

# Christopher Chiam

Tenth Floor Chambers  
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## Education

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<b>University of Sydney</b>	2023
- Master of Laws	
- Judge Samuel Redshaw Prize for Administrative Law	
<b>University of New South Wales</b>	2018
- Bachelor of Laws – First Class Honours and University Medal	
- Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) with Distinction	
- First place in contracts, evidence and constitutional law	

## Admissions

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Called to the New South Wales Bar	May 2023
Admitted to the High Court of Australia	January 2020
Admitted to the Supreme Court of New South Wales	December 2019

## Professional Background

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<b>Barrister</b>   Tenth Floor Chambers	2023 – present
<b>Reporter</b>   New South Wales Law Reports	2024 – present
<b>Teaching Fellow</b>   University of New South Wales	2023
<b>Tipstaff/Associate to the Hon Justice A J Meagher</b>   New South Wales Court of Appeal	2020 – 2021
<b>Solicitor</b>   Herbert Smith Freehills (now known as Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer) Practised in dispute resolution group	2019 – 2020, 2022

## Selected Cases

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### Revenue (stamp duty, payroll tax, land tax)

- *Uber Australia Pty Ltd v Chief Commissioner for State Revenue*, HCA S170/2025 (reserved); *Chief Commissioner of State Revenue v Uber Australia Pty Ltd* (2025) 118 NSWLR 164; [2025] NSWCA 172 – for Commissioner; payroll tax, remission of interest (led by S Balafoutis SC and D Mitchell)
- *Ningbo Kaixin Investment Co Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue*, TASFC (reserved) – for Commissioner; duties, land-rich corporation, uncompleted agreements (led by S Balafoutis SC)

- *Finsure Finance and Insurance Pty Ltd v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue*, NSWSC (ongoing) – for plaintiff; pay-roll tax (led by S Balafoutis SC)
- *Lamir-Pike v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* [2025] NSWCATAD 169 – for Commissioner; stamp duty, first home buyer scheme under *Duties Act 1997*, remission of interest (NSW) (unled)
- *GSE v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* [2024] NSWCATAD 320 – for Commissioner; stamp duty, surcharge purchaser duty, remission of interest (unled)
- *Wallace v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* [2026] NSWCATAD 129 – for Commissioner; land tax, imposition of tax following decision in *G Global 120E T2* [2025] HCA 39 (unled)
- *Ramsden v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue*, NCAT – for Commissioner; stamp duty, imposition of duty following error in conveyance, remission of interest (unled)
- *Gao v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue*, NCAT (settled during hearing) – for Commissioner; stamp duty, remission of interest (unled)
- *Sidey v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue*, NCAT (settled) – for Commissioner; stamp duty, principal place of residence exemption (unled)
- *Quest Effect Pty Ltd v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue*, NCAT (ongoing) – for plaintiff; pay-roll tax (led by S Balafoutis SC)
- *Uber Australia Pty Ltd v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* [2024] NSWSC 1124 and [2024] NSWSC 1324 (costs) – for Commissioner; appeal against pay-roll tax assessment imposed on Uber (led by S Balafoutis SC and D Mitchell)

### **Commercial and equity (including corporations, real property, building & construction)**

- Various proceedings arising out of the collapse of the Greensill Group, FCA (ongoing) – for Marsh (led by M Darke SC, C Colquhoun SC, I Ahmed SC and others)
- *A.J. Grant Building Pty Ltd v Wright* [2026] NSWDC 151 – for plaintiff; assessment of damages following default judgment (unled)
- *Ayat Hossain Investments v TMT Property Holding*, NSWSC (ongoing) – for plaintiff; rescission of contract for property purchase “off the plan” (unled)
- *Complete Coffee Pty Ltd v Incafe Restaurant Pty Ltd*, NSCS (settled after hearing) – for plaintiff; breach of contract (led by S Lawrance SC)
- *The Owners - Strata Plan No 87639 v Karimbla Properties (No 4) Pty Ltd (No 2)* [2025] NSWSC 107 – for owners corporation; successfully opposed application for security for costs (led by F Corsaro SC)

- *The Owners - Strata Plan No 87639 v Karimbla Properties (No 4) Pty Ltd* [2025] NSWSC 58 – for owners corporation; motion to amend pleadings (led by F Corsaro SC)
- *Sasterawan v Molla* [2025] NSWDC 185 – for plaintiff; claim under guarantee (led by S Balafoutis SC)
- *Waterhouse v Rothner*, NSWSC (reserved) – for first defendant; claim for breach of contract for sale, relief against forfeiture (led by S Lawrance SC)
- *Guangzhou Huada Venture Capital No 1 Investment Enterprise (Limited Partnership) v Zhu* [2024] FCA 938 – for applicant; enforcement of foreign arbitral award (unled)
- *Unicomb v Blais* (2024) 115 NSWLR 155; [2024] NSWSC 903 – for applicants; motion on application of Harman obligation to affidavits filed voluntarily (led by M Elliott SC)
- *Lee v ATL (Australia) Pty Ltd* [2023] NSWCA 327 – for respondent; commercial guarantee and indemnity (led by P Knowles SC)
- *Unicomb & Ors v Blais & Ors*, NSWSC (settled) – for plaintiffs; claim against estate for breach of executors duties (led by D Pritchard SC)
- *Kline v Kline*, NSWSC (settled) – for plaintiff; s 66G application (unled)
- *Dixon & Dixon v Nationwide Property Brokers*, NSWDC (settled) – for plaintiffs; contract and debt claim (unled)
- *Yavenvale Pty Ltd & Ors v Southcity Shopping Holdings Pty Ltd & Ors*, FCA (settled) – for defendants/cross-claimants; oppression (led by S Balafoutis SC)

### **Administrative Law**

- *GDF v Children's Guardian* [2026] NSWCATAD 96 – for respondent; review of refusal to grant working with children's clearance (unled)
- *GQV v Children's Guardian* [2025] NSWCATAD 205 – for respondent; review of refusal to grant working with children's clearance (unled)
- *Li v Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages* [2025] NSWCATAD 6 – for respondent; review of decision under *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995* (NSW) (unled)
- *GGY v Children's Guardian* [2025] NSWCATAD 63 – for respondent; application for enabling order (unled)
- *GQD v Secretary, Department of Education*, NCAT (settled) – for respondent; review of prohibition notice under Children (Education and Care Services) National Law (unled)
- *Guan v Australian Securities and Investments Commission*, AAT – for respondent; review of banning order under *Corporations Act*, s 920A (led by M Ellicott)
- Advising statutory body on potential challenge to Ministerial decision-making

## Selected Publications

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- 'According to the Length of the Legislature's Foot – Equity and the *Civil Liability Act*' (2022) 96(3) *Australian Law Journal*
- 'Revisiting the Amerind Appeal – Consequences for Insolvent Trustees of More than One Trust' (2022) 30(1) *Insolvency Law Journal*
- 'Peremptory Mandamus in Australian Administrative Law' (2021) 28(1) *Australian Journal of Administrative Law*
- 'The Right to Reasons and the Courts' Supervisory Jurisdiction' (2020) 41(2) *Adelaide Law Review*
- 'A Comparative Analysis of Product Intervention Powers in Australia and the United Kingdom' (2020) 38(4) *Company and Securities Law Journal*
- 'Dollars and Sense: Giving Contracts a 'Commercial' Construction' (2020) 34(2) *Commercial Law Quarterly*
- 'Trustee Rights and Powers: A Taxonomical Analysis' (2020) 32 *Bond Law Review*
- 'Equitable Damages and Mitigation of Loss' (2019) 47(3) *Australian Bar Review*
- 'High Tide for Deeds of Company Arrangement? A Critical Review and Comment on *Mighty River International Limited v Hughes* [2018] HCA 38' (2019) 26(3) *Company and Securities Law Journal*
- 'The Future of the Fettering Rule in Judicial Review' (2019) 38(1) *University of Tasmania Law Review*
- 'Domestic Care Services and *Lord Campbell's Act*' (2018) 25(1) *Tort Law Journal*
- 'Characterising Migration Directions as Legislative Instruments: Implications for Judicial Review' (2018) 24(4) *Australian Journal of Administrative Law*

## Other Achievements

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- UNSW Law Journal Editorial Board (2015 – 2018)
- Michael Coper Memorial Prize for ALSA Conference Paper Presentation 2018
- Runner Up and Best Speaker – Asia Pacific Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot 2018
- Winner, Best Speaker and Best Speaker in the Final – Red Cross Moot 2017
- Winner and Best Speaker in the Final – Castan Centre for Human Rights National Moot 2016
- Winner – King & Wood Mallesons ALSA Championship Moot 2015
- Winner and Best Speaker in the Final – Ashurst National Private Law Moot 2015