

SHORT BIOGRAPHY – JAMES McLEOD

1. Personal

Name: James Stewart McLeod

Date of Birth: 14 December 1978

Chambers Address: PG Hely Chambers
Level 9, 75 – 85 Elizabeth Street
Sydney 2000

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2. Academic

1996: Graduated Dux of Merewether High School.

2000: Graduated with B Economics (Hons) from University of Newcastle.

2001: Graduated with *First Class Honours* in Bachelor of Laws/Diploma of Legal Practice, University of Newcastle (including a high distinction in Honours thesis). During the law degree, awarded prizes and/or awards in contract law, equity law, and tort law.

3. Career

2000-2001: Summer Clerk at *Mallesons Stephen Jaques*.

2001: Law Clerk at *Mallesons Stephen Jaques*.

February 2002: Admitted as solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

2002-2003: Associate to Justice Richard Conti QC, Federal Court of Australia.

2003-2004: Solicitor in the litigation group at *Mallesons Stephen Jaques*, primarily reporting to law partners Peter Stockdale and Ashley Black.

February 2004: Admitted to the Bar and commenced practising as a barrister.

2004-2005: First year at the Bar, based at 11th Floor Wentworth/Selborne Chambers.

May 2005 to March 2006: Barrister, 6th Floor Selborne/Wentworth Chambers

April 2006 to December 2009: Barrister, 7th Floor Selborne Chambers

1 January 2010 to mid 2019: Barrister, 53 Martin Place Chambers

Mid 2019 – May 2023: Barrister, Alinea Chambers

May 2023 and Continuing: Barrister, PG Hely Chambers

4. Practice at the Bar

I am an experienced and practical barrister who for nearly 20 years has been briefed to advise and appear in a diverse range of civil litigation. I appear in trials and on appeals, and accept briefs throughout Australia from law firms, and also sometimes on a direct access basis (for example from in-house lawyers). I seek to provide persuasive advocacy and a thoughtful approach to achieving outcomes in legal disputes.

I was admitted to the Bar in February 2004 after two years practising as a solicitor, the first as Associate to his Honour Justice Richard Conti QC in the Federal Court. I have since developed a practice which involves advocacy and advisory work across a range of litigious areas.

In January 2010, together with two other colleagues, I established 53 Martin Place Chambers. That chambers existed successfully for 9½ years, up until the end of June 2019. I am now a floor member at PG Hely Chambers, located in Elizabeth Street in Sydney's CBD.

Some of my main areas of practice are: commercial disputes, inquests and inquiries, sports law, employment law, and discrimination law.

More specifically, I work in legal fields including: commercial litigation including contractual disputes, employment law (including disputes involving dismissals and alleged workplace misconduct, issues relating to employment contracts, and cases involving post employment restraint clauses), commercial matters alleging misleading or deceptive conduct, inquests and inquiries, corporations matters, discrimination law disputes, and sports law (including appearing at sporting disciplinary tribunals and advising on regulatory issues).

During my career at the Bar I have appeared in the High Court, Federal Court, NSW Court of Appeal, NSW Supreme Court (Common Law and Equity), Land and Environment Court, District and Local Courts. I have also appeared in the CTTT, ADT and NCAT, the Fair Work Commission, the NSW IRC, and at various sports tribunals. I have also held many briefs to appear at mediation, and am a trained and formerly an accredited (NMAS) mediator. My interest in mediation reflects my belief that some disputes are best resolved through negotiation.

In relation to sports law I provide advice and advocacy in respect of sporting regulatory issues, and I have appeared in sports tribunals representing athletes, sporting organisations, and sporting clubs, including in the Court of Arbitration for Sport (**CAS**), at the National Rugby League (**NRL**) Judiciary, at Football Federation Australia (**FFA**), in relation to anti-doping provisions of the WADA Code, and at the Racing Appeals Tribunal (**RAT**). In recent years I have regularly defended professional rugby league players at the NRL Judiciary, including as the counsel of choice for the Sydney Roosters and New Zealand Warriors.

In 2010 and 2011 I was the legal member of the Hunter New England Human Research Ethics Committee. It assesses applications by researchers seeking approval to conduct studies involving the participation of humans. Complex legal and ethical issues arose in that setting.

I have presented papers to NSW lawyers, including multiples times as a presenter at the NSW State Legal Conference.

In 2022 and 2023 my work as a barrister has included: appearing unled to provide separate representation to the then second in charge of legal at The Star Entertainment Group in the government inquiry in connection with The Star presided over by Adam Bell SC; appearing unled in a five day commercial dispute hearing in the Supreme Court; appearing unled in a three day commercial dispute hearing in the Federal Court; and appearing unled for athletes at the NRL's peak disciplinary tribunal.

May 2023