

Huw Watkins

Direct Phone: +61 3 9225 7294

Mobile: +61450499522

Email: huw.watkins@vicbar.com.au

Chambers: 815 Owen Dixon West, 525 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC 300

Clerk: Dever's List

Clerk Phone: +61 3 9225 7999

Address: 205 Williams Street, Melbourne, VIC3000



Overview	<p>Huw has a broad practice incorporating general corporate and commercial law, insolvency, building and construction, migration and public law matters. Huw also has experience with regulatory matters in the financial services sector, product liability, international sanctions and competition law. He appears in all jurisdictions in Australia and in domestic and international arbitrations.</p> <p>Before coming to the Bar, Huw worked at Ashurst as a senior associate at Ashurst. His main area of practice was dispute resolution in which he ran several SIAC and ICC arbitrations. He also advised Japanese corporates on frustration issues associated with government actions and the management of the related dispute.</p> <p>Huw obtained his fellowship with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in 2018 and is listed as an arbitrator with several institutes across the Asia Pacific region. He teaches International Dispute Resolution subjects at Keio University and Australian law subjects at Leo Cussen Centre for Law. Huw is a member of the Vicbar Arbitration Committee.</p> <p>Huw has worked extensively as part of multi-office, multi-jurisdiction teams and is familiar with running cases remotely. Huw speaks fluent Japanese.</p> <p>Huw read with Richard J Harris and his senior mentor is Phillip Solomon QC.</p>
Employment History	<p>Victorian Bar, Barrister (May 2019-current)</p> <p>Ashurst Tokyo, Senior Associate (May 2018 - December 2018)</p> <p>Ashurst Tokyo, Associate (October 2014 - April 2018)</p> <p>Ashurst Australia (Melbourne), Lawyer (February 2011 – October 2014)</p> <p>Keith E. Hoban, Barrister & Solicitor (August 2010 – February 2011)</p>
Appointments/ Memberships	<p>Arbitrator, Asian International Arbitration Centre (Malaysia)</p> <p>Arbitrator, SIAC Reserve List</p> <p>Fellow, Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration</p> <p>Lecturer, Keio University (2018-ongoing)</p>
Qualifications and admissions	<p>Victorian Bar Roll (2019)</p> <p>CI Arb Fellowship (2018)</p> <p>Victorian Supreme Court and High Court of Australia (2010)</p> <p>Australian National University (Dip. Legal Practice with merit) (2010)</p> <p>Monash University (Bachelor of Laws with Honours) (2009)</p> <p>Monash University (Honours Degree of Bachelor of Arts – Chinese, Japanese) (2009)</p>
Selected experience	<p><i>Appellate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Anees v Minister for Immigration</i> [2020] FCAFC 28

International Arbitration / International Dispute Resolution

- **ICC Arbitration (Construction, Subcontract Dispute):** Acting as respondent counsel for the contractor in a major international arbitration relating to an EPC sub-contract dispute (2019, ongoing).
- **SIAC Arbitration (Commercial, JV Contract, SE Asian Project):** Claimant counsel for a major Japanese trading house in respect of a dispute with its JV Partner in a SE Asian project. Appeared as the junior advocate in successful defence of preliminary challenge to arbitrability and jurisdiction in November 2018 (2016-2019).
- **SIAC Arbitration:** Claimant counsel for a major Japanese contractor in respect of a SIAC arbitration relating to a project dispute in Indonesia (2016-2018).
- **Construction arbitration (ICC, Singapore):** Acted as respondent counsel for a Japanese engineering company. Responsible for Japanese witnesses and junior counsel for the cross-examination of the technical experts (2016-2019).
- **Construction arbitration (ICC, Singapore):** Successful challenge to jurisdiction of Tribunal in an ICC arbitration seated in Singapore (2015 - 2016).
- **Gorgon LNG Project:** Detailed pre dispute advice and liability analysis in respect of potential dispute in relation to allegedly defective goods (2015).
- **Contaminated product dispute:** Advise Japanese trading house in respect of claims against manufacturer of food products supplied to client and on-sold in Japan (2015).

Litigation / Strategic Advisory

- **Marubeni:** Strategic advice on exit mechanisms, Australian insolvency law and potential oppression remedies in relation to distressed joint venture (2017-2018).
 - **Sharp Corporation:** Providing strategic advice to Sharp Corporation in relation to product liability related proceedings in the Victorian Supreme Court (2017)
 - **Mitchell Water Australia Pty Ltd v Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation SCI 2013 3496:** Assisted GWM with its conduct of litigation in the Supreme Court of Victoria in relation to a construction dispute arising out of a major water infrastructure project (2013-2014)
 - **Wheelahan & Ors. v City of Casey:** Assisted Casey City Council with its long-standing litigation against Frankston City Council and others arising out of the management of a local landfill by two municipal councils and related class action (2014).
 - **Maxir Nominees v VCM Construction (2013) VSC:** Acted for Hitachi in relation to claims in respect of air-conditioning works for a car dealership
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- **Glen Eira City Council v Hansen Yuncken Pty Ltd (2013) VSC:** Acted for Glen Eira City Council in relation to construction dispute relating to the development of a sports and recreation centre
 - **EF Office No.1 Pty Ltd v Murray Goulburn Co-operative Ltd (2013) VSC:** Acted for Essendon Fields in relation to a commercial dispute relating to business park development
 - **Motta Property Investments Pty Ltd v BlueScope Steel Limited (2013) NSWSC:** Acted for BlueScope in property dispute
 - **Gas Heater Claims:** Advised Japanese gas water heater manufacturer in respect of claims made in respect of allegedly defective gas water heaters in Australia.

Sanctions Law Advice

- **Iran Withdrawal:** Advising a major Japanese trading house on the wind down of a series of transactions in Iran and the potential upstream and downstream liabilities that it may face (2018)
- **JBIC:** Preparation of Sanctions Law handbook including analysis of transactional documents for sanctions law compliance (2018)
- **Acquisition of Beach Petroleum (Egypt) by Rockhopper Exploration:** Advice to acquirer in respect of the potential application of sanctions against Syria and anti-corruption laws (2014)
- **Kirin acquisition of a 51% interest in Myanmar Brewery Limited:** Assist Kirin with its acquisition of Myanmar Brewery Limited, including by providing advice on compliance and sanctions issues (2014)
- **Insurance investment:** Provided advice to Japanese companies in relation to their proposed investment in a Thai based insurance company and the applicability of Australian, European and UK sanctions (2014)
- **Infrastructure and other investments:** Provided detailed advice to a Japanese trading house on the potential application of Australian, European and UK sanctions to a number of proposed investments in Myanmar (2014)

Competition Law / Consumer Law / Product Recalls / Regulatory

- **Regulatory Notices:** Advising a major Australian bank in respect of its responses to notices from ASIC under the *National Consumer Credit Protection Act 2009* (Cth).
 - **AGL's acquisition of Macquarie Generation Assets (2014):** Acted for AGL in the Competition Tribunal challenge to its acquisition of MacGen. Responsible for the preparation of expert reports into the availability of hedge contracts within the National Energy Market
 - **MUJI Australia:** Advice Ryohin Keikaku in relation to product recall of non-Australian Standard compliant products. Assist Ryohin Keikaku to establish their Australian "MUJI" stores and
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provided on-going support in respect of corporate governance (2013)

Transactional Advice

- **JBIC:** Advising JBIC on its equity financing of a business park development in India. (2016-2017)
- **BREXIT advice to Kirin:** Provide Kirin with legal advice in respect of its distribution arrangements in Europe and the effect of BREXIT. (2016)
- **Distributor arrangements for Kirin Technology Services:** Provide Kirin with advice in respect of the establishment of a distributorship arrangement in India. (2016)
- **Kito Corporation's acquisition of SCAW Metals Pty Ltd:** Advise Kito corporation in respect of its acquisition of SCAW Metals Pty Ltd from the Industrial Development Corporation (2016)
- **Nikken Sekkei acquisition of minority stake in The Buchan Group:** Advise Nikken Sekkei on its acquisition of approximately 38% of The Buchan Group (Aust) Pty Ltd (an Australian global retail architecture firm) and related business alliance with The Buchan Group (2015)
- **Melbourne Star Observation Wheel:** Advised Sanoyas on the acquisition of the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel in Melbourne by Sanoyas Rides Australia and the subsequent management company acquisition (2013)

Languages	English (Native), Japanese (Fluent, JLPT N1), Chinese - Mandarin (Limited)
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