

Dr JAMES RENWICK SC

12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers
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James 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 combines 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 the 3rd Australian Independent National Security Legislation Monitor between 2017-2020. He has had experience conducting hearings as INSLM, and as a Tribunal member. He is familiar with most forms of ADR.

He has appeared in many leading cases and as counsel assisting or representing in a wide range of challenging inquiries.

Admissions:	Senior Counsel:	2011
	Barrister NSW:	1996
	Solicitor:	1985
	Admitted PNG:	Current
	Accredited NMAS Mediator -	current

Practice Areas:

Administrative and Public Law	Appellate
Arbitration	Class Actions and Representative Proceedings
Criminal Law	Constitutional Law
Contracts	Corporations Law
Cyber Law	Family Law
Inquests and Inquiries	International Law
National Security Law	Regulatory Proceedings

Academic:

2007	Fulbright Scholar, SAIS, John Hopkins University
1993	Doctor of Juridical Studies, University of Sydney
1985	Bachelor of Laws, University of Sydney

Experience:

2021-2022	Senior Counsel Assisting PNG Royal Commission
2017-2020	Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (inslm.gov.au)
2016-2020	Assistant Inspector-General ADF (SF Inquiry) part time
2014-2020	Senior Member NCAT
1992-1995	AGS, Sydney (Principal Legal Officer)
1991	Deputy Director, Administrative Review Council
1991-1996	Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
1989-1990	Northern Territory Department of Law (Principal Legal Officer)
1986-1988	Solicitor, Sydney

Selected Cases:

Further details are available on request of the Clerk.

- Commission of Inquiry into Star Casino for the former CEO
- Many successful applications for public interest immunity claims across Australia
Operation Ironside for the AFP in the Supreme Court of South Australia.
- Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme, for a former Prime Minister
- Royal Commission into Defence Suicide for a former Minister
- Commission of Inquiry UBS Loan – Papua New Guinea 2021-2022 Senior Counsel Assisting
- In the High Court over 25 cases on constitutional law (mainly Chapter III) and the leading case on personal advice under the Corporations Act.
- *Bara v Blackwell* [2022] NTCCA 17
- *Westpac v ASIC* [2021] HCA 3; *ASIC v Westpac* [2021] FCA 1008; [2019] FCAFC 187; [2018] FCA 2078
- *Tajjour v NSW* [2014] HCA 35
- *TCL Air Conditioner (Zhongshan) Co Ltd v The Judges of the Federal Court of Australia* [2013] HCA 5
- *Ahmad v AG* [2022] FCA 1270
- *ABCC v CFMMEU* [2021] FCA 622
- *Garbett v Liu* [2019] FCAFC 241
- *Munkara v Bencsevich* [2018] NTCA 4
- Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force Afghanistan Inquiry (the Brereton Report) 2016-2021 (Senior Counsel Assisting)
- Inquest with Jury into the Death of Private Jake Kovco (acting for the Commonwealth Government)
- Inquest into the deaths arising from the Lindt Café Siege (on behalf of the Commonwealth)
- The Green on Blue Inquest into the deaths of three Australian Soldiers at an Afghanistan Military Base in 2012

As INSLM he wrote detailed reports to the Prime Minister and Attorney-General on topics including citizenship loss, federal jurisdiction, and encryption some of which have been cited in the High Court.

Other Positions Currently Held:

Deputy Judge Advocate-General (Navy) – Commodore RAN
Distinguished Advisor, National Security College, Australian National University

Honorary Senior Counsel, Duke of Edinburgh Award

Memberships:

Current: NSW Bar Association
2018-2021: Board Member of 12 Wentworth Selborne Chambers
1999-2000: Member of the NSW Bar Council

Honours:

2023 Member of the Order of Australia (AM)
2022 Fellow, Australian Academy of Law
2021 Fellow, Royal Society of NSW
2020 CDF Group Commendation Afghanistan Inquiry
2019 Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)
2013 Australian Active Service Medal (ICAT clasp)

May 2024