

Blake Anthony O'Connor

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My experience is reflective of a broad practice area. I am primarily briefed in class actions (for plaintiffs and defendants) across a broad range of areas. I have particular experience in commercial litigation, insurance (for insurers and insureds), corporations and securities law.

A list of my recent cases and experience is below.

After working as a solicitor, I was called to the Bar in 2020 and read with Mr Jack Hynes and Mr W.A.D Edwards.

EXPERIENCE

Jan 2018 - Mar 2020

Associate, Phi Finney McDonald (Sydney)

- Class actions in the Federal Court of Australia and the NSW Supreme Court
- Particular emphasis on securities class actions and associated procedures including investigation, pleadings, discovery, multiplicity disputes, opt-out, funding models, mediation, ATE Insurance and hearing preparation.

Jan 2017 - Jan 2019

Lawyer, Atanaskovic Hartnell

- Broad commercial litigation practice
- Shareholder disputes, insolvency (corporate) and insurance

Jan 2016 - Jan 2017

Tipstaff to an Honourable Justice of the New South Wales Supreme Court (Equity)

December 2010 - October 2015

Claims Manager, Lloyds of London, Syndicate 2468

- Managed a complex book of Australian claims for London underwriters

RECENT CASES

A selection of recent cases is below, this list is not exhaustive.

Commissioner of Taxation v Bosanac (No 7) [2021] FCA 249 (led by T Bagley) - equity, presumption of advancement, trusts

Commissioner of Taxation v Bosanac [2021] FCAFC 158 (led by J Hynes, T Bagley) - equity, presumption of advancement, trusts

Hempenstall v Minister for Home Affairs [2020] FCAFC 216 (led by T Bagley) - immigration, s501 character grounds

Stack v AMP Financial Planning Pty Ltd [2020] FCA 1839 (led by Martin SC, Bagley) - class actions, contradictor

Liability limited by a scheme approved under professional standards legislation

The “Dick Smith” Class Action – Findlay; Mastoris v DSHE Holdings Pty Ltd – class actions, securities, acted for certain underwriters (led by Button QC, Fitzpatrick)

The “Count” Class Action – R&N Hunter v Count Financial Limited – class actions, financial services, for applicant (led by Bagley and Martin SC)

The “Victoria” Class Action – Koper v Zurich Insurance – class actions, insurance, technology and construction (led by P Braham SC)

I have also appeared in a number of corporate oppression proceedings in the NSW Supreme Court and general equity claims in the NSW Supreme Court which are ongoing.