

FRANK TAO

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ADMISSIONS

Barrister, New South Wales	2019
Solicitor, England and Wales	2016
Solicitor, Supreme Court of NSW	2009

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Barrister, Ninth Floor Selborne Chambers	2019 to date
Solicitor, Linklaters LLP, London	Feb 2014 to Mar 2019
Solicitor, Henry Davis York, Sydney	Feb 2010 to Jan 2014
Tipstaff to the Hon. Henric Nicholas, Supreme Court of NSW	Jan to Dec 2009

EDUCATION

Insolvency Education Program ARITA	2011
Bachelor of Laws (Honour) Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (sociology major) University of New South Wales, Sydney Alumni Graduand Award, First in Penology, First in Media Law	2003 to 2008

SELECTED CASES

Corporations, insolvency and bankruptcy

Re Ralan Property group of companies NSD579/2022 (ongoing)

Liquidation – Claims against former head of sales in respect of “deposit release scheme” – off the plan purchasers with c. \$300m of released deposits – lead by M Hoffman KC and D Krochmalik

Commissioner of Taxation v Iannuzzi (No 3) [2024] FCA 45 (on appeal, ongoing)

Statutory construction re ss 601AH(3)(d) and 588FF of the Corporations Act – for the Liquidators parties, led by A McInerney SC

Bankrupt estate of Joseph Khattar NSD890/2025 (ongoing)

Bankruptcy – s 81 examinations – bankrupt was former director or shareholder of over 80 private companies – over 50 summonses for production – for trustee in bankruptcy – unled

Re Hastie Group Limited (in liq) NSD336/2025 (ongoing)

Liquidation – c. \$18 million in legal fees – review under s 23 of the *Federal Court of Australia Act 1976* – for the special purpose liquidators – led by J Hutton SC

Re Hastie Group Limited (in liq) NSWSC2024/299593

Liquidation – s 477(2B) approval by special purpose liquidator – unled

Re Miniso Holdings Pty Ltd (subject to DOCA) NSWSC 2025/132772

Deed of company arrangement – ambiguity in DOCA – remedial relief – led by D Cook SC

Re Topknotz Pty Ltd [2025] NSWSC 522

Voluntary administration – defective appointment – relief under s 447A – unled

Re Markenzo Pty Limited (administrators appointed) [2025] NSWSC 515

Voluntary administration – extension of time for adjourned second meeting of creditors – unled

Commissioner of Taxation v Iannuzzi (No 4) [2024] FCA 1094

Costs – successfully resisted multi-party applications for indemnity costs against liquidators – unled

Re Salt Photography & Videography Pty Ltd NSD1769/2024 (settled)

Shareholder dispute – oppression – for the majority shareholders – unled

Arab v Pan (No 3) [2024] FCA 563

Bankruptcy – foreign bankruptcy trustees – summonses for production – first ever decision where security ordered against foreign trustee in bankruptcy – for respondents – led by S Golledge SC

Re Hills Limited [2023] NSWSC 1308

Voluntary administration – share transfer – s 444GA approval – for the deed proponent – unled

Re Stellar Agritech Pty Ltd (administrators appointed) [2023] NSWSC 1003

Voluntary administration – s 447C validation order – for the administrators – unled

Re Rogulj Enterprises Pty Ltd (in liq) NSD966/2021 (settled)

Liquidation – c. \$30 million voidable transaction and breach of duty claim against former director – complex property development and planning issues – led by F Assaf SC

Public examinations – unled

Kogan, in the matter of Rogulj Enterprises Pty Ltd (in liq) (No 3) [2023] FCA 977

Liquidation – s 477(2B) funding approval – unled

Re J & Lee Property Investment Group Pty Ltd (in Liquidation) [2022] NSWSC 1314

Charging orders – enforcement against equitable interests – for the creditor – unled

Re SBL Solutions Pty Ltd (subject to DOCA) [2021] NSWSC 1002 and [2021] NSWSC 1003

Deed of company arrangement – resisting application to terminate DOCA – for the deed administrators, led by J Hynes

Hebbel Constructions Pty Ltd v Bitar Pty Ltd [2021] NSWSC 810

Court-appointed receivership – contested application for approval receiver's remuneration and expenses, release and discharge from office – for the receiver, led by S Golledge SC

Re Pindan Group Pty Ltd (administrators appointed) [No 3] [2021] WASC 480

Voluntary administration – remedial relief under s 447A – led by J Hynes

Strawbridge, in the matter of Animal Supplies (Wholesale) Pty Ltd (in liq) [2021] FCA 566

Liquidators – replacement of liquidator – unled

Re Aberdeen All Farm Pty Ltd (in liquidation) [2020] NSWSC 770

Liquidators – Application for approval of liquidator's remuneration and appointment of receiver to trust assets – for the liquidator, led by S Golledge SC

Re SA Anderson Pty Ltd (in liq) NSD 518/2020

Liquidation – public examination – for the liquidators – unled

Re Forsyth Holdings Group Pty Ltd (in liq) QUD272/2022

Liquidation – public examination – for the liquidations – unled

Re Tyres for Less Pty Ltd (in liq) NSD793/2022

Liquidation – public examinations – for the liquidator - unled

Banking and finance

Swisslog Australia Pty Limited v Suravarapu NSWSC 2025/117043 (judgment in favour of Swisslog)

Bank fraud – urgent freezing order, travel restriction and passport orders – for Swisslog – unled

Islam v Commonwealth Bank of Australia [2024] NSWSC 149

Retail banking – compliance with freezing orders – summary dismissal of customer's claim – for the bank – unled

Sandhurst Trustees Limited v Dabboussi [2022] NSWSC 754

Retail banking – Islamic finance – resist application to set aside default judgment – for the financier – unled

Selvaratnam v St George Bank [2021] FCA 318; [2021] FCA 486 (settled)

Retail banking – claim for unconscionable conduct by customer – for the bank – led by A Zahra SC

11 Winsor St Pty Ltd v National Australia Bank Ltd NSD112/2021 (settled)

Commercial banking – claim for unconscionable conduct by customer – for the bank – unled

Nguyen & Anor v Gain Capital Australia Pty Ltd NSWDC 2020/339966 (settled)

Derivatives – Contracts for difference – claim by customer for alleged breaches of contract – for the financial services provider – unled

Sondakh v Westpac Banking Corporation & Ors NSWSC 2020/161839 (settled)

Retail banking – claim by customer for fraud and breach of mandate – for the bank – unled

Sargent Security (Aus) Pty Ltd (in liq) v Scottish Pacific NSWSC 2020/37869 (settled)

Commercial banking – invoice finance facility – unconscionable conduct – for the customer (by its liquidator) – led by N Owens SC and N Kabilafkas

Civil penalty proceedings and regulatory actions

ASIC v eToro AUS Capital Limited NSD805/2023 (ongoing)

Civil penalty proceedings – contracts for difference – design and distribution requirements – for eToro – led by P Herzfeld SC and with T Maybury

ASIC v Union Standard International Group Pty Ltd & Ors [2024] FCA 1481 (ongoing)

Civil penalty proceedings – contracts for difference – significant and wide-ranging contravening conduct – for EuropeFX – led by M Painter SC and with C Brain

ASIC v Ferratum Australia Pty Ltd (in liq)

Civil penalty proceedings – small amount credit contracts – breaches of the National Credit Code – for Ferratum – led by M Painter (prior to Ferratum's liquidation)

ASIC v Pedro Eduardo Sasso [2004] AATA 2617; [2025] ARTA 494

Merits review – banning order under s 920A of the Corporations Act – for Mr Sasso – unled on interlocutory hearings and in the private hearing before ASIC

ASIC v Peter Geoffrey Gribble

ASIC administrative action – banning order under s 920A of the Corporations Act – private hearing – for Mr Gribble – unled