

William Michael Dawes

BARRISTER | UNIVERSITY CHAMBERS

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PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT/EXPERIENCE AS A SOLICITOR

Senior Associate, Clayton Utz

July 2024 – August 2025

Lawyer (Senior), Clayton Utz

March 2021 – June 2024

Public Sector: Dr Ashley Tsacalos

- Royal Commissions, public inquiries, coronial inquests, and parliamentary investigations, acting for a mix of Government, corporate and individual clients, including prominent public figures
- Complex judicial review matters
- Assisting agencies responding to orders for papers from the NSW Legislative Council
- Major insurance litigation resulting from Royal Commissions
- General commercial litigation
- Defending common law claims via appointment by government insurers

Associate, Norton Rose Fulbright

February 2019 - March 2021

Employment & Labour, WHS: Jason Noakes, David Cross, Sally Woodward and Katherine Morris

- Acting for employers in the Fair Work Commission and Federal Court of Australia
- Responding to unfair dismissal and general protections claims, and claims in the AHRC
- Advising on enforcing post-employment restrictions on former executives
- Investigating and assisting the ABCC in the prosecution of unlawful industrial action

Lawyer, Norton Rose Fulbright

June 2018 – February 2019

Commercial Litigation: Grant Bonner, Ann Donohue

- Assisted in defending a major class action matter alleging misleading and deceptive conduct and unfair contract terms
- Other commercial litigation matters

Paralegal/Graduate, Norton Rose Fulbright

February 2017 – June 2018

Financial Restructuring & Insolvency: Chris Cruikshank, Tim Mornane, David Goldman and Mitchell Mathas

- Mortgage enforcement on behalf of financial institutions and discrete insolvency matters

Speechwriter, The Hon. David Elliott MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, NSW Parliament

2015 – 2016

- Researching and writing of parliamentary speeches

Research Assistant, Jeremy Morris SC, 13th Floor St James Hall

2011 – 2016

- Assisting with technical and legal research across matters relating to coronial inquests and common law matters

SELECT MATTERS AS A SOLICITOR

Public Sector

- *Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services: Inquiry into Ethics and Professional Accountability: Structural Challenges in the Audit, Assurance and Consultancy Industry:* Acting for former General Counsel of PwC Australia
- *Select Committee on Commonwealth Bilateral Air Service Agreements, 27 September 2023:* Acting for Qatar Airways
- *Inquiry into offending by former corrections officer Wayne Astill at Dillwynia Women's Correctional Centre:* Acting for Corrective Services NSW
- *Inquiry into the Appointment of the Former Prime Minister to Administer Multiple Departments (Virginia Bell Inquiry):* Acting for the Hon. Scott Morrison MP

- *Board of Inquiry – Criminal Justice System (Sofronoff Inquiry)*: Acting for Senator the Hon. Linda Reynolds (former Defence Minister)
- *Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme*: Acting for Services Australia
- *Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide*: Acting for the Hon. Andrew Gee MP (former Veterans' Affairs Minister)
- *Camenzuli v Morrison* [2022] NSWCA 51 (special leave to the High Court of Australia refused per *Camenzuli v Morrison & Ors* [2022] HCATrans 60 (8 April 2022)): Acting for three Members of Parliament, including two Cabinet Ministers in relation to their eligibility to run as candidates
- *Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW) v Allianz Australia Insurance Limited* [2023] FCA 190: Acting for the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust

Employment & Labour, WHS

- *Kilby v Harrison; Saxon Energy Services Australia Pty Ltd v Harrison* [2019] ICQ 021. Significant WHS litigation concerning the definition of 'recklessly'

Commercial litigation

- *Casey Cheryl Simpson v Thorn Australia Pty Ltd Federal Court Proceeding* NSD 448/217

EDUCATION

Australian Catholic University 2023 – present (part time)

Master of Liberal Arts

Thesis Topic: "Words without 'signification': Thomas Hobbes' concern with borrowed words and the confusion of the Modern subject in *Leviathan*"

University of Sydney 2012 - 2017

Bachelor of Arts (BA (Ancient History))/ Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

University of Notre Dame 2011

Bachelor of Arts (BA)/Bachelor of Laws (LLB)

Full Scholarship

Sydney Conservatorium of Music – University of Sydney 2011

Bachelor of Music (Performance) (Classical Voice)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Music

- Professional singing in the St Mary's Cathedral Choir has included European tours in 2011 and 2018
- Completed Australian Music Examination Board exams up to and including Grade 6 (A: Honours) for Classical Violoncello
- Cellist in the Sydney Youth Orchestras from 2008 – 2010

Conferences/Papers

- Speaker at PM Glynn Institute Conference, Sydney: *Conservatives and Liberals: The Burke and Mill Fallacy*. Respondents included the Rt. Hon. Dr Jesse Norman MP (author: *Adam Smith: What He Thought, and Why It Matters* (Penguin, 2018)) and Dr Adrian Pabst (Professor in politics at the University of Kent).

AWARDS

- Ramsay Scholarship