Meandarra Aerial Spraying Pty Ltd v Hill **[2012] QCA 315**
November 2012, Professional Negligence, Appellate

Challen v Golder Associates Pty Ltd **[2012] QCA 307**
November 2012, Appellate

Julstar Pty Ltd **[2012] QDC 272**
September 2012

Zabusky v Virgtel Ltd **[2012] QCA 107**
April 2012, Corporations, Appellate

Daynes v CBD Central Pty Ltd **[2012] QSC 85**
April 2012, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Corporations

Hyatt of Australia Ltd v Coolum Resort Pty Ltd **[2012] QSC 49**
March 2012, Contract, Corporations

Golder Associates Pty Ltd v Challen **[2012] QDC 11**
February 2012

Advance Traders Pty Ltd v McNab Constructions Pty Ltd & Anor **[2011] QSC 212**
August 2011, Building & Construction

G E J Geldard Pty Ltd as trustee v Mobbs (No 3) **[2011] QSC 297**
July 2011, Insurance

Aircraft Technicians of Australia Pty Ltd v St Clair; St Clair v Timtalla Pty Ltd [2011] QCA 188
March 2011, Professional Negligence, Appellate

G E J Geldard Pty Ltd as trustee v Mobbs & Ors (No 2) [2011] QSC 33
March 2011, Insurance

Plummer & Plummer v GPD Marine Village [2011] QSC 9
January 2011, Contract

St Clair v Timtalla Pty Ltd [2010] QCA 304
October 2010, Insurance, Appellate

Springfield Land Corporation (No 2) Pty Ltd v State of Queensland [2010] HCATrans 164
June 2010, Land Law & Property

LeMass v deVere **[2010] QSC 140**
May 2010, Corporations

EXPERIENCE

Michael was originally admitted as a barrister and solicitor in South Australia in 1998 and worked for DLA Piper (then Phillips Fox) for 8 years in Adelaide and Brisbane handling commercial disputes, professional indemnity disputes, product liability claims, insurance disputes and other claims (including acting as counsel at trial and in the interlocutory stages in a number of those disputes).

Michael was also a lawyer and senior associate with Clyde & Co and Clifford Chance LLP in London for almost 5 years prior to coming to the bar in Brisbane and was involved in a variety of commercial disputes, including acting for Brookfield Multiplex UK in disputes arising out of the construction of the new Wembley Stadium, numerous commercial, insurance and reinsurance arbitrations and in other contractual disputes and regulatory matters. Michael

qualified as a “Solicitor Advocate” during his time in the United Kingdom.

In addition to the reported matters referred to, Michael has acted:

- in numerous building and construction claims and arbitrations: including for a developer in a multi-million dollar dispute over the construction of a large apartment development in New Farm, in a litigated dispute over the construction of a residential, commercial and hotel development on the Gold Coast and in numerous significant infrastructure and resource-related arbitrations;
- for and against banks, liquidators, administrators and receivers in numerous claims (including those arising from finance agreements, guarantees, statutory demands and winding up applications);
- as counsel in a number of public examinations, the coronial inquest into deaths arising during the course of the home insulation scheme, the Crime & Corruption Commission Inquiry into local government elections in 2016 and ASIC inquiries;
- in numerous contractual disputes in a commercial setting – including disputes arising out of supply contracts, restraint of trade clauses, sales of businesses and the like;
- in numerous professional negligence claims (including in claims against valuers, accountants, solicitors and construction professionals);
- for vendors, purchasers and a Council in various property related disputes (including disputes arising out of contracts for the sale of residential and commercial property and disputes arising out of commercial leases);
- in numerous resources related disputes (including arbitration); and,
- in oppression claims and other corporate disputes (between directors, shareholders and companies).

Michael is also an active participant in various continuing professional development programmes. In addition to the presentation of seminars at firms, Michael has been invited to speak at many industry events, including presentations to the Society of Construction Law Australia (Queensland, Western Australia and National).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Chambers & Partners Asia Pacific 2016-2026 (Band 1)

Listed as a ‘leading’ counsel for Construction & Infrastructure.

- 2026 *“Michael is one of the leading junior construction barristers nationally.”*
- 2025 *“He is clever, client friendly and one of the few subject matter experts who understands the area” and “Michael is an experienced and capable operator.”*
- 2024 “*excellent construction barrister with significant experience*“.
- 2023 “*easily one of the top three junior counsel in Australia for construction matters*“.
- 2022 “*always considered, commercial and practical*“.
- 2021 “*great attention to detail*” and “*very high-quality work*“.
- 2020 “*He makes himself available when you need him and he doesn’t back out of his opinions; he forms his views and he sticks with them*“.
- 2019 “*one of the outstanding construction juniors in Australia who has been involved in every bit of good construction litigation in Brisbane*” and “*he has a good rapport with the court and he has the skill where he can communicate with the clients*“.

- 2018 "*excellent credentials in the construction space*" and "*a good rapport with the Bench, he is respectful and courteous, he has a very good technical grounding in construction law and civil procedure, and he is very good at nurturing the junior lawyers who work with him*"
- 2017 "*very bright and dedicated, with a strong understanding of construction, infrastructure and engineering issues*".
- 2016 *"sought-after junior with a growing reputation*"

Chambers & Partners Global 2021-2022, 2024-2026 (Band 1)

Listed as a 'leading' junior for Construction & Infrastructure

- 2026
- 2025
- 2024
- 2022
- 2021

The Legal 500 2021-2026 (Band 1)

Construction

- 2026
- 2025
- 2024 – "*Michael is an outstanding legal talent. He is an excellent advocate, and a delight to work with on a personal level*"
- 2023 – "*…an outstanding legal talent. He is an excellent advocate, and a delight to work with on a personal level*".
- 2022 – "*He has the strategic insights of an established silk. He is a rising star.*"
- 2021 – "*Exceptionally bright and hard-working and a first-class advocate.*"

Australian Financial Review's Best Lawyers

- 2021-27 – Listed for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Construction & Infrastructure, International Arbitration and Litigation
- 2023 – Listed as Brisbane's International Arbitration 'Lawyer of the Year'
- 2020 – Listed for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Construction & Infrastructure and Litigation
- 2019 – Listed for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Construction & Infrastructure and Litigation
- 2018 – Listed for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Construction & Infrastructure and Litigation
- 2017 – Listed for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Construction & Infrastructure and Litigation

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession

Insolvency & Restructuring

- 2025 'Leading' (Queensland)
- 2024 'Leading' (Queensland)
- 2023 'Leading' (Queensland)

- 2022 ‘Recommended’ (Queensland)
- 2021 ‘Recommended’ (Queensland)
- 2020 ‘Recommended’ (Queensland)
- 2019 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2018 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2017 ‘Recommended’ (National)
- 2017 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2016 ‘Recommended’ junior (Queensland)

Commercial litigation & Disputes

- 2025 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2024 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2023 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2022 ‘Recommended’ junior (Australia)
- 2022 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2021 ‘Leading’ junior (Australia)
- 2021 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2020 ‘Leading’ junior (Australia)
- 2020 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2019 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2018 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2017 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)
- 2015 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)

Construction & Infrastructure

- 2026 ‘Recommended’ silk (Queensland)
- 2025 ‘Preeminent’ junior (Queensland)
- 2024 ‘Recommended’ junior (National)
- 2024 ‘Preeminent’ junior (Queensland)
- 2023 ‘Recommended’ junior (National)
- 2023 ‘Preeminent’ junior (Queensland)
- 2022 ‘Preeminent’ junior (Queensland)
- 2021 ‘Leading’ junior (National)
- 2021 ‘Preeminent’ junior (Queensland)
- 2020 ‘Preeminent’ junior (Queensland)
- 2019 ‘Preeminent’ junior (Queensland)
- 2018 ‘Recommended’ junior (National)
- 2018 ‘Preeminent’ junior (Queensland)
- 2017 ‘Recommended’ junior (National)
- 2017 ‘Leading’ junior (Queensland)

Michael has been ‘recommended’ for Building and Construction in Brisbane for four previous years.

Lexology Index Australia & New Zealand 2024-2026

Construction & Infrastructure

- 2026 ‘Highly Recommended’ (Australia)
- 2025 ‘Recommended’ (Australia)
- 2024 ‘Recommended’ (Australia)

See also LinkedIn profile for recommendations: public profile here.

APPOINTMENTS

Queensland Bar Association’s Building and Construction Committee

MEMBER

Bar Association of Queensland

Society of Construction Law Australia

CAREER

1998 University of South Australia - Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice

1997 Flinders University - Bachelor of Laws

EDUCATION

1998 University of South Australia, Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice

1997 Flinders University, Bachelor of Laws

PUBLICATIONS

Preparing for Trial
April 2023

Quantum meruit claims following the High Court’s decision in Mann v Paterson Constructions Pty Ltd
November 2019, Building & Construction

Can my contract be varied by what happens on site or how claims are treated?
August 2019, Building & Construction, Contract

But can't I just rely on the words in the contract? Recent appellate cases for and against
August 2018, Building & Construction, Contract

2017 Construction Law Wrap Up
November 2017, Building & Construction

What kind of delay analysis do I need?
August 2017, Building & Construction

Big wave surfing - claims from infrastructure projects: how recent cases can help manage the swell
July 2017, Building & Construction

Catastrophic Failures in Construction
June 2017, Building & Construction

Proportionate Liability
March 2017, Professional Negligence

Where's my money? Can I access or recover my security or not?
March 2016, Building & Construction

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation