

Dr JAMES RENWICK AM CSC SC
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James Renwick is a versatile silk (since 2011) with a general appellate, commercial, public, regulatory and Royal Commission/inquiry/inquest practice. He is an accredited mediator. He practices throughout Australia and is one of the few silks still holding a practicing certificate in Papua New Guinea. He accepts instructions in the practice areas set out below. He has appeared in many leading cases, including over 30 matters in the High Court, and as counsel assisting or representing in a wide range of challenging inquiries. He combines nearly 4 decades of legal experience with strong academic qualifications (a doctorate in constitutional law, and as a former Fulbright Scholar), meticulous preparation, and a focus on the issues which really matter to provide the best and most cost effective results for clients: whether government, corporate or individual.

He was a solicitor for 10 years in private and government practice. At the NSW Bar, he has been Head of 12th Floor Chambers, a member of the NSW Bar Council, a PCC for many years, the editorial committee of Bar News, and part of the mentoring project for female barristers.

Much of his career has been spent outside of Phillip Street. He was a Senior Member (Part time) in NCAT, the 3rd Australian Independent National Security Legislation Monitor between 2017 – 2020 (see www.inslm.gov.au) following Bret Walker AO SC and the Hon Roger Gyles AO KC, where he had extensive interactions with his UK counterparts, was Senior Counsel in the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry, and in a major PNG inquiry. He has had experience conducting hearings as INSLM, and as a Tribunal member. He is familiar with most forms of ADR. He continues to teach at the ANU and remains after 30 years of service an active Naval reservist as Deputy Judge Advocate-General in the rank of Commodore RAN.

In 2024 he became an Honorary Benchler at Inner Temple London. His service has been recognised with the award of the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) for his work in the Naval reserve, and as a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division for ‘significant service to the law and to national security’. He was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and the Royal Society of NSW. He is Honorary Senior Counsel, Duke of Edinburgh Award in Australia.

Practice Areas:

Administrative and Public Law	Appellate
Arbitration	
Constitutional Law	
Contracts	Corporations Law
Cyber Law	Regulatory Law
Inquests and Inquiries	International Law

National Security Law

Regulatory Proceedings

Educational and

professional qualifications:	2024:	Hon Bencher Inner Temple London from 3/10
	2023:	Member of the Order of Australia 'For significant service to the law and to national security'
	2022:	Fellow Australian Academy of Law
	2022:	Dist. Adviser ANU Nat. Sec. College
	2021:	Fellow Royal Society of NSW
	2020:	CDF Grp Commendation Afghanistan Inquiry
	2019:	Conspicuous Service Cross
	2012-2021:	Hon Professor ANU
	2013:	Australian Active Service Medal
	2011:	Senior Counsel NSW
	2007:	Fulbright Scholar SAIS Johns Hopkins Univ.
	1993:	Doctor of Juridical Studies Sydney Univ.
	1985:	Bachelor of Laws Sydney Univ.

Relevant experience:

2011-present:	Senior Counsel
2021-present:	Deputy Judge Advocate-General (Navy)
1996-present:	RAN Reserve – now Commodore
2021-2022:	Senior Counsel Assisting PNG Commission
2019-2020:	Head of Chambers, 12 Selb/Wentworth
2017-2020:	Ind. Nat. Security Leg. Monitor – 9 reports
2016-2020:	SC Assisting IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry,
2014-2020:	Senior Member NCAT
2013-2016	Council Member, Int. Law Assoc. Australia
2007-2017:	Law Council Australia, Memb. Mil. Just. Ctee
1996:	Admitted as Barrister
1991-1995:	PLO, Australian Govt Solicitor, AGD
1989-1990:	PLO, NT Dept of Law
1986-1988:	Solicitor Sydney