

MICHAEL RENNIE BA (USYD) LLB, LLM (ANU)

Admitted to the NSW Bar – May 2011

Admitted as a Legal Practitioner – June 2000

Michael's practice has a focus on regulatory enforcement litigation and commercial disputes, including franchise disputes. Michael has expertise in relation to enforcement action by ACCC, ABCC, ASIC, APRA, NSW Fair Trading and other regulators. Michael regularly appears in the criminal jurisdiction in the Supreme and District Courts in relation to matters of public interest immunity on behalf of the NSW Commissioner of Police and other law enforcement entities. Michael brings that breadth of experience to his service to clients in both public and private spheres.

CASES

Competition and Consumer Law

- *Ali & Anor v ACCC* [2021] FCAFC 109 – led by Kate Morgan SC
- *ACCC v Superfone* [2021] FCA 278
- *ACCC v Geowash Pty Ltd (No 3)* [2019] FCA 72
- *ACCC v Geowash Pty Ltd (No 4)* [2020] FCA 23
- *ACCC v Geowash Pty Ltd (No 5)* [2020] FCA 440
- *ACCC v Gordon Superstore Pty Ltd* [2014] ATPR 42-474 – led by Jacqueline Gleeson SC (as her Honour then was)
- *ACCC v Camavit Pty Ltd* [2014] ATPR 42-478 – led by Jacqueline Gleeson SC
- *ACCC v Launceston Superstores Pty Ltd & Ors* [2013] ATPR 42-436 – led by Robertson Wright SC (as his Honour then was)
- Advice to the ACCC on Foxtel / Austar merger – led by John Sheahan QC.

Industrial Relations – Fair Work Act

- *ABCC v Parker* [2017] FCA 564 – led by Matthew White SC
- *ABCC v Hall* [2017] FCA 274 – led by Kate Eastman SC

Equity and Commercial

Director's duties and corporations

- *Vanguard Financial Planners Pty Ltd & Anor v Ale & Ors* [2018] NSWSC 314

Restraint of trade

- *Grace Worldwide (Australia) Pty Ltd v Alves* [2017] NSWSC 1296 – led by Robert Goot AM SC

Probate

- *Gray v Taylor & Anor; The Estate of the late Stanislaw Zajac* [2017] NSWSC 497

Contract disputes

- *Yule v Smith* [2013] NSWSC 209 – led by Louise Byrne;
- *Yule v Smith* [2012] NSWCA 191 – led by Louise Byrne;

Matters settled prior to hearing:

A number of franchise disputes involving allegations of unconscionable conduct and breaches of the Franchising Code, An employer enforcing a restraint of trade; A company suing a former director for appropriation of business; A mortgagee seeking possession of a large farm under mortgage; Mortgagors regarding a mortgage procured by forged signatures; Investors in relation to fraudulent dealings by a financial planner; Former employees responding to an allegation of misuse of confidential information; Both builders and property owners in various construction disputes;* Insured parties denied valid claims under insurance policies; Invoiced persons where the invoices were procured by fraud.

Administrative law

- *Bell Solar Pty Ltd v Commissioner of Fair Trading* [2021] NSWCATOD 70

Appellate

- *Ali & Anor v ACCC* [2021] FCAFC 109 – led by Kate Morgan SC
- *Borchardt v Scott* [2014] NSWCA 339 – led by Andrew Tokley SC
- *Yule v Smith* [2012] NSWCA 191 – led by Louise Byrne
- *Meakin v Director of Public Prosecutions & Anor* (2011) 216 A Crim R 128 – led by Ian Bourke SC (as his Honour then was)

Common law

- *Joukhador v Commissioner of Police* [2020] NSWSC 227 – led by A. Tokley SC

Commissions, Inquiries and regulatory matters

- Advice and attendance on behalf of a significant solar installer at investigative hearings conducted by NSW Fair Trading and related agencies.
- Appeared as Counsel for Commissioner of Police on Public Interest Immunity issues in the *Lindt Café coronial inquest 2016*
- Regular appearances in Public Interest Immunity matters for NSW Police and related investigatory bodies in matters ranging from the Local Court to the Court of Criminal Appeal and everything in between.
- Research and support without appearance for persons of interest in the following ICAC enquiries:
 - *Operation Gerda 2019;*
 - *Operation Spicer 2014; and*
 - *Operation Crusader 2012.*

PUBLICATIONS

- M Rennie, “Control of Government Information in Legal Proceedings” (1st ed - Legalwise seminars, 9 June 2017, 2nd ed – Self-published, 5 August 2022)
- M Wilcox AO QC & M Rennie, *Australian Emissions Trading Law* (Thomson Reuters, 2012)
- M Rennie, “Potential interaction between the legal profession and the emissions trading scheme” *Australian Environment Review* (LexisNexis, 2012, Vol 27 No 9)