

# CURRICULUM VITAE



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## SUMMARY

I have been in legal practice for almost three decades. I am currently serving as a Vice President of the Victorian Bar.

Following my completion of bachelor's degrees in economics (Monash, 1992) and law (Monash 1994), I commenced my legal career at Clayton Utz. I joined the Victorian Bar in 2001, and took silk in 2020.

I have a broad trial and appeal practice in commercial, public law and common law matters.

I have significant experience in matters involving land, public infrastructure and private property rights, recognised in *Doyles' Guide* as a leading Planning & Environment silk. I work extensively in the specialised area of land and business valuation, including commercial ratings and land tax disputes, and lease disputes. I have particular expertise in claims associated with the compulsory acquisition of interests in land, planning blight compensation claims, and other compensation claims under the state *Planning and Environment Act*, the *MTPF Act*, the *Road Management Act*, the *Water Act* and the *Gas Industry Act*. I also advise determining valuers in rent review disputes, and advise and appear generally in matters involving commercial and domestic property and rights.

I also have a substantial professional liability practice. I regularly advise and appear in claims on instructions from the LPLC and Lawcover, and for other insured professionals. I have also acted in a wide range of regulatory matters for the Victorian Legal Services Board + Commissioner, both at first instance and on appeal, and advise on complex conflicts and other issues of professional ethics and responsibility. I have served on the Victorian Legal Admissions Committee since 2018.

I have a strong interest in professional sport and sports law. In 2023, I joined the Tribunal Counsel panel for the AFL, appearing in numerous AFL and AFLW Tribunal challenges, and appeals to the AFL Appeal Board. In November 2024, I was appointed by the Board of the St Kilda Football Club to its Integrity Committee.

A core part of my practice is alternative dispute resolution, and I am recognised in *Doyles' Guide* as a leading mediator in Victoria. I have been a Nationally Accredited Mediator since 2014, and a Victorian Bar Advanced Mediator since 2023. I conduct mediations in commercial and civil disputes.

Between 2017 and 2023, I served on the Victorian Bar Ethics Committee, including as the Deputy Chair and Chair. In 2021-22, I was elected to the Committee of the Commercial Bar Association of Victoria, and appointed Vice President Convenor. In 2018, I was appointed as a sessional member of the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal, a position that I held until resigning in June 2021. I continue to serve on other not for profit boards and committees.

## **OTHER ROLES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 1996 Admitted to practice in Supreme Court of Victoria and High Court;  
Solicitor and Senior Associate (2000) at Clayton Utz (to June 2021)
- 2001 Signed Victorian Bar Roll
- 2014 Qualified as Nationally Accredited Mediator (ongoing)
- 2017 Appointed to Victorian Legal Admissions Committee (ongoing) and  
Victorian Bar Ethics Committee (to December 2023)
- 2018 Appointed Sessional Member, AAT (to June 2021)
- 2020 Appointed as Senior Counsel in and for the State of Victoria  
Appointed to Legal Costs Committee (to October 2024)
- 2021 Appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel by Letters Patent  
Appointed to Victorian Bar RCMPI Sub Committee (to 2022)  
Elected Vice President Convenor, CommBar (to November 2022)  
Appointed Deputy Chair of Victorian Bar Ethics Committee  
Appointed to the List Committee of Dever's List (ongoing)
- 2022 Appointed Chair of Victorian Bar Ethics Committee (to December 2023)
- 2023 Qualified as Victorian Bar Advanced Mediator (ongoing)  
Appointed to AFL Tribunal Counsel panel (to October 2024)
- 2024 Elected Vice President, Victorian Bar (ongoing)  
Appointed to St Kilda Football Club Integrity Committee (ongoing)  
Appointed to board of Barristers Benevolent Foundation of Victoria  
Appointed to board of Peter O'Callaghan QC Gallery Ltd

## SUMMARY: SOME RECENT MATTERS

### Commercial (valuation, land acquisition, state taxes and other commercial and property claims)

- Acting for a former landowner in a major Supreme Court claim for recovery of environmental clean-up costs (leading M Hosking)
- Acting for various landowners in separate matters involving challenges to their standing to bring compensation claims under s 98 of the *Planning & Environment Act*
- Acting for a developer in Commercial Court proceedings involving payments under a s 173 agreement and infrastructure contributions credits and equalisation sums (leading J Trehwella) (resolved prior to trial)
- Advising on the application of the land tax trust surcharge in commercial leasing arrangements (leading T Barry)
- Acting for a developer on appeal to the Court of Appeal on the issue of the termination of contracts for the sale of land, and issues of statutory construction (leading T Warner); [2024] VCSA 195
- Acting for the Minister for Environment in various disputes arising in relation to the Western Grasslands Reserve, including in judicial review proceedings concerning the validity of the acquisition (leading T Meyrick and also I Munt)
- Acting for the Secretary to the Department of Transport in proceedings involving the divestment of land under the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act* (leading J Trehwella); [2023] VSC 3, and on the subsequent appeal (resolved prior to final hearing)
- Acting for the Suburban Rail Loop Authority and for the State in relation to major road and rail infrastructure projects, also including West Gate Tunnel and Melbourne Metro Tunnel (ongoing)
- Acting for a developer in a compensation claim brought in the Supreme Court pursuant to section 98 of the Planning & Environment Act (leading J Trehwella); [2023] VSC 271 and [2023] VSC 315
- Acting for the Minister for Planning in judicial review proceedings challenging a planning scheme amendment (leading A Guild) (resolved prior to trial)
- Acting as an Arbitrator in a claim made under s. 45 of the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act* (resolved prior to determination)
- Acting for LXRA in a Supreme Court compensation claim under s 191 of the *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act* (leading J Trehwella) (resolved prior to trial)
- Acting for a developer in a Supreme Court compensation claim for loss arising from a planning permit amendment (leading S Gory and then R Burd) (resolved prior to trial)
- Acting for Head, Transport for Victoria in relation to a compulsory acquisition compensation claim involving a number of preliminary issues (leading T Barry); [2021] VSC 259, [2021] VSC 774, [2021] VSC 863 (appeal resolved prior to hearing; principal claim resolved prior to trial)
- Acting for Head, Transport for Victoria in relation to challenge to longstanding decision in *Halwood*, referred directly by trial Judge to Court of Appeal (leading R Chaile) [2021] VSCA 19; (2021) 63 VR 175 (see also [2018] VSC 360)
- Acting for a wind farm operator in VCAT and Supreme Court proceedings involving the valuation of the occupancy for ratings (FSL) purposes, and subsequent appeal to Court of Appeal [2020] VSC 853; 2021 VSCA 274, 65 VR 327
- Acting for a landowner in an appeal from a judgment of which he had no notice [2020] VSCA 16
- Acting for Head, Transport for Victoria in three Supreme Court claims for compensation pursuant to section 98 of the *Planning & Environment Act*, including [2020] VSC 53 and [2020] VSC 241.
- Acting for a developer in the Commercial Court in a *Masters v Cameron* claim to enforce an agreement for the sale of land (resolved prior to trial), which also involving a dispute over access to

subpoenaed documents [2019] VSC 177

- Acting for the Valuer-General in a complex land tax dispute involving the valuation of the Melbourne GPO, which ultimately lead to a legislative change ([2018] VCAT 1647)
- Acting for Western Water in a Supreme Court proceeding concerning the validity of compulsory acquisition of land (resolved prior to trial)
- Acting for the City of Casey in a series of land acquisition compensation claims, including Jones [2016] VCAT 2090 and [2017] VCAT 539 (indemnity costs)
- Acting for Boral in a disputed ratings valuation claim involving a brick works plant, a complex matter that resolved prior to final hearing
- Acting for a shopping centre owner in a disputed ratings valuation claim, [2016] VCAT 1680
- Acting for DELWP in a series of Supreme Court land acquisition compensation claims arising out of the construction of the Victorian Desalination Plant, all of which were successfully resolved prior to trial (unled)
- Acting for the City of Melbourne and the Valuer-General in a complex ratings dispute involving the valuation of the whole of the Port of Melbourne [2015] VSC 714.
- Acting for the Valuer-General in a significant valuation dispute involving the regional water assets of Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW), resolved prior to determination
- Acting for the City of Whittlesea in a test case over the valuation of electricity assets owned by SPI-Ausnet, and including a dispute over the characterisation of certain assets as fixtures or chattels [2014] VCAT 1179

### **Common law, professional negligence and professional discipline and regulation**

- Acting for various law firms in managing challenges based on asserted conflicts of interest
- Acting for a national community legal practice (on instructions from Lawcover) in Supreme Court proceedings involving historical institutional abuse (leading M Williams) (resolved at trial)
- Acting for a law practice (on instructions from the LPLC) on appeal to the Court of Appeal (leading T Jeffrie); [2023] VSCA 147
- Acting for a law practice (on instructions from LawCover) in relation to a complex construction dispute and questions of limitation of actions (leading E Bateman)
- Acting for a law practice (on instructions from LawCover) in a Supreme Court professional negligence claim involving trusts advice and also litigation advice (resolved)
- Acting for the AFL in the 2023 and 2024 AFL and AFLW seasons as Tribunal Counsel (including on appeal to the Appeal Board in the matters of Sicily, Bedford ('23), Mansell, Cameron, Bedford ('24) and Houston
- Acting for a law practice (on instructions from LPLC) on appeal to the Supreme Court (and later the Court of Appeal) from a decision on liability under the *Civil Procedure Act* (including [2020] VSC 696, [2022] VSC 214, [2022] VSC 324, [2023] VSCA 147 (all leading T Jeffrie)
- Acting for a law practice (on instructions from LawCover) in a Supreme Court professional negligence claim involving advice on options arrangements (resolved)
- Acting for solicitors and counsel (on instructions from the LPLC) in resisting claims for personal costs orders in VCAT and the Supreme Court)
- Acting for the Victorian Legal Services Board and a manager of a law practice in a Supreme Court challenge to the validity of his reappointment [2017] VSC 690
- Acting for accountants in Supreme Court proceedings concerning the adequacy of tax structuring advice; resolved prior to trial