

Vanessa Thomas

CV

Chambers

12th floor, Wentworth Chambers
180 Phillip st
Sydney NSW 2000

Burley Griffin Chambers
5/1 Hobart Place
Canberra ACT 2601

Admissions

Barrister: May 2009

Solicitor: 1988 (NSW) 1991 (England and Wales/Hong Kong)

Degrees

BA, LLB, University of New South Wales

Practice areas

- Common law
- Professional negligence
- Coronial
- Commercial law
- Equity
- Corporations law
- Succession

Summary professional biography

Vanessa was called to the bar in May 2009 following a 20 year career as a solicitor which began at Mallesons Stephen Jacques in Sydney and continued in Hong Kong, practising in commercial litigation. She spent 10 years in Mallesons' Hong Kong office, and was appointed a partner in 1997.

From 2002 to 2008, Vanessa practised at Blake Dawson (now Ashurst), in commercial litigation.

Since her admission to the Bar in 2009, Vanessa has developed a broad practice, extending to commercial disputes, professional negligence, disciplinary matters, equity, coronial matters and class actions, in NSW and in the ACT. She is an accredited mediator.

Vanessa has appeared, led and unled, in the NSW and ACT Supreme Courts (including Courts of Appeal), the NSW District and Local Courts, the Federal Court and the High Court.

Selected cases include:

- *Inquest into the death of Brontë Haskins* [2023] ACTCD 4
- *Inquest into the death of Elizabeth [name suppressed] Coroner's Court of NSW*, 2019/217102
- *Inquest into the death of Christiaan Adriaan Roodt* [2023] ACTCD 5
- *Inquest into the death of Andrea Lester*, Coroner's Court of NSW, 2018/190647
- *Haigh v Department of Planning NSW* [2022] NSWSC 1434 – Commercial/summary dismissal
- *Alrifai v Australian Capital Territory* [2022] ACTSC 48 – medical negligence
- *Inquests into the deaths of Bearham, Fisher, Douch and Lucas* [2021] ACTCD 1
- *Higgins v Australian Capital Territory* [2020] ACTCA 56 – property/equity/summary dismissal
- *Meyers v Commissioner for Social Housing* [2019] ACTCA 19 – public liability (special leave refused)
- *Meyers v Commissioner for Social Housing* [2018] ACTSC 193 – public liability
- *Grass v Slattery* [2018] FCA 1719 – public administration, misfeasance in public office
- *BOC Limited v Ambulance Victoria* [2016] NSWSC 1166 (commercial/transfer of proceedings)
- *Hartigan v Commissioner for Social Housing in the Australian Capital Territory* (2017) 319 FLR 158 (torts, liability of public authorities)
- *Roberts v Westpac Banking Corporation* [2016] ACTCA 68 (torts)
- *Owners - Units Plan 239 v Australian Capital Territory* [2016] ACTSC 81 (tort/property damage)
- *Stekovic v Australian Capital Territory* [2015] ACTSC 385 (professional negligence)
- *Waller v James* (2015) 90 NSWLR 634 (professional negligence)
- *Graincorp Operations Ltd v Munro* [2015] NSWSC 227 (injunctive relief)
- *MacarthurCook Fund Management Ltd v TFML* (2014) 254 CLR 168 (Corporations law, managed investment schemes)
- *Plowman v Sisters of St John of God Inc* [2014] NSWSC 33 (professional negligence)
- *Paul v Cooke* [2013] NSWCA 311 (professional negligence)
- *Cox v Fellows* [2013] NSWCA 206 (professional negligence)
- *Waller v James* [2013] NSWSC 497 (professional negligence)
- *Brown v The Attorney General of New South Wales* [2013] NSWSC 271 (Charitable trusts)
- *Deputy Commissioner of Taxation v McGuire* [2013] NSWSC 184 (tax, partnerships)
- *TFML Ltd v MacarthurCook Fund Management Ltd* [2013] NSWCA 291
- *Raashed v Hussain [2012] NSWCA 264* (Contracts Review Act)
- *X v Sydney Children's Hospitals Specialty Network* NSWSC proceedings 2002/69388 (professional negligence, settled prior to final judgment)
- *McVey v State of New South Wales and ANZ Banking Corporation* [2012] FCA 455 (bankruptcy)
- *Paul v Cooke* [2012] NSWSC 840 (professional negligence)

- ***MacarthurCook Fund Management Limited v Zhaofeng Funds Limited*** [2012] NSWSC 911 (corporations, contract)
- ***Parkes Linnegar v Watson*** [2011] NSWSC 37 (trusts/estates)
- ***Sandhurst Trustees Ltd v RFML Limited*** [2011] FCA 726 (s.247A Corporations Act)
- ***Raashed v Hussein*** [2011] NSWSC 1342 (Contracts Review Act)
- ***Rayner v NJ Sheaffe Pty Ltd*** [2010] NSWSC 810 (trusts)
- ***Waller v Hargraves Secured Investments*** [2010] NSWCA 300 (mortgages/Farm Debt Mediation Act)
- ***DTC No1 Pty Ltd v Matthew*** [2009] NSWSC 1280 (commercial/equity)
- ***Hargraves Secured Investments v Waller*** [2009] NSWSC 1210 (mortgages/Farm Debt Mediation Act)