



GEORGIA M DOUGLAS

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ADMISSIONS

Signed the Victorian Bar roll on 16 May 2013

Member of the Queensland Bar Association since November 2014

Admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria as a Barrister and Solicitor on 22 April 2009

Also admitted in the High and Federal Courts of Australia

QUALIFICATIONS

Master of Laws – University of Melbourne, 2011

Subjects undertaken:

- Equity and Commerce
- Copyright Law
- Defamation Law
- Privacy and Data Protection
- Law of Royal Commissions and Inquiries
- Law of Negligence
- Entertainment Law
- Shareholders' Right and Remedies

Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (Specialisation in Commercial Law) – University of Queensland, 2007

Bachelor of Arts (Ancient History & Criminology) – University of Queensland, 2007



AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Commercial Law
- Trade Practices / Consumer Law
- Corporations Law
- Property & Intellectual Property
- Building & Construction
- Torts
- Administrative Law

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - SUMMARY

Georgia specialises in commercial and civil litigation, trade practices, building and construction, torts, intellectual property, and administrative law.

Since coming to the Bar, Georgia has been briefed to advise and appear in a number of jurisdictions and has gained experience as junior counsel, and as sole counsel. Georgia has particular expertise in large-scale litigation, class actions and matters involving complex expert issues, including contamination.

Georgia regularly provides advice to government authorities such as the State Revenue Office, the Australian Securities Investments Commission and local councils.

Georgia has regularly taught trainee solicitors at Leo Cussens. She has also lectured at RMIT University, teaching the Law & Regulation course in the Masters of Media & Communications program and tutored law students at Queens College at the University of Melbourne.

Georgia is actively involved in providing *pro bono* assistance to the community through the Bar's Pro Bono programs and is a member of the panel of barristers that assist the Consumer Action Law Centre.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – RECENT AND ONGOING CASES

Supreme Court of Victoria & Victorian Court of Appeals

- **Jabiru Satellite Ltd (In Liq) & Newsat Ltd v Societe Generale & Ors (S CI 2020 / 02631)** – Acting for eighth defendant, French government trade credit insurer, alleged to have engaged in unconscionable conduct towards Australian companies in the collapse of lending arrangements for the construction and launch of a satellite; total losses alleged to have been suffered by plaintiffs above (USD) \$600M (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by C Juebner, proceeding ongoing). Interlocutory decisions in this matter include: regarding extension of writ [\[2021\] VSC 544](#) and security for costs [\[2022\] VSC 521](#).
- **Friday Investments Pty Ltd & Anor v Lawson & Youngman (S CI 2022 / 03649)** – Acting for plaintiffs, lenders to unlisted public company alleging misleading or deceptive conduct, negligent misstatement and breach of collateral warranties against directors of company in lead up to provision of investment loan. (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by C Shaw KC).



- **L & Q Group Pty Ltd & Ors v Gavin Xing & Ors (S CI 2022 /02539)** – Acting for plaintiffs a group of 10 directors, shareholders and companies alleging unlawful removal from positions as shareholders and directors of companies, breach of directors' duties. Urgent injunction successful obtain orders restraining remaining directors from use of bank accounts and specific conduct in the name of companies. (Supreme Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Alphington Developments Pty Ltd v Amcor Ltd (S CI 2017/0145)** - Acting for plaintiff company in claim for debt, breach of contract and quantum meruit from sale of property and contamination of land, remediation and demolition costs totalling over \$30 million (Supreme Court of Victoria, decision reserved after trial ran before the Honourable Justice Sloss for 10 weeks across 2020 and 2021, led by M Osborne QC (before His Honour's appointment) and D Aghion KC, appearing with A Downie, N Cozens and C Hender). Interlocutory appearances included: appointment of court appointed expert [\[2017\] VSC 610](#); LPP on subpoena [\[2018\] VSC 544](#).
- **Payton Securities Pty Ltd v Mason White McDougall (Hurstbridge) Pty Ltd & Ors (S E CI 2020/02308)** – acting for defendants alleged to have engaged in misleading or deceptive conduct and deceit concerning representations related to development sales. Expert issues included forensic document analysis for handwriting, responsible lending and land valuation issues (Supreme Court of Victoria, settled during trial February 2022, led by R Moore).
- **Cooper Energy Ltd v PT Pertamina Hulu Energi (Indonesia) (2022)**– acting for plaintiff company in pursuit of recovery of abandonment costs incurred in Australian mining joint venture (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by D Aghion KC).
- **Alphington Developments Pty Ltd & Alpha APM No 2 Pty Ltd v CP Alphington Nominees Pty Ltd (S E CI 2020 / 04630)** – Acting for plaintiffs in claim for breach of deed of covenant related to overshadowing of buildings on large development site and allegations of misleading or deceptive conduct (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by J Gobbo KC, settled prior to trial).
- **Lettieri Constructions Pty Ltd v Woolworths Group Ltd (S E CI 2019/04908)** – Acting for plaintiff landlord company in proceeding alleging breach of long-term lease agreement and counterclaim alleging breaches of lease agreement (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by D Aghion KC, settled at trial).
- **Owners Corporation 1 Plan No PS438893N v AAI Ltd (S CI 2017/0188)** – Acting for owners corporation in matter alleging breach of insurance contract against insurer of statutory plumbing insurance scheme re plumbing defects of deregistered entity. (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by D Aghion KC, proceeding settled prior to trial).
- **Sleeque Enterprises Pty Ltd & Ors v Croc's Franchising Pty Ltd & Ors (S E CI 2019/04877)** – Acting for defendants in proceeding alleging misleading or deceptive and breaches of franchising code pursuant to franchising agreements (Supreme Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Troiano v Voci & Ors (S CI 2019 / 0118)** - Acting for plaintiff in proceeding alleging breach of contract and misleading or deceptive conduct related to development of greenfields land (Supreme Court of Victoria, proceeding ongoing, led by P Zappia KC and J Barber).
- **Evolve No. 14 P/L v Arnotts Estates P/L & Ors (S CI 2019 / 02886)** – Acting for plaintiff purchaser in proceedings regarding contracts of sale with land rezoning conditions, seeking declarations and specific performance (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by J Gobbo KC, settled prior to trial).



- **Michael Close v Brisbane Lions, AFL & Etihad (S CI 2018 /0534)** – Acting for plaintiff AFL Player in loss of chance/opportunity damages claim after injury suffered at Etihad stadium (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by J Twigg KC).
- **Target Products (1978) Ltd v Australian Firearms (S CI 2019 / 0058)** – Acting for plaintiff importer alleging trade mark infringements against local distributor. (Supreme Court of Victoria, unled – settled prior to trial).
- **Project Gas Services Pty Ltd v Leaseplus Operations Pty Ltd [2017] VSCA 55** – Acting for appellant in application for leave to appeal and appeal regarding leave to withdraw offer of compromise in trial proceedings (Victorian Court of Appeal, led by D Christie).
- **Namdat Pty Ltd v Trade Properties Pty Ltd (Supreme Court of Victoria) (2018)** – Advising and acting for vendor in dispute regarding expiry of sunset clause in sale of land where plan of subdivision was not registered.
- **Australian Planning Services Pty Ltd v PPC Financial Services Pty Ltd (S CI 2017 / 04781)** – Acting for defendant financial advisor in action brought by Australian Financial Services Licensee (Dealer Group) for monies paid out to former clients pursuant to Financial Ombudsman Service recommendations. (Supreme Court of Victoria, unled – settled prior to trial).
- **In the matter of AGW Funds Management Funds Ltd [2017] VSC 124** – successfully appearing for over 40 lot holders of a Managed Investment Scheme, in opposition to the Responsible Entity's application for judicial advice pursuant to r.54.02 of the Supreme Court (General Civil Procedure) Rules 2005 (Supreme Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Gouldburn Administration Services Ltd (In Liq) v Barkla Smith Rowe Pty Ltd (S CI 2017/13939)** – Acting for defendant company in knowing receipt claim and application to remove caveat (Supreme Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Rowe v Ausnet Electricity Services** – Acting for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in the defence of the Murrindindi Bushfire Class Action from 2013 to 2015 (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by P Anastassiou KC, and P Zappia KC);
- **Jia v Lee & Okada (S CI 2015/2949)** – Successful applications to strikeout statement of claim, remove freezing order, remove caveat in action for fraud, unjust enrichment and breach of trust. (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by J Twigg KC);
- **Jia v Lee & Okada (S CI 2015/2949)** – Successful application for indemnity costs for 4th defendant following strike out application and failure to re-plead by plaintiff (Supreme Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Morton v AHouse Builders Pty Ltd (S C I 2016/026)** – preparation of and appearance at winding up application on behalf of creditor (Supreme Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Wei v Yu [2015] VSC 726** – Successful appeal from VCAT for plaintiff for breach of procedural fairness and failure to provide adequate warnings (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by J Twigg KC);
- **Foton Dandenong v Whiteman [2014]**– Acting pro bono for the Consumer Action Law Centre in a successful strike out application and defending a judicial review application (Supreme Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Braham v ACN 101482580 Pty Ltd; Poon v ACN 101482580 Pty Ltd** – Acting for the Plaintiffs in an ongoing legal professional negligence action (Supreme Court of Victoria, led by P Cawthorn KC).
- **Casley v Australian Broadcasting Corporation [2013] VSCA 182** – Defamation proceedings and limitation of action appeal (Victorian Court of Appeal, led by D Klempfner).



Federal Court of Australia

- **Gajnik & Anor v BGV (Vic) Pty Ltd (VID 2022 / 146)** – Acting for defendant car dealer in proceeding alleging safety defects and breaches of consumer warranties regarding damaged causes by self-ignited vehicle. (Federal Court of Australia, unled).
- **Auschem Pacific Group Pty Ltd v Tismor Health & Wellness Pty Ltd (VID 341/2019)** – Acting for plaintiff in claim for unpaid invoices for imported oils and dispute concerning quality and specifications of product. (Federal Court of Australia, unled).
- **Eldon C Smith v Edge Group & Ors (VID 999 of 2017)** – Acting for respondents and cross-claimants in proceeding concerning defective engineering advice and misrepresentations concerning insurance (Federal Court of Australia, led by D Aghion KC).
- **Towers Watson Superannuation Pty Ltd v IBM Superlife Services Pty Ltd & Ors (VID 270 of 2016)** – Acting for defendant in multimillion dollar proceeding concerning fraud, vicarious liability, deceit, conversion and misrepresentations (Federal Court of Australia, unled, settled prior to trial).
- **Lifepan Australia Friendly Society Ltd v Woff [2016] FCA 248** - Acting for plaintiff preparing trial closing submissions for proceeding concerning misuse of confidential information, breach of officer's duties, knowing assistance, knowing receipt, account of profits. (Federal Court of Australia, led by P Collinson KC, M Douglas).

Supreme Courts of Western Australia & Queensland

- **Mullen & Anor v Munday & Anor (12286/2016)** – Acting on behalf of plaintiffs in partnership and corporate dispute regarding ownership of business property and shares (Supreme Court of Queensland, unled).
- **Sasser Family Holdings Inc v STI-Global Ltd (CIV 1691/2013)** – Defending shareholder oppression action (Supreme Court of Western Australia, led by P Zappia KC, settled before trial).

County Court of Victoria & District Court of New South Wales

- **GLP Blackbut Pty Ltd v National Agricultural Services & Ors (2021 – 0100)** – Acting for second defendant manufacturer alleged to have caused herbicide damage to vineyard due to contaminant said to have been contained in growth stimulant spray sold by second defendant. (County Court of Victoria, unled)
- **Willis v Crossland (No 1) [2020] VCC 1964** – Acting for defendant vendor in trial of dispute regarding claim for a return of deposit under a sale of land contract, purported termination of contract of sale after part payment of deposit on the basis of alleged major defects in building report (County Court of Victoria, unled)
- **Willis v Crossland (No 2) [2021] VCC 39** – Successfully opposing (on behalf of defendant) an application by plaintiff to reopen the trial of a proceeding after delivery of judgment (County Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Alpha Investment Mgmt P/L v Patron Financial Services P/L (2019 / 2277312)** – Acting for defendant financial advisor in proceeding seeking damages by dealer group for alleged breaches of authorised representative agreement and indemnity for client settlements from FOS complaints. (District Court of New South Wales, unled).
- **Alpha Investment Mgmt P/L v The Adviser Group (Aus) Pty Ltd (2019/322327)** – Acting for defendant financial advisor in proceeding seeking damages from by dealer group for alleged breaches of authorised representative agreement and indemnity for client settlements from FOS and other complaints. (District Court of New South Wales, unled).



- **Koncept Developments Pty Ltd v Kumar & Ors [2017] VCC 671** – Acting on behalf of plaintiff in successful action to recover monies owed in default of a settlement agreement (County Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Leaseplus Pty Ltd v Project Gas Services Pty Ltd (C I 2015/01310)** – Acting for defendant at trial of dispute concerning liquidated damages provision in contract, defences of penalty, uncertainty, and misrepresentations considered. (County Court of Victoria, led by D Christie).
- **Leaseplus Pty Ltd v Project Gas Services Pty Ltd [2016] VCC 442** – Acting for defendant in successful application to oppose enforcement of offer of compromise (County Court of Victoria, led by D Christie).
- **MBD Energy Ltd v Cornelius (CR-17/0034)** – Successfully appearing on behalf of judgment creditor to obtain garnishee order against third party for fraudulent funds judgment owed by criminal defendant (County Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Creative Data Solutions Pty Ltd v Paperhouse Data Management Pty Ltd (C I 2013/ 06213)** – Acting for plaintiff in successful opposition to security for costs application (County Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Revival Gold Pty Ltd v McBride; Revival Gold Pty Ltd v Daly (C I 2015/04009; C I 2014/04007)** – Acting for defendants in action for breach of contract; misrepresentations and estoppel (County Court of Victoria, unled, settled prior to trial).
- **Eltham Gumnut Pty Ltd v Kevin Ward & Associates [2016]** – Acting for plaintiff in partnership dispute claiming breach of contract and loan agreement (County Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Westpac Banking Corporation v Thomascon & Anor [2014]** – Successful application for strike out, summary dismissal and indemnity costs on behalf of the plaintiff (County Court of Victoria, unled).

Magistrates' Court of Victoria & Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

- **Russo v UT Southbank Pty Ltd [2017] VCAT 816** – Acting for plaintiff, successfully claiming misleading or deceptive conduct, unconscionable conduct, damages and return of motor vehicle held under lien (VCAT, unled).
- **Reddy & Ors v Beveridge Land Pty Ltd & Ors [2016]** – Acting for respondent companies, successfully defending allegations of misleading or deceptive conduct and breaches of the Owners Corporation Act (VCAT, unled).
- **EZEATM Services P/L & Anor v Eagle Rock Lobster P/L (2016)** – successful application on behalf of WA based defendant to have proceedings dismissed for want of jurisdiction (Magistrates Court of Victoria, unled).
- **Victorian Highland Logging Co Pty Ltd (In Liquidation) v Mitchell & Ors [2013]** – Prosecuting unfair preference claim on behalf of liquidator (Melbourne Magistrates Court, unled).

Prior to joining the Bar, Georgia was the Associate to the Honourable Justice John Dixon in the Supreme Court of Victoria, in the common law division of the court. In this role Georgia worked on a wide variety of matters including judicial review and administrative law, building and construction disputes, interlocutory applications, personal injury trials, property disputes, and general commercial matters.

In 2011, whilst completing her Masters, Georgia was asked by the University of Melbourne to be a Tutor in the Masters of Law program for Masters level students in Copyright Law.

Georgia completed her articulated clerkship at Mallesons Stephen Jaques in Melbourne (now King & Wood Mallesons) in 2008 and worked as a solicitor in the Litigation and Intellectual Property department until January 2010. During her time at Mallesons Georgia was the instructing solicitor in the matters of:



- **Telstra Corporation Ltd v Phone Directories Company Pty Ltd [2010] FCA 44** – Acting for Telstra and Sensis in the prosecution of copyright and misleading or deceptive conduct action against rival telephone directory company.
- **Carlisle Homes Pty Ltd v Barrett Property Group Pty Ltd [2009] FCAFC 31** – Acting for the Defendant in appeal and damages proceeding connected to copyright infringement in house plan designs.

Georgia was also involved in the following proceedings during her time at Mallesons:

- **IceTv Pty Ltd v Nine Network Australia Pty Ltd [2009] HCA 14** – Acting for Telstra in its intervention in this proceeding in the High Court of Australia.
- **Cadbury Schweppes Pty Ltd v Darrell Lea Chocolate Shops Pty Ltd [2009] FCAFC 8** – Acting for Cadbury in its appeal regarding the trade practices claim against Darrell Lea over use of the colour purple.

In addition, Georgia worked as a paralegal throughout law school at McInnes Wilson Lawyers, Brisbane (between 2004 and 2006) and Clayton Utz, Brisbane throughout 2007.

MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENTS

- Victorian Bar Association
- Queensland Bar Association
- Panel member of pro bono barristers assisting Consumer Action Law Centre
- Young's List Committee Member (2017-2019)
- Honorary Secretary of the Commercial Bar Association of Victoria (2015- 2017)
- Member of the Hongkong (2018), Penang (2020) and Albury (2022) Commercial International Law Conference Organising Committee (Commercial Bar Association of Victoria)
- Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand
- Melbourne Press Club