

# HUGO WILESMITH

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

## ADMISSIONS

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<b>Admitted as a Barrister</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>Admitted as a Solicitor</b> (Supreme Court of NSW; High Court of Australia)	<b>2015</b>

## LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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<b>Alinea Chambers</b> , Barrister	<b>2025 – present</b>
<b>Allens</b> , Senior Associate (formerly Associate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secondments to Linklaters (2020) and Commonwealth Bank of Australia (2024)</li></ul>	<b>2018 – 2020; 2022 – 2025</b>
<b>Fieldfisher</b> , Senior Associate	<b>2021 – 2022</b>
<b>High Court of England and Wales</b> , Judicial Assistant	<b>2021</b>
<b>MinterEllison</b> , Lawyer (formerly Graduate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secondments to Optus (2015, 2017)</li></ul>	<b>2015 – 2018</b>

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

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<b>New South Wales Law Reports</b> , Reporter	<b>2018 – 2020; 2022 – present</b>
<b>University of Law</b> (UK), Visiting Lecturer	<b>2021 – 2022</b>
<b>University of Technology, Sydney</b> , Tutor (Commercial Remedies)	<b>2017 – 2018</b>

## EDUCATION

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<b>London School of Economics</b> , Master of Laws (Distinction) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First in course (out of 250); Lawyers Alumni Prize for best overall mark in course.</li><li>• Valentin Ribet Prize for Corporate Crime.</li><li>• First place, Law and Practice of International Finance.</li></ul>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Australian National University</b> , Bachelor of Laws (Honours) / Bachelor of Arts	<b>2014</b>

## SELECTED CASES AS A BARRISTER

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### Commercial

*Bain v Great Northern Developments Pty Ltd* | NSWDC 2026/55465. Commercial proceedings – liquidated damages arising from loan and guarantee. Unled.

*Coastal Quarry Products Pty Ltd v Everingham* | NSWDC 2021/00091025. Commercial proceedings for breach of contract and unjust enrichment (settled). Unled.

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

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

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

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

*Ligon 158 Pty Ltd (in liq) v Binetter* | FCA SAD 205/2024. Commercial proceedings (breach of fiduciary duties and various equitable claims). Led by M Cairns.

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

*Sphere Healthcare Pty Ltd v Allianz Australia Insurance Ltd* | NSWSC 2022/00269876. Insurance; interlocutory application on foreign AVL evidence. Led by M Jones SC and E Steer.

*YAF Master (WK-155253) & Anor v S&P Global Inc & Anor* | FCA 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.

### Bankruptcy and insolvency

*Culleton v Tonks* | FCFCOA SYG2485/2025. Acting for creditor, resisting application to set aside bankruptcy notice. Debtor's application was dismissed. Unled.

*Moses v Harris* | FCA NSD1014/2025. Bankruptcy proceedings, acting for trustee. Unled. Interlocutory judgments to date include *Moses v Harris* [2026] FCA 254 (application for review of rejection of proof of debt).

*Wheeler v Woodland and Whitaker* | FCA NSD1836/2025. Acted for debtor in bankruptcy proceedings (settled). Unled.

### Regulatory

*Australian Securities and Investments Commission v MWL Financial Services Pty Ltd* | FCA VID1483/2025. Acting for ASIC in civil penalty proceedings (Corporations Act and ASIC Act breaches by financial advice licensee); interlocutory judgments to date include [2026] FCA 199. Led by J Shepard SC.

### Public law

*Culleton v Tonks* [2026] NSWSC 174. Judicial review of NCAT decisions, acting for the defendants. Unled.

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## Wills and estates

*Dennis v Zoka* | NSWSC 2025/337237. Family provision application. Unled.

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

*Estate of Norman Victor Brown* | NSWSC 2025/6663. Probate dispute. Unled.

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

## Other

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

*Whitford v Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (Compensation)* [2026] ARTA 175. Acted for successful applicant in military compensation proceedings (pro bono). The first reported decision under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988* (Cth) to find a causal link between benzene exposure and multiple myeloma. Unled.

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As a reader, I have also enjoyed a varied diet of investigations, compulsory examinations, inquests and inquiries, confidential matters, and motions and directions hearings on matters not listed above.

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.