

Curriculum Vitae

Overview

Alexander has a broad commercial practice. He regularly appears (led and unled) in the Queensland and Federal Courts on behalf of large companies, Queensland and Commonwealth government departments, local governments, high net worth individuals and insolvency practitioners.

Before being called to the bar, Alexander practised in commercial litigation and restructuring and insolvency at Clayton Utz (Brisbane). He also worked as an Associate (Australian Qualified) in London at Joseph Hage Aaronson LLP (a firm comprising barristers and solicitors). While in London Alexander assisted with complex international litigation and arbitration including representing multi-national groups seeking recovery of more than £1bn in unlawfully levied tax from the UK government.

Alexander was Associate to the Hon. Justice J.A. Logan RFD of the Federal Court of Australia in 2010. He holds degrees in Law (with First Class Honours) and Arts from the University of Queensland and a Master of Law (with First Class Honours) from the University of Cambridge.

Areas of Practice

Administrative Law; Appellate; Arbitration; Banking & Finance; Bankruptcy & Insolvency; Building & Construction; Commercial; Contract; Equity; Insurance; Migration; Mining, Energy & Resources; Planning & Environment; Property; Tax; Tort; Trade Practices & Competition

Career

2017 -	Barrister, Queensland
2017 - 2018	Visiting Lecturer/Tutor, University of Queensland
2016 - 2017	Lawyer, Clayton Utz, Brisbane
2014 - 2016	Associate (Australian Qualified), Joseph Hage Aaronson LLP, London
2011 - 2013	Lawyer, Clayton Utz, Brisbane
2010	Associate to the Hon. Justice J.A. Logan RFD, Federal Court of Australia

Education

2014	University of Cambridge, Master of Law (Hons I)
2011	Queensland University of Technology, Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice
2010	University of Queensland, Bachelor of Laws (Hons I) and Bachelor of Arts (History & Economics)

Selected Experience (as a barrister)

- Acting in an LCIA arbitration seated in London in respect of a coal offtake agreement governed by Queensland law (led by Paul Key QC, with Luke Pearce (London bar)).
- *Sanrus Pty Ltd v Monto Coal 2 Pty Ltd* [2019] QCA 160, successful appeal from a case management decision during a lengthy trial to exclude a late expert report (led by Bret Walker SC, with David de Jersey) and an application in respect of objections to evidence in the trial of that proceeding: *Sanrus Pty Ltd v Monto Coal 2 Pty Ltd (No 5)* [2019] QSC 210 (led by Kylie Downes QC, with David de Jersey and Kirsty Gothard).
- Acting for the plaintiff in a fair dealing and breach of professional duty dispute against several defendants in the Supreme Court of Queensland, including a successful application for leave to rely on further expert evidence despite the appointment of joint experts: *Menegazzo v PricewaterhouseCoopers (a firm)* [2019] QSC 296 (led by Sandy Thompson QC SG).
- Acting for the Commissioner of Taxation in respect of proceedings in the Supreme Court of Queensland and the Federal Court of Australia concerning a garnishee notice issued by the Commissioner in connection with the liquidation of Octaviar Ltd (led by Neil Williams SC, with Dan Butler). Including an application for judicial advice: *Re Octaviar Ltd (in liq)* [2019] FCA 1614.
- Successfully seeking further and better particulars of allegations concerning contamination by fire-fighting foam in a nuisance/breach of contract proceeding (led by Liam Kelly QC).
- Acting for a local council in a Supreme Court of Queensland proceeding involving a lease dispute with a large commercial tenant (led by John McKenna QC).
- Acting in various applications in the Supreme Court of Queensland and the Federal Court of Australia in connection with the winding-up of JM Kelly Builders Pty Ltd and its associated entities, including bringing proceedings against directors, officers and related entities and obtaining three interim freezing and in ongoing public examinations of persons involved in the affairs of the insolvent entities (both unled and led by Craig Wilkins).
- Acting for a property developer in a Supreme Court of Queensland proceeding arising from the breakdown of a joint venture for a mixed-use development (led by Declan Kelly QC).
- Acting for the Commissioner of State Revenue (Qld) in a payroll tax appeal concerning interpretation of the “employment agency contracts” provisions (led by Melanie Hindman QC).
- Acting for cotton-growers in a dispute in the Supreme Court of Queensland concerning nuisance caused by overland water flow (led by Dominic Pyle).
- *GPS Power Pty Ltd v CS Energy Ltd* [2018] QSC 294, a dispute concerning the interpretation of a power purchase agreement on the Commercial List of the Supreme Court of Queensland (led by Simon Couper QC, with David Chesterman).
- *Calbeninka Pty Ltd v Vickers* [2019] QSC 28, successfully resisted the set-aside of a statutory demand arising in connection with the administration of a construction materials company (unled).
- Acting for the Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Immigration in judicial review and appellate proceedings in the High Court, Federal Court and Federal Circuit Court of Australia in migration and refugee matters, including: *Dhir v Minister for Home Affairs* [2019] HCATrans 118; *CYD17 v Minister for Home Affairs* [2019] FCA 869; *DIG18 v Minister for Immigration* [2019] FCA 1452; and *Nguyen v Minister for Immigration* [2019] FCCA 3317 (all unled).

Selected Experience (prior to call to the bar)

- *Multiplex Bluewater Marina Village Pty Ltd v Harbour Tropics Pty Ltd* [2017] QCA 202 – successful appeal from a decision of the Supreme Court of Queensland on the construction of an easement.

- Acting in a Singapore-seated ICC arbitration brought by the owners of a Pakistani infrastructure project against a Pakistani government owned corporation.
- *Barclays Bank Plc v ENPAM* [2015] EWHC 2857 (Comm); [2015] 2 Lloyd's Rep. 527 – application to stay English court proceedings.
- *R (on the application of ICI) v HM Treasury* [2016] EWHC 279 (Admin) – 1 day hearing seeking permission to review primary legislation to tax interest awards in restitution cases against HM Revenue & Customs (as part of a team led by Daniel Margolin QC).
- *Test Claimants in the FII Group Litigation v HMRC* [2016] EWCA Civ. 1180 – 10 day appeal in the test claim in Group Litigation leading to an award of over £1 billion in restitution for overpaid corporation tax and interest (involved in preparation for the appeal as part of a team led by Graham Aaronson QC and Tom Beazley QC).
- *Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v HMRC* [2016] EWCA Civ 376 – 6 day appeal before the English Court of Appeal successfully obtaining restitution for overpaid tax (as part of a team led by Graham Aaronson QC and Tom Beazley QC).
- *Six Continents Ltd v HMRC* [2016] EWHC 2426 (Ch) – 3 day trial leading to an award of £19 million in restitution for overpaid tax (as part of a team led by Jonathan Bremner (now QC)).

Awards

2014	Robinson College, Cambridge, Academic Scholarship
2009	University of Queensland, Allens Arthur Robinson Prize in Company Law
2008 - 2009	University of Queensland, Dean's Commendations for High Achievement

Memberships and Admissions

2017	Bar Association of Queensland
2012	High Court of Australia
2011	Supreme Court of Queensland

Publications

Alexander Psaltis and Tim Jones, "Defective caveats are ineffective caveats", *Clayton Utz Insights* (8 November 2016) available at: <<https://www.claytonutz.com/knowledge/2016/november/defective-caveats-are-ineffective-caveats>>

Alexander Psaltis and Paul Farmer, "Court of Appeal finds for the taxpayer: Prudential v HMRC", *Joseph Hage Aaronson LLP Newsletter* (19 April 2016) available at: <<http://uk.jha.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/April-2016-Newsletter.pdf>>

Alexander Psaltis, "Court of Appeal in London delivers Investment Trust Companies decision", *International Tax Review* (16 March 2015) available at: <<http://www.internationaltaxreview.com/Article/3436324/Tax-Disputes-Archive/Court-of-Appeal-in-London-delivers-Investment-Trust-Companies-decision.html>>

Alexander Psaltis, "Overview: Private Law", *Cambridge Journal of International and Comparative Law – UK Supreme Court Review 2012-2013* (Vol 3, Issue 1, 2014)