

Ghassan Kassisieh

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Key practice areas

Public law | Commercial law | Inquests and inquiries | Anti-discrimination and human rights

Admissions and education

2024 **Barrister**

2010 **Lawyer** (Solicitor from 1 January 2011)

2003 – 2008 **Bachelor of Arts (Hons I) / Bachelor of Laws (Hons I)**
University of Sydney

- Prizes in constitutional, anti-discrimination and family law
- Awarded University of Sydney scholarship with merit

Professional history

Since 2024 **Barrister**
12 Wentworth Selborne

2019 – 2024 **Legal Director**
Equality Australia

- Leading legal policy advocacy and strategic litigation across Australia for a national LGBTIQ+ human rights organisation.
- Regular appearances before parliamentary committees and in media, and engagement with political and government representatives.

2019 – 2022 **Sessional tutor in Principles of Public Law**
University of New South Wales

- Teaching constitutional and administrative law fundamentals, including principles of statutory construction.

2016 – 2019 **Lawyer, Dispute resolution and investigations**
 2009 – 2013 *Gilbert + Tobin, Sydney*

- Instructing in and preparing matters for litigation in Supreme and Federal courts, and the High Court of Australia.

- Preparing matters for and participating in arbitrations, mediation and consumer dispute forums.
- Advising clients in regulatory investigations and proceedings (including ACCC, ASIC, APRA, ACMA and AUSTRAC), and in respect of a wide range of laws.
- Advising clients appearing in and as solicitors assisting various Royal Commissions.
- Two client secondments to Westpac and the Commonwealth Bank, including as part of anti-money laundering proceedings.

2014 – 2015 **Associate, Commercial disputes group**
Freshfield Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, London

- Advising clients in global regulatory investigations and multijurisdictional litigation.

2007 – 2009 **Policy and Development Coordinator**
NSW Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby

Statutory appointments

2023 **Member (Human Rights)**, appointed by Minister for Health
ACT Restricted Medical Treatment Assessment Board

2021 – 2023 **Member**, appointed by Minister for Equality
Victorian Government LGBTIQ+ Justice Working Group

Areas of industry experience

Banking and financial services | Telecommunications | Politics and government | Media |
 Food | Not-for-profit and charitable organisations | Education | Health

Languages

English | Spoken Arabic

Examples of previous experience

(* Denotes matter continued after I finished work at the firm/organisation).

Commercial / equity

- [Exceed Education Pty Ltd t/as Young Minds Academy v Sylvester](#) [2025] NSWSC 1185 and [\(No 2\)](#) (commercial lease dispute, unled)
- [Export-Import Bank of China v CSTT Co Holdings Pty Ltd](#) [2025] VSC 475 (enforcement of guarantee, unled)
- [Taylor v Taylor](#) [2025] NSWSC 166 (setting aside Registrar's orders to dismiss proceedings, unled)
- [WMA Dental Pty Ltd v More Group Pty Ltd](#) [2026] NSWDC 301 (alleged breach of contract and misleading and deceptive conduct for defective product, unled, ongoing)
- [Green Gold Energy Pty Ltd v Trina Solar Investment Pty Ltd](#) (NSWSC 2024/415599) (alleged breach of confidence, led by Angus Macauley)
- [Sweeten v Hume](#) [2026] FedCFamC2G 1100 (application for costs in instalments, unled)
- *Faytrouni v Ramadan Holdings Pty Ltd* (NSWLC 2024/227716) (successful defence of breach of contract/professional negligence claim, unled)
- *Greensill Bank AG v Insurance Australia Ltd* (alleged breach of insurance policy claim, led by John Shehan SC, Vanessa Whittaker SC, Stuart Lawrence SC and Nicholas Bender SC, with Christopher Mitchell, Kate Lindeman, Nichola Derrington, Christopher Tran, and ors)
- *Luxury Homes Double Bay Group Holdings Pty Ltd v Mauro* (NSWSC 2025/163432) (alleged restraint of trade, unled, settled)
- *30 Holden St Maroubra Pty Ltd v Capital Securities Mortgages Pty Ltd* (NSWLC 2025/494188) (defending alleged unjust enrichment claim, unled, ongoing)

Prior to coming to the Bar:

- *Standards Australia and SAI Global* (2016-2018) (four different arbitrations for breach of contract and copyright law)
- [Woollahra Municipal Council v Secure Parking Pty Ltd](#) [2015] NSWSC 257 (formation of contract, reversed on appeal)*
- [Noon v The Owners – Strata Plan No. 22422](#) [2014] NSWSC 1260 (successful challenge to the validity of strata by-laws)*
- [AGA Assistance Australia Pty Ltd v Tokody](#) [2012] QSC 176 (enforcement of restraint of trade)
- [Prosperity Advisers Pty Ltd v Secure Enterprises Pty Ltd t/as Strathearn Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd](#) [2011] NSWSC 35 and [\[2012\] NSWCA 192](#) (claim for negligent advice)

- [*Matrix Film Investment One Pty Ltd v Alameda Films LLC*](#) [2010] NSWSC 771 (successfully resisting application for late amendment of claim in broader film investor dispute)
 - Application for *Anton Pillar* / Search Order for pharmaceutical company (2010) (action for breach of confidence)
 - [*Shaw v Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs*](#) [2009] FCA 1397 (resisting challenge against directors for breach of duty)
- Public law / regulatory**
- State/Commissioners' submissions opposing parole in 25+ matters, including Div 3A matters (published decisions e.g. [*Holohan*](#), [*Mehajer*](#), [*Pearce*](#), [*Chen*](#)) (unled)
 - State submission opposing release for forensic patients before Mental Health Review Tribunal

Prior to coming to the Bar:

- [*Commonwealth Bank of Australia and AUSTRAC*](#) (2018-2019) (in house secondment during AUSTRAC AML proceedings and implementation of remediation program)*
- [*Zurich Insurance Group and US Department of Justice*](#) (2014-2015) (global internal US tax investigation leading to voluntary disclosure and non-prosecution agreement)*
- [*Batelco v Telecommunications Regulatory Authority*](#) (2012) (successful international arbitration under art 66 of the Bahraini Telecommunications Law challenging regulatory fine)
- [*SZOQQ v Minister for Immigration and Citizenship & Anor*](#) [2013] HCA 12 (successful challenge against adverse migration decision on character grounds)

Inquests and inquiries

- Three coronial inquests into deaths in immigration detention (counsel assisting, led by Jennifer Single SC, ongoing)

Prior to coming to the Bar:

- [*Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety*](#) (acting for Commonwealth) (2018-2019)*
- [*Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory*](#) (2016-2017) (solicitors assisting the Commission)
- [*Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*](#) (2013) (acting for Truth, Justice and Healing Council)*

Human rights and anti-discrimination

- [*Giggle for Girls Pty Ltd v Tickle*](#) [2026] FCAFC 64 (gender identity discrimination, for the second intervenor, led by Ruth Higgins SC and with Christopher Tran)
- [*IGS25 v Gordon Private Hospital Pty Ltd*](#) [2025] FCA 1517 (alleged disability discrimination, led by Kate Eastman SC)
- *Conolan-Glen v Sydney Catholic Schools atf Sydney Catholic Schools Trust* (NSD1829/2024) (alleged gender identity discrimination, led by Kate Eastman SC)

- Independent barrister appointed to facilitate joint expert conferences in racial discrimination claim

Prior to coming to the Bar:

- Legal policy advocacy contributing to 16+ LGBTIQ+ legislative reforms (2007-2009; 2019-2024), including Australia's first intersex protection scheme
- [*April Long and Equality Australia against Australian Bureau of Statistics*](#) (2022-2023) (instructing client) (complaint regarding discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people in the 2021 Census)
- [*Henry and Edwards v Jamaica*](#) (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Report No. 400/20) (successful petition regarding Jamaica's criminalisation of homosexuality)*
- [*C v Australia*](#) (UN Human Rights Committee No. 2216/2012), (successful petition regarding Australia's failure to recognise foreign same-sex marriage)

Selected publications

Commercial	▪ 2017, 'Financial Crime in Australia: Overview', <i>Practical Law</i>, ThomsonReuters ▪ 2016, <i>The Strategic View: Business Crime 2016 – Australia</i>, Global Legal Group ▪ 2009, 'Energy Consumers' and 'Water Consumers', <i>The Law Handbook</i>, ThomsonReuters (11th ed)
Public law	▪ 2025, '<i>Lingering in Immigration Detention: CZA19 v Commonwealth; DBD24 v Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs [2025] HCA 8</i>', Bar News: Journal of the NSW Bar Association (Winter)
Human rights	▪ 2024, <i>Dismissed, Denied and Demeaned: A national report on LGBTQ+ discrimination in faith-based schools and organisations</i>, Equality Australia (co-authored with Oliver Ray) ▪ 2021, <i>Victorian Intersex Oversight Panel Proposal: Final report and recommendations to the Victorian Government</i>, Equality Australia ▪ 2009-2019, '<i>Same-Sex Couples and their Families</i>', <i>The Law Handbook</i>, ThomsonReuters (11th – 15th eds.) ▪ 2011, '<i>We're Family Too: The effects of homophobia in Arabic-speaking communities</i>', ACON and Arab Council Australia ▪ 2008, <i>From Lives of Fear to Lives of Freedom: A review of Australian refugee decisions on the basis of sexual orientation</i>, NSW Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby