

Ghassan Kassisieh

12 Wentworth Selborne
180 Phillip Street Sydney NSW 2000
+61 (02) 8029 6334 (w) | +61 416 647 214 (m)
gkassisieh@12thfloor.com.au | www.12thfloor.com.au

Key practice areas

Administrative and public law | Regulatory proceedings | Commercial and consumer law
Constitutional 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

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 past work

Selected examples of legal work I've been involved in prior to coming to the Bar.

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| Commercial | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Standards Australia and SAI Global</i> (2016-2018) (four different arbitrations for breach of contract and copyright law) ▪ <i>Woollahra Municipal Council v Secure Parking Pty Ltd</i> [2015] NSWSC 257 (claim regarding whether contract formed, reversed on appeal)* ▪ <i>Noon v The Owners – Strata Plan No. 22422</i> [2014] NSWSC 1260 (successful challenge to the validity of strata by-laws)* ▪ <i>Prosperity Advisers Pty Ltd v Secure Enterprises Pty Ltd t/as Strathearn Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd</i> [2011] NSWSC 35 and [2012] NSWCA 192 (claim for negligent advice) ▪ <i>Matrix Film Investment One Pty Ltd v Alameda Films LLC</i> [2010] NSWSC 771 (successfully resisting application for late amendment of claim in broader film investor dispute) ▪ <i>Shaw v Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</i> [2009] FCA 1397 (resisting challenge against directors for breach of duty) |
| Public law / regulatory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Commonwealth Bank of Australia and AUSTRAC</i> (2018-2019) (in house secondment during AUSTRAC AML proceedings and implementation of remediation program)* ▪ <i>Zurich Insurance Group and US Department of Justice</i> (2014-2015) (global internal US tax investigation leading to voluntary disclosure and non-prosecution agreement)* ▪ <i>Batelco v Telecommunications Regulatory Authority</i> (2012) (successful international arbitration under art 66 of the Bahraini Telecommunications Law challenging regulatory fine) ▪ <i>SZOQQ v Minister for Immigration and Citizenship & Anor</i> [2013] HCA 12 (successful challenge against adverse migration decision on character grounds) |
| Inquests and inquiries | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety</i> (acting for Commonwealth) (2018-2019)* ▪ <i>Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory</i> (2016-2017) (solicitors assisting the Commission) ▪ <i>Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse</i> (2013) (acting for Truth, Justice and Healing Council)* |
| Employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>AGA Assistance Australia Pty Ltd v Tokody</i> [2012] QSC 176 (claim enforcing a restraint of trade) ▪ Application for <i>Anton Pillar</i> orders for pharmaceutical company (2010) (action for breach of confidence) |

- Human rights and anti-discrimination
- 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

- Commercial / consumer
- 2017, 'Financial Crime in Australia: Overview', *Practical Law*, ThomsonReuters
 - 2016, [The Strategic View: Business Crime 2016 – Australia](#), Global Legal Group
 - 2009, 'Energy Consumers' and 'Water Consumers', *The Law Handbook*, ThomsonReuters (11th ed)
- Human rights
- 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', *The Law Handbook*, ThomsonReuters (11th – 15th eds.)
 - 2011, [We're Family Too: The effects of homophobia in Arabic-speaking communities](#), ACON and Arab Council Australia
 - 2008, *From Lives of Fear to Lives of Freedom: A review of Australian refugee decisions on the basis of sexual orientation*, NSW Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby