

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

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 Pte Ltd](#) [2025] VSC 475 (enforcement of guarantee, unled)
- [Taylor v Taylor](#) [2025] NSWSC 166 (setting aside Registrar's orders to dismiss proceedings, unled)
- [Green Gold Energy Pty Ltd v Trina Solar Investment Pte Ltd](#) (NSWSC 2024/415599) (alleged breach of confidence, led by Angus Macauley, ongoing)
- [Greensill Bank AG v Insurance Australia Ltd](#) (alleged breach of insurance policy claim, led by Vanessa Whittaker SC, Stuart Lawrence SC and Nicholas Bender SC, with Christopher Mitchell, Kate Lindeman, Nichola Derrington, Christopher Tran, and ors, ongoing)
- [Luxury Homes Double Bay Group Holdings Pty Ltd v Mauro](#) (NSWSC 2025/163432) (alleged restraint of trade, unled, settled)

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 re [Holohan](#), [Mehajer](#), [Pearce](#), Lechmana, [Chen](#), Blacklock, Wells, Jones, Robson and Scroop (unled)

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

- *Conolan-Glen v Sydney Catholic Schools atf Sydney Catholic Schools Trust* (NSD1829/2024) (alleged gender identity discrimination, led by Kate Eastman SC)
- *IGS25 v Gordon Private Hospital Pty Ltd* [2025] FCA 1517 (alleged disability discrimination, led by Kate Eastman SC)
- *Giggle for Girls Pty Ltd v Tickle* (NSD1386/2024) (intervenor's application, led by Ruth Higgins SC and with Christopher Tran)

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 marriages)

* Matter continued after I finished work at the firm/organisation.

Selected publications

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| Commercial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2017, 'Financial Crime in Australia: Overview', <i>Practical Law</i>, ThomsonReuters ▪ 2016, The Strategic View: Business Crime 2016 – Australia, Global Legal Group ▪ 2009, 'Energy Consumers' and 'Water Consumers', <i>The Law Handbook</i>, ThomsonReuters (11th ed) |
| Public law | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2025, 'Lingering in Immigration Detention: CZA19 v Commonwealth; DBD24 v Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs [2025] HCA 8', Bar News: Journal of the NSW Bar Association (Winter) |
| Human rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2024, Dismissed, Denied and Demeaned: A national report on LGBTQ+ discrimination in faith-based schools and organisations, Equality Australia (co-authored with Oliver Ray) ▪ 2021, Victorian Intersex Oversight Panel Proposal: Final report and recommendations to the Victorian Government, Equality Australia ▪ 2009-2019, 'Same-Sex Couples and their Families', <i>The Law Handbook</i>, ThomsonReuters (11th – 15th eds.) ▪ 2011, 'We're Family Too: The effects of homophobia in Arabic-speaking communities', 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 |