

Henry El-Hage SC

Curriculum Vitae

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Admissions Senior Counsel, October 2023
Barrister, New South Wales Bar, May 2009
Solicitor, Supreme Court of NSW, High Court of Australia, 2003

Practice areas I accept briefs across a range of areas, including appellate matters, constitutional and administrative law, building and construction disputes, commercial and contractual disputes, matters under the *Corporations Act 2001*, environment, resources and planning matters, native title matters, property disputes, equity and trusts, tax matters and regulatory criminal prosecutions (as well as other, select criminal matters).

I appear in various jurisdictions, including the Supreme Court of NSW and the Federal Court, the High Court of Australia, the Land and Environmental Court of NSW, the District and Local Courts of NSW, the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the Administrative Review Tribunal.

Clients I have acted for include the Commonwealth, the State of NSW, various Ministers, Councils, Governmental/statutory bodies (such as the NSW Building Commissioner, Commissioner of Police and Chief Commissioner of State Revenue), regulatory bodies (such as the EPA, ASIC, Medical Council of NSW, Natural Resources Access Regulator and Law Society of NSW), various corporate clients (such as Agnico Eagle, S2 Resources, KPMG, Deloitte Australia and Sanofi-Aventis), as well as private individuals and entities.



Best Lawyers
2026

Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2025: *"Henry is organised, thorough and commercial in his advice. He is also able to explain his advice to non-lawyers clearly, providing them with a clear pathway of next steps. He is a compelling and persuasive advocate, as evidenced by his recent appointment to Senior Counsel."*

Select cases in which I have been briefed:

- *Boral Resources (NSW) v Pacific National Services* (NSW Supreme Court, 2025) – leading junior counsel, appearing for Pacific National Services (commercial dispute arising from the provision of train services).
- *Environment Protection Authority v Metropolitan Collieries Pty Ltd* [2025] NSWLEC 23 (Land and Environment Court) – leading junior counsel, appearing for the EPA (prosecution for offences under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (NSW) resulting in environmental harm; guilty pleas; matter proceeded to sentencing).
- *Phelps and Ors v Minister Administering the Water Management Act 2000* [2025] NSWLEC 4 (Land and Environment Court) – leading junior counsel, appearing for the Minister (a challenge by landholders to a decision of the Minister concerning the allocation of water under supplementary water access licenses. There was also an allegation of bias).
- *Hammock Investments Pty Ltd v Valuer General of New South Wales* [2024] NSWLEC 1673 (Land and Environment Court) – leading junior counsel, appearing for Hammock Investments (appeal against Valuer General's valuation of significant parcel of land in Byron Bay).
- *Indara Inbuilding Solutions Pty Ltd v Australian Communications and Media Authority* [2024] FCAFC 117 (Full court of the Federal Court) –leading junior counsel, appearing for Indara Inbuilding Solutions (appeal concerning issues arising under the *Telecommunications Act 1997* (Cth) and *Telecommunications (Eligible Revenue) Determination 2015* (Cth)).
- *Gomeroi People v Santos NSW Pty Ltd and Santos NSW (Narabri Gas) Pty Ltd* [2024] FCAFC 26 (Full court of the Federal Court) –appearing for the Attorney General of NSW (appeal from a determination of the president of the National Native Title Tribunal, under the Future Act regime in the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)).
- *Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust v Attorney General of New South Wales* [2024] NSWCA 30 (NSW Court of Appeal) – leading junior counsel, appearing for the Attorney General of NSW (judicial advice proceedings, concerning the possible existence of a charitable trust over parts of Rookwood cemetery).
- *Natural Resources Access Regulator v Lidokew Pty Ltd* [2023] NSWLEC 130 (Land and Environment Court) – leading junior counsel, appearing for the prosecutor (prosecution under the *Water Management Act 2000*).
- *State of New South Wales v Ryan (Final)* [2023] NSWSC 1062 (Supreme Court) – appearing for the State (application under the *Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act 2006* (NSW)).
- *Anastasia Kalathas v 89 Ebley Street Pty Limited* [2021] NSWSC 490 (Supreme Court) - appearing for the plaintiff (proceedings involving a contractual dispute, the application of the principle in *Flight v Booth* and a purchaser's entitlement to terminate a Sale of Land Contract).

Professional experience

2009 to current	Barrister, NSW Bar
Oct 2023 to current	Senior Counsel, NSW Bar
2020 to current	Environmental Counsel for the Environment Protection Authority
February 2004 to April 2009	Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney <i>Solicitor Advocate, commercial law team and Senior Solicitor, constitutional law team</i>
January 2002 to October 2003	Associate to the Hon. Justice B J Tamberlin, Federal Court of Australia

Lecturing

2003 to 2022	Part-time lecturer in law, University of Sydney, Macquarie University and Western Sydney University
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Education

1997 to 2001	Bachelor of Commerce (Finance) with the Bachelor of Laws (Hons), Macquarie University <i>Awarded a scholarship by the University and received awards for academic performance and services to the law school.</i>
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Selected conference/seminar presentations

Agency law – an overview of some of the principles, Consumer, Trader & Tenancy Tribunal, Members' Conference, Sydney, 1 June 2007.

The new Commonwealth Personal Properties Securities legislation and its impact on State agencies, Crown Solicitor's Office, commercial law seminar, 20 August 2008.

Examining Liability for Contaminating a 3rd Party's Land, Legalwise Seminars, Sydney, 22 November 2011.

State of mind waiver of Privilege, Holding Redlich, Sydney, 20 September 2012.

Judicial review proceedings - practical tips, 12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers Seminar Series, Sydney, 13 June 2013.

Proportionate liability & property damage - practical tips and considerations, Hicksons Lawyers seminar, Sydney, 14 August 2013

Caveats - principles and practical tips, CLE Seminar, Far South Coast Law Society, Moruya, 15 March 2014.

Judicial review proceedings - practical tips, State Legal Conference, Sydney, 27 August 2014.

Caveats – Principles and Tips, NSW regional CPD, 2015

Administrative Law Essentials – Twelfth Floor Seminar Series, Sydney, 14 September 2017.

Laying charges, particulars and expert evidence, Environment Protection Authority, Sydney, 27 September 2023.