

Christopher Chiam

Tenth Floor Chambers
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Education

University of Sydney	2023
- Master of Laws - Judge Samuel Redshaw Prize for Administrative Law	
University of New South Wales	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

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

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

Selected Cases

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, I Ahmed SC, R Jedrzejczyk and others)
- *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 (ongoing) – 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)
- *Waterproofing Technologies Pty Ltd & Anor v Perri & Ors*, FCA (ongoing) – for applicants; breach of employment contract, fiduciary duties, statutory duties (led by A McInerney SC)
- *Yavenvale Pty Ltd & Ors v Southcity Shopping Holdings Pty Ltd & Ors*, FCA (settled) – for defendants/cross-claimants; oppression (led by S Balafoutis SC)

Revenue

- *Chief Commissioner of State Revenue v Uber Australia Pty Ltd* [2025] NSWCA 172 – for Commissioner; pay-roll tax (led by S Balafoutis SC and D Mitchell)
- *Lamir-Pike v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* [2025] NSWCATAD 169 – for Commissioner; first home buyer scheme under *Duties Act 1997* (NSW) (unled)
- *Quest Effect Pty Ltd v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue*, NCAT (ongoing) – for plaintiff; pay-roll tax (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)
- *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)

- *GSE v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue* [2024] NSWCATAD 320 – for Commissioner; surcharge purchaser duty (unled)
- *Gao v Chief Commissioner of State Revenue*, NCAT (settled) – for Commissioner (unled)

Administrative Law

- *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)
- *FMG v Children’s Guardian* [2025] NSWCATAD 37 – for respondent; review of refusal to grant working with children’s clearance (unled)
- *FYK v Children’s Guardian* [2024] NSWCATAD 235 – for respondent; application for enabling order (unled)
- *GFO v Children’s Guardian* [2024] NSWCATAD 346 – for respondent; applicant for enabling order (unled)
- *Guan v Australian Securities and Investments Commission*, AAT (ongoing) – 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

Select Publications

- ‘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*
- 'Editorial - Materiality and Jurisdictional Error' [2018] No 4 *University of New South Wales Law Journal Forum*
- 'Editorial' (2017) 40(4) *University of New South Wales Law Journal*

Other Achievements

- UNSW Law Journal Editorial Board (2015 – 2018). Editor in charge of Issue 40(4)
- 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 – ALSA 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