

HUGO WILESMITH

Barrister specialising in commercial litigation, corporate crime, and regulatory disputes.

ADMISSIONS

Admitted as a Barrister 2025

Admitted as a Solicitor (Supreme Court of NSW; High Court of Australia) 2015

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Alinea Chambers, Barrister 2025

Allens, Senior Associate (formerly Associate) 2018 – 2020; 2022 – 2025

- Secondments to Linklaters (2020) and Commonwealth Bank of Australia (2024)

Fieldfisher, Senior Associate 2021 – 2022

High Court of England and Wales, Judicial Assistant 2021

MinterEllison, Lawyer (formerly Graduate) 2015 – 2018

My primary areas of practice as a solicitor were commercial litigation, regulatory disputes and investigations, corporate crime, insurance, and competition law. That practice included:

- Litigation (trial and appellate) in the Federal Court and the NSW and Victorian Supreme Courts on matters including shareholder disputes, contested merger approvals, breach of directors' duties, breach of contract, and misleading and deceptive conduct.
- Regulatory investigations and litigation involving ASIC, ACCC, AUSTRAC, ICAC, AFCA, FIRB, L&GNSW, and other Australian and international regulators.
- Fraud, bribery, AML/CTF and whistleblowing investigations and disputes.
- Generalist experience in construction, financial services, tenancy and public law.

TEACHING AND LAW REPORTING

New South Wales Law Reports, Reporter 2018 – 2022; 2022 – present

University of Law (UK), Visiting Lecturer 2021 – 2022

University of Technology, Sydney, Tutor (Commercial Remedies) 2017 – 2018

EDUCATION

London School of Economics, Master of Laws (Distinction) 2021

- First in year (out of 250).
- Lawyers Alumni Prize for best overall mark in course.
- Valentin Ribet Prize for Corporate Crime.
- First place, Law and Practice of International Finance.

Australian National University, Bachelor of Laws (Honours) / Bachelor of Arts 2014

Telephone: (02) 9165 1416 | Email: hwilesmith@alineachambers.com.au

Alinea Chambers | Level 33, 52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000

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SELECTED CASES AS A BARRISTER

Australian Securities and Investments Commission v MWL Financial Services Pty Ltd | FCA Case VID1483/2025. Acting for ASIC in civil penalty proceedings (Corporations Act and ASIC Act breaches by financial advice licensee). Led by J Shepard SC.

Coastal Quarry Products Pty Ltd v Everingham | NSWDC Case 2021/00091025. Commercial proceedings in District Court (settled). Unled.

Culleton v Tonks | NSWSC Case 2025/265125. Judicial review of NCAT decisions, acting for the defendants. Unled.

Culleton v Tonks | FCFCOA SYG2485/2025. Acting for creditor in bankruptcy proceedings (ongoing). Unled.

Dexus Capital Investment Services Pty Ltd v Australia Pacific Airports Corporation Limited | NSWSC Case 2025/192969. Privilege dispute in shareholder proceedings. Led by J Arnott SC.

Edwards v Bailey | NSWSC Case 2025/371769. Purchase money resulting trust and limitations dispute. Led by D Delany.

Etienne Alexiou v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited | FCA Case NSD719/2020. Privilege dispute in unfair dismissal case. Led by J Potts SC and B Hord.

Estate of Leonard Vivian Burton | NSWSC Case 2025/341845. Probate dispute. Unled.

Estate of Norman Victor Brown | NSWSC Case 2025/00006663. Probate dispute. Unled.

Estate of Baden Bruce Ranger | NSWSC Case 2025/160958. Probate dispute. Unled.

Gladiator Resources v Price | FCA NSD 1027/2025. Commercial proceedings (injurious falsehood and breaches of Corporations Act) (ongoing). Led by G Ng SC.

In the matter of Michaels Investments Pty Ltd | NSWSC Case 2025/00294244. Proceedings to reinstate a deregistered company. Unled.

Moses v Harris | FCA Case NSD1014/2025. Bankruptcy proceedings, acting for trustee. Unled.

Seventh Street Holdings v Vinyl Group | NSWSC Case 2025/44367. Commercial dispute (share sale agreement); various interlocutory disputes. Led by D Delany.

Sphere Healthcare Pty Ltd v Allianz Australia Insurance Ltd | NSWSC Case 2022/00269876. Insurance dispute—interlocutory application regarding foreign AVL evidence. Led by M Jones SC and E Steer.

Whitford v Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission | ART Case 2024/1917. Acted for applicant in military compensation proceedings (pro bono). Unled.

Wheeler v Woodland and Whitaker | FCA Case NSD1836/2025. Acting for debtor in bankruptcy proceedings. Unled.

YAF Master (WK-155253) & Anor v S&P Global Inc & Anor | FCA Case NSD 73/2021. Commercial dispute (deceit/breaches of Corporations Act, with interlocutory disputes on privilege and AVL evidence) (settled). Led by R Dick SC, D Barnett SC and G Ng SC.

As a reader, I have also enjoyed a varied diet of investigations, compulsory examinations, inquests and inquiries, motions and directions hearings on matters not listed above, and confidential matters. Despite the loss of fitness inherent in one's reading year, I am nonetheless getting more accustomed to the sprint up Phillip St from chambers.