

HAL ALTAN
BARRISTER

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PROFILE

Hal has more than 21 years experience as a barrister and practises principally in commercial litigation, equity and property. He has extensive experience acting in complex and substantial disputes and advises clients on a broad range of commercial matters.

Hal has appeared in the High Court of Australia, the Federal Court of Australia and courts and tribunals throughout New South Wales and the Federal jurisdiction. He has particular experience in the Commercial and Equity Divisions of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the Court of Appeal, and regularly appears in both trial and appellate proceedings.

His practice encompasses commercial and corporations law, contracts, equity and trusts, property, insurance, succession, insolvency and professional negligence. He acts for individuals, companies and other commercial entities and accepts briefs in both advisory and contentious matters.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

LLB University of New South Wales (UNSW) 2002, graduated with distinction average

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

2003-2004	Tipstaff, Howie J, Supreme Court of NSW
2003	Admitted as a legal practitioner of the Supreme Court of NSW
2005	Admitted to the NSW Bar

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Appellate Advocacy

Commercial Law

Contracts

Corporations Law

Equity/Trusts

Insolvency

Professional Negligence

Real Property

Wills & Estates

RECENT AND SELECTED CASES

Supreme Court NSW

GEMI 169 Pty Ltd -v- F&L Violi Pty Ltd [2025] NSWSC 975

Represented the Registrar-General of NSW (leading Caitlin Angus) in 3-week hearing before Peden J involving \$33m claim on the Torrens Assurance Fund for alleged fraudulent mortgages

Jigaroo Holdings Pty Ltd v Garry Ernest Johnston [2024] NSWSC 1539

Represented defendant (briefed by SP Walters) before Williams J in claim for declarations that option to renew exercised, based on estoppel/misleading or deceptive conduct

Doust v Riveaux Holdings Pty Ltd [2024] NSWSC 1434

Represented plaintiff (briefed by Kennedy & Cooke) before Hammerschlag CJ in Eq in claim for declarations that plaintiff had not breached license agreement for occupation of property

Perpetual Corporate Trust Ltd v Owners Corporation SP6534; Elkbouri v Owners Corporation SP6534 [2024] NSWSC 173

Represented defendants (briefed by Bartier Perry) before Elkaim AJ in claim for damages and declarations as to exclusive use rights under the by-laws of a strata scheme

JNN Investments Pty Ltd v Francis [2022] NSWSC 1063

Represented plaintiff (leading Mark Isaac, briefed by Rickard Lawyers) before Davies J in claim for monies owing under joint venture agreement which were secured by mortgage over property

Ausbao (286 Sussex Street) Pty Ltd v Registrar-General of NSW [2021] NSWSC 1651

Represented the Registrar-General of NSW before Robb J in claim for compensation from Torrens Assurance Fund for errors on the Torrens Register

Pipeclay Lawson Ltd v Brand Ventures Ltd [2021] NSWSC 909

Represented defendant (briefed by MCK Lawyers) before White J in claims for rent, outgoings, repairs and mesne profits

Dyce v David Landa Stewart Pty Ltd [2021] NSWSC 590

Represented plaintiff (led by Chris Harris SC, briefed by HWL Ebsworth) before Adamson J in claim for delivery up of documents from solicitor

In the matter of Winsome Australia Pty Ltd (in liquidation) [2021] NSWSC 430

Represented plaintiff (briefed by Willis & Bowring) in application to terminate winding up

Winau Aust Pty Ltd v LCC Property Development Pty Ltd [2020] NSWSC 434

Represented the Registrar-General of NSW before Kunc J in contractual construction issue of whether mortgages secured advance under fraudulent loan/guarantee

Nguyen v Valore [2018] NSWSC 1364

Represented the plaintiff (leading Peter Tiliakos, briefed by Vo Lawyers) before Ball J in a commercial lease dispute.

Chelliah v NSW Police [2018] NSWSC 557

Represented the defendant before Garling J in an appeal from the Local Court

Michelangelo Alfredo Mascarello & Anor v Registrar-General of New South Wales [2018] NSWSC 284

Represented the Registrar-General of NSW before Sackar J in claim on the Torrens Assurance Fund

Rushcutters Bay Developments Pty Ltd v Dragon Asset Investment Pty Ltd (No 2) [2017] NSWSC 866

Represented the defendant before Darke J in a property/contract dispute

GLMC Properties 2 Pty Ltd v Hassarati & Co Pty Ltd [2016] NSWSC 1642

Represented the defendant in an appeal from decision of the Local Court in relation to a trespass claim

Rushcutters Bay Developments Pty Limited v Dragon Asset Investment Pty Limited [2016] NSWSC 1324

Represented the defendant before Darke J in a caveat dispute

Lawrence v Martin [2014] NSWSC 1506

Represented in the estate (leading Nathan Avery-Williams, briefed by Atkinson Vinden) in a family provision claim

Pratap v Permanent Custodians Limited [2013] NSWSC 1918

Represented the defendant (briefed by Tresscox Lawyers) before Young J in application to enforce settlement

Liang Zhen Lin v BHW Capital Pty Ltd & Anor [2013] NSWSC 1786

Represented defendant before White J in shareholder dispute

Registrar-General of New South Wales v LawCover [2013] NSWSC 1471

Represented the plaintiff (led by Sirtes SC) in application for leave to commence proceedings against LawCover

Bank of Western Australia v Seventy Pty Ltd (No 2) [2012] NSWSC 772

Represented the plaintiff mortgagee (briefed by Gadens) before Schmidt J in application for stay of proceedings

Keep v Packham [2012] NSWSC 782

Represented the applicant (briefed by SP Walters) in application to intervene in family provision proceedings

Corbett v Nguyen [2012] NSWSC 530

Represented the plaintiff (briefed by Atkinson Vinden) before Windeyer J in dispute involving issues of contractual construction and equitable remedies

Eathorne & Ors v Araya-Marvin [2011] NSWSC 782

Represented plaintiff in proceedings before Nicholas J for appointment of trustees for sale in dispute between co-owners of real property

ACN 002 804 702 (formerly Brooks Building) v McDonald [2009] NSWSC 610

Represented the plaintiff (briefed by Cordato Partners) in a claim for specific performance in a building/engineering contract

Wonson v Greyhound and Harness Racing Regulatory Authority [2005] NSWSC

Represented defendants (led by David Robertson, briefed by Paul A. Curtis & Co) before Bell J in application for judicial review of decision of Greyhound and Harness Racing Appeals Tribunal.

NSW Court of Appeal

Violi v GEMI 169 Pty Ltd [2026] NSWCA 94

Represented the Registrar-General of NSW (leading Caitlin Angus) in application to summarily dismiss appeal

Owners Corporation SP6534 v Elkhoury (No 2) [2025] NSWCA 237

Represented respondents/cross-appellants (briefed by Bartier Perry) in application to vary orders made by Court of Appeal

Owners Corporation SP6534 v Elkhoury; Owners Corporation SP6534 v Perpetual Corporate Trust Ltd [2024] NSWCA 279; (2024) 116 NSWLR 26

Represented respondents/cross-appellants (briefed by Bartier Perry) on appeal against orders in relation to exclusive use rights under the by-laws of a strata scheme and claim for damages for breach of by-laws

Aushao (286 Sussex Street) Pty Ltd v Registrar-General of NSW [2023] NSWCA 18

Represented the Registrar-General of NSW (led by Richard Lancaster SC) on appeal from decision of Robb J in claim for compensation from Torrens Assurance Fund for errors on the Torrens Register

Hong v Gui [2022] NSWCA 245

Represented appellant (led by Noel Hutley SC, briefed by CKSD Lawyers) on appeal from judgment of Black J in relation to issue of whether contract for the sale of land was wrongfully terminated

Ippin Textiles Pty Ltd v Winau Aust Pty Ltd [2021] NSWCA 9; (2021) NSW ConvR 56-458

Represented Registrar-General of NSW on appeal from decision of Kunc J in relation to construction of mortgage and whether it indefeasibly secured any money

Thomas v Registrar-General of New South Wales [2019] NSWCA 198

Represented Registrar-General of NSW on appeal from decision of Darke J in relation to claim on the Torrens Assurance Fund

D v Australian Financial Security Authority [2017] NSWCA 50

Represented Registrar-General of NSW on appeal from decision of the District Court NSW

Neale v Commonwealth Bank of Australia Ltd trading as Bank of Western Australia [2015] NSWCA 272

Represented the Appellant in an appeal from decision of Hammerschlag J in relation to mortgagee claim

Barrak Corporation Pty Ltd v The Kara Group of Companies Pty Ltd [2014] NSWCA 395

Represented the Respondent (leading Nathan Avery-Williams, briefed by MCK Lawyers) in an appeal from District Court in relation to claim for negligent/defective building work

Registrar-General of New South Wales v LawCover Insurance Pty Ltd [2014] NSWCA 241

Represented the Appellant (led by Sirtes SC) in appeal against decision of Harrison J in relation to application for leave to commence proceedings against LawCover

Aboody v Ryan [2012] NSWCA 395

Represented Appellant (led by Insall SC) in appeal against decision of Slattery J in relation to unconscionable conduct claim

Macourt v Clark [2012] NSWCA 367

Represented Appellant (led by Chris Harris SC) in an appeal against decision of Gzell J in a claim for damages for breach of contract arising from transfer of sperm in sale of fertility clinic

Registrar-General of New South Wales v Ciban [2012] NSWCA 297

Represented Appellant on appeal from decision of Windeyer J in relation to claim on Torrens Assurance Fund arising from errors on Torrens Register

Jensen v Bank of Queensland [2011] NSWCA 71

Represented the intervener in an appeal from a decision of Gzell J relating to the registration of a transfer

Hans Pet Constructions Pty Limited v Cassar [2009] NSWCA 230

Represented the Respondents in an appeal from the Local Court concerning practice and procedure

Harpley Nominees Pty Ltd v Jeans [2006] NSWCA 176

Represented the Respondents (led by John Ireland QC, briefed by Moloney Lawyers) in appeal against decision of Einstein J in relation to dispute about guarantee/indemnity

Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) v. Dodds & Anor. [2005] NSWCA 115

Represented the District Court of NSW (led by Hulme SC) in relation to an appeal from a decision of the District Court of NSW

Federal Court of Australia

DOQ17 v Australian Financial Security Authority (No 3) [2019] FCA 1488

Represented a respondent in proceedings before Perry J relating to alleged breach of statutory obligations and negligence

Pauksen v Prohunt Holdings Pty Ltd [2007] FCA 1045

Represented the plaintiff (led by Chris Harris SC, briefed by Colin Biggers & Paisley) in winding up application

Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia

DOQ17 v Australian Financial Security Authority [2020] FCAFC 219 (4 December 2020)

Represented a respondent in an appeal from a decision of Perry J relating to issues involving disqualification for bias, constitutional matter and alleged procedural errors

High Court of Australia

Clark v Macourt (2013) 253 CLR 1; [2013] HCA 56

Represented the Respondent (led by Chris Harris SC, briefed by Redmond Hale Simpson) in an appeal from decision of NSW Court of Appeal relating to claim for damages in relation to transfer of sperm arising from sale of fertility clinic

Smits v Roach (2006) 228 ALR 262; [2006] HCA 36

Represented Appellants (led by John Ireland QC, briefed by Moloney Lawyers) in an appeal from decision of NSW Court of Appeal relating to issues of apprehended bias and agency

Various special leave to appeal applications representing applicants and respondents