

CURRICULUM VITAE

TRISTAN SMITH

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Admission 2014

Called to Bar 2025

Areas of practice Advocacy and advice in the areas of:

- Commercial
- Corporations
- Building and construction
- Class actions
- Energy and resources
- Arbitration
- Equity and trusts
- Administrative
- Property
- Insurance

Professional history Barrister, May 2025 – present

Senior Associate, 2014-2025
Herbert Smith Freehills
Brisbane, Sydney, London

Education Master of Laws
University of Melbourne, 2018

Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) / Bachelor of Business
University Medal in Law
Griffith University, 2013

Selected matters as counsel

Energy and resources

- appearing for the owners of a power station in a two week trial in the Supreme Court concerning rights and entitlements under a mining agreement (led by P O'Shea KC and D Turner, instructed by HSF Kramer)

Class actions

- appearing for Queensland Motorways in an application for security for costs in the Queensland Tolls Class Action (led by E Goodwin KC, instructed by KWM)

Building and construction

- appearing for a property developer in a trial concerning the scope of a superintendent's powers under a construction contract: *GMG Pty Ltd v Iris-PW No. 1 2017 Pty Ltd* [2025] QSC 297 (led by M Johnston KC, instructed by Pinsent Masons)

Corporations and insolvency

- appearing in an application in the Supreme Court concerning a claim for preliminary disclosure under rule 208D and access to books and records under s 198F of the *Corporations Act* (led by D O'Brien KC, instructed by Gadens)
- appearing in the Federal Court in an application to obtain asset preservation orders against a former director under section 1323 of the *Corporations Act*
- appearing in Federal Court proceedings brought by a liquidator against a former director seeking compensation and other relief arising from voidable transactions
- appearing in an application brought by a shareholder seeking access to books and records under s 247A of the *Corporations Act*
- appearing in a Supreme Court application to set aside a statutory demand

General commercial litigation

- appearing in an application to enforce confidentiality provisions in an executive employment contract (led by D O'Brien KC, instructed by Mills Oakley)
- appearing in an interlocutory application for costs arising from a debt dispute between a firm of accountants and a former client

Property

- appearing in an application to obtain urgent ex-parte freezing orders concerning the proceeds of a commercial building sale (led by D O'Brien KC)
- acting in Supreme Court proceedings to defend a claim concerning an alleged equitable interest in a family property
- acting in Supreme Court proceedings commenced under the *Land Title Act 1994* seeking equitable relief in respect of a disputed property transfer
- acting for a body corporate in QCAT proceedings concerning the validity and construction of a caretaking agreement

Selected matters as a solicitor

Class actions

- acting for Boral in a shareholder class action in the Federal Court, including a six week part-heard trial: *Parkin v Boral Limited* [2024] FCA 1039
- acting for the a2 Milk Company in class action proceedings in the Supreme Court of Victoria: *Thomas v The a2 Milk Company Ltd* [No 2] [2022] VSC 725

Commercial

- acting for a consumer goods company in NSW Supreme Court proceedings concerning the interpretation of earn out provisions in a Share Purchase Deed: *David Morgan Investments Pty Ltd v Maggie Beer Holdings Ltd* [2024] NSWSC 778

Building and Construction

- acting for a mining company in a construction dispute in the Queensland Supreme Court concerning a defective water infrastructure project: *BM Alliance Coal Operations Pty Ltd v BGC Contracting Pty Ltd* [2015] 1 Qd R 228
- advising a D&C joint venture consortium on multi-billion dollar delay, disruption and defect claims arising from a major rail infrastructure project in NSW

Insurance

- acting for a Queensland mining company in a \$100m property damage and business interruption insurance claim under an industrial special risks policy
- acting for an insured in a hull liability insurance claim following the loss of an Australian Navy vessel: *DMS Maritime Pty Ltd v RSA* [2018] QSC 303
- acting for the Financial Conduct Authority in the COVID-19 business interruption insurance test cases in the UK Supreme Court: *FCA v Arch* [2021] UKSC 1
- acting for aircraft leasing company in claims under aviation insurance policies in excess of US\$3 billion relating to the loss of aircraft in Ukraine and Russia
- acting for a bank in a US\$200m trade credit insurance claim arising from the collapse of a Singaporean oil trader, including arbitration under SIAC rules
- acting for an engineering contractor in a claim under a construction all risks policy and advising on issues concerning a LEG 3 defects exclusion
- acting for various insurance brokers in E&O/professional negligence claims
- advising on coverage issues under all classes of insurance, including D&O, professional indemnity, cyber, industrial special risks and public/products liability