

SAM MCCARTHY

YEAR OF CALL: 2016

Sam has a broad commercial dispute resolution practice. He advises and appears in a wide variety of commercial disputes, including high-value and complex disputes concerning corporations law, contract, insurance, professional liability, corporate insolvency and bankruptcy, and construction and infrastructure litigation and arbitration. For the past four years he has been recognised in Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession as a recommended and leading construction and infrastructure junior counsel. Sam regularly appears led and unled in State and Federal Courts and in arbitrations.

He regularly appears for and advises clients in a variety of industries, most notably the insurance, professional services, construction and infrastructure, and property sectors.

Prior to joining the Bar, Sam was a commercial dispute resolution solicitor for five years at a leading Brisbane firm.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

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

CASES

***Surman v Gateway Lawyers (A Firm)* [2025] QSC 287**

November 2025, Corporations, Professional Negligence

***G8 Education Ltd v Hutson* [2025] QCA 271**

November 2025, Appellate, Contract

***Northern SEQ Distributor-Retailer Authority t/a Unitywater v Monadelphous Engineering Pty Ltd* [2025] QSC 253**

October 2025, Contract, Planning & Environment

***DGR Global Ltd v P.T. Limited as trustee of the Armour Energy Security Trust* [2025] QSC 216**

September 2025, Corporations



LEVEL 27, 239 GEORGE ST
BRISBANE QLD, 4000

level27chambers.com.au

T +61 7 3008 3972

smccarthy@level27chambers.com.au

Adani Mining Pty Ltd v Pennings [2025] QSC 157

July 2025, Corporations

DGR Global Ltd v P.T. Limited [2025] QCA 122

July 2025, Professional Negligence

Blue Dog Group Pty Ltd v Credit Suisse Equities (Australia) Ltd & Ors [2025] QSC 101

June 2025, Professional Negligence

DGR Global Ltd v P.T. Limited as trustee of the Armour Energy Security Trust [2025] QSC 8

January 2025, Competition & Consumer, Corporations, Professional Negligence

DGR Global Ltd v P.T. Limited as trustee of the Armour Energy Security Trust [2025] QSC 5

January 2025, Corporations

Rolleston Coal Holdings Pty Ltd v McDonald [2024] QSC 310

December 2024, Contract, Land Law & Property

Baralaba Coal Company Pty Ltd v AAI Ltd trading as Vero Insurance [2024] FCA 532

May 2024, Corporations, Contract, Banking, Insurance

DGR Global Ltd v P.T. Limited as trustee of the Armour Energy Security Trust [2024] QSC 90

May 2024, Corporations

Toula Holdings Pty Ltd & Anor v Lee Turnbull & Co (No 2) [2023] QSC 56

March 2023, Professional Negligence

Toula Holdings Pty Ltd & Anor v Lee Turnbull & Co [2023] QSC 11

February 2023, Professional Negligence

Talbot & Ors v Boyd Legal (A Firm) & Ors [2023] QSC 8

February 2023, Professional Negligence

DBCT Management Pty Ltd v Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Qld) & Ors [2021] QSC 335

December 2021, Contract, Resources & Energy

Talbot v Boyd Legal (A Firm) & Ors (No. 2) [2021] QSC 176

July 2021, Professional Negligence

Talbot v Boyd Legal (A Firm) & Ors [2021] QSC 157

June 2021, Professional Negligence

Auspile Pty Ltd v Bothar Boring and Tunnelling (Australia) Pty Ltd [2021] QSC 39

March 2021, Contract

Kelly v Chelsea on the Park Pty Ltd[2020] QLC 36

November 2020, Contract, Land Law & Property

King v Comiskey Management Services Pty Ltd & Anor[2020] QCA 229

October 2020, Media & Defamation

Brisbane Airport Corporation Pty Limited v Arup Pty Limited[2020] QSC 202

June 2020, Professional Negligence

Talbot v Boyd Legal (A Firm) & Ors[2020] QSC 185

June 2020, Professional Negligence

Samios Plumbing Pty Ltd v John R Keith (QLD) Pty Ltd[2019] QDC 237

November 2019, Contract

Drivas Lakes Pty Limited as Tte v Valuer-General[2019] QLC 42*

November 2019, Land Law & Property

F A Pidgeon & Son Pty Ltd v Valuer-General; 310 Ann Street Nominees Pty Ltd v Valuer-General (No 2)[2019] QLC 25

May 2019, Appellate, Land Law & Property

F A Pidgeon & Son Pty Ltd v Valuer-General[2019] QLC 26

May 2019, Land Law & Property

Talbot v Boyd Legal (A Firm) & Anor[2019] QSC 80

March 2019, Professional Negligence

Sentinel Homemaker 2 Pty Ltd as Tte v Valuer-General[2018] QLC 47

December 2018, Appellate, Land Law & Property

Scomparin v Sekisui House Services (Qld) Pty Ltd[2018] QCAT 426

October 2018, Building & Construction, Contract

Brisbane Airport Corporation Pty Ltd v Arup Pty Ltd[2017] QSC 232

October 2017, Building & Construction

Gailey Projects Pty Ltd v McCartney[2017] QSC 185

September 2017, Contract, Land Law & Property

Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Drake (no2)[2016] FCA 1552

December 2016, Commercial Equity, Corporations

EXPERIENCE

Notable matters as junior counsel include:

INSURANCE AND PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

- > Acting for insurers in Federal Court proceedings to resist a claim for declarations of entitlement to indemnity and damages under an Industrial Special Risk Policy.
- > Acting for solicitors in Supreme Court proceedings defending allegations of negligence arising from the conduct of a retainer relating to a deceased estate.
- > Acting for solicitors in Supreme Court proceedings defending allegations of negligent conduct of litigation.
- > Acting for solicitors in Supreme Court proceedings defending allegations of negligence arising from mortgage frauds.
- > Acting for an international firm of engineers in Supreme Court proceedings defending allegations of negligence and misleading or deceptive conduct arising from alleged defective design of transport infrastructure.
- > Acting for a developer in a claim for negligence and misleading and deceptive conduct by a geotechnical engineer.
- > Acting for an earthworks contractor in Supreme Court proceedings defending claims for negligence and breach of contract arising from a commercial development.
- > Acting for a developer in a claim for negligence against a certifier.
- > Advising the owner and operator of a public building on the implications of structural failure of the building.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

- > Acting in arbitral proceedings concerning contractual disputes between joint venturers on a LNG project.
- > Acting in an ICC arbitration for an international co-venture concerning claims arising from the design and construction of a major piece of transport infrastructure.
- > Appearing (unled) in numerous cases concerning allegations of defective design and workmanship.

LAND LAW

- > Appearing led and unled in the Land Court of Queensland on numerous appeals against annual statutory valuations of commercial land.

OTHER CONTRACTUAL AND COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

- > Advising and appearing for a major transport and logistics company in claims against an infrastructure owner following freight train derailments.

- > Advising and appearing for company directors in Federal Court of Australia civil penalty proceedings brought by ASIC alleging breaches of directors duties to the company.
- > Advising and appearing for a charity in the Federal Court of Australia defending allegations of misleading or deceptive conduct.
- > Advising and appearing (unled) in the District Court of Queensland for a company director defending claims for knowing involvement in the company's alleged misleading or deceptive conduct and in another person's alleged breach of fiduciary duty.
- > Advising and appearing in commercial tenancy disputes in the Supreme Court of Queensland, including applications for injunctive relief.
- > Advising joint venture partners in a contractual claim against a government entity.
- > Appearing in a trial in the Supreme Court of Queensland concerning whether an action had been compromised.
- > Advising and appearing (unled) on numerous *Corporations Act* issues and applications.
- > Advising on partnership disputes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Australian Financial Review's Best Lawyers® 2026 – Listed for Construction & Infrastructure Law and Professional Malpractice Litigation

Australian Financial Review's Best Lawyers® 2023-25– Listed for Professional Malpractice Litigation, 2025 awarded 'Lawyer of the Year' for Professional Malpractice Litigation

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2025– Leading Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Qld), Leading Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel (Qld), Recommended Insolvency & Restructuring Junior Counsel (Qld)

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2024– Recommended Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel (Qld), Leading Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Qld), Recommended Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Aus).

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2022– Recommended Commercial Litigation & Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel (Qld)

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2020-23– Leading Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Qld)

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2018-19– Recommended Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Qld)

Doyle's Guide to the Australian Legal Profession 2017– Emerging Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel (Qld)

Legal 500 Asia Pacific Leading Construction, Infrastructure and Property Junior Counsel

2026

2025 – *“Sam has the ability to drill down to the key issues. His advice work is succinct and to the point. Sam’s advocacy is persuasive and accomplished”.*

2024 – *“Sam has wonderful judgement and skill beyond his years. He is hardworking and in high demand by silks throughout Brisbane”*

2023 – *“A strong up and comer”.*

2022 – *“Smart, genuine, and great to work with.”*

MEMBER

Bar Association of Queensland

Society of Construction Law Australia

EDUCATION

LLB (Hons) (QUT)

LLM (Distinction) (University of London)

PUBLICATIONS

Dealing Effectively & Ethically with Experts

October 2023, Building & Construction, Commercial Equity, Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy, Resources & Energy

Avoiding hammer blows to programming analysis in delay disputes

July 2020, Building & Construction

Timing is Everything

July 2019, Insurance

Strategies for admissible and persuasive expert evidence

March 2018

Contiguous vs non-contiguous extensions of time

August 2017, Building & Construction

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation