



## John Rodney

### Special Counsel

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## OVERVIEW

John Rodney is a special counsel in the firm's Labour, Employment, and Workplace Safety practice. He has extensive experience in employment and work health and safety law and commercial litigation. He has been involved in a number of significant work health and safety prosecutions and has extensive experience and exposure within the coal mining, metalliferous and extractive industries and underground construction industry. John has gained significant experience through his involvement in numerous investigations by the regulatory authorities, inquiries and coronial inquests.

He is one of the few lawyers who has acted as an external prosecutor for the WorkCover Authority and was seconded from private practice to the WorkCover Authority as principal solicitor. John has appeared in both state and federal jurisdictions in employment matters. Through his coal industry service and in particular with the Coal Industry Tribunal and Australian Industrial Relations Commission (Fair Work Australia), he was uniquely placed to advise on industrial matters to government, and become a trusted advisor to industry stakeholders. His extensive experience and knowledge allows him to not only deal with legal issues but also provide advice which offers practical solutions for his clients.

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to becoming a lawyer, John worked within the coal mining industry, including underground as a coal miner.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Listed in the *Best Lawyers in Australia*™
  - Labour and Employment Law, 2016-2023
  - Occupational Health and Safety Law, 2016-2025
- Nominated for the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award, 1982

## PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Central Coast of NSW Safety Group member and presenter
- Australian Labour Lawyers' Association member

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

John frequently presents to directors, officers, senior managers of targeted industries and TAFE students on employment, industrial relations and work, health and safety issues. John, at the request of a global client, presented on work, health and safety laws in Finland.

## EDUCATION

- LL.B., University of Technology, 1992

## ADMISSIONS

- High Court of Australia
- Supreme Court of New South Wales

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 1 September 2020, COVID-19: (Australia) Further Changes To JobKeeper: What Do Employers Need To Know Now?
- 5 August 2020, COVID-19: (Australia) Pressing Issues Facing Employers
- 3 August 2020, COVID-19: Victorian Government Draws Upon the 'Big Stick' on COVID-19 Notification
- 29 July 2020, Beware – The Law May No Longer Tolerate So Called 'Independent Contractor' Arrangements
- 30 June 2020, COVID-19 (Australia): Much Has Happened on the Employment Front During COVID-19
- 1 May 2020, COVID-19: (Australia) JobKeeper Legislation – How Does it Change Things? (Second Edition)
- 9 April 2020, COVID-19: (Australia) JobKeeper legislation – How Does it Change Things?
- 1 April 2020, COVID-19: (Australia) JobKeeper Payment Program – What Do I Need to Know?
- 25 March 2020, COVID-19: (Australia) Stand Down What Does it all Mean?
- 11 March 2020, It's Time-Sheet O'clock - Don't be Alarmed
- February 2020, Bullying & Harassment: Are You Really Covered?
- 17 February 2020, Recapping the Modern Award Review: What is Happening now?

## NEWS & EVENTS

- 23 November 2021, K&L Gates Assists Americold on Cold Store Acquisitions

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Labor, Employment, and Workplace Safety

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Advising and acting on Coronial Inquests in the mining and underground construction industries, including Cross City Tunnel, New South Wales.
- Acting for senior management of Gretley Mine, Newcastle. This involved the coronial inquest, judicial enquiry (Specialist Court of Coal Mine Regulation), prosecutions, and a significant question of law concerning client legal privilege principals heard before for the Court of Appeal, New South Wales. As a result there was a change to the mining statute concerning compulsory statement to the regulator.
- Advising and acting on regulatory investigations and prosecutions in power generation, local government, maritime and underground construction industries.
- Acting for a global client as the only Australian lawyer in the Royal Commission concerning the Pike River coal mine tragedy in New Zealand.
- Acting for mining contractors, and senior management of underground and open cut mines in the investigation of mining accidents and subsequent prosecutions by the Regulator.
- Instructed in the High Court of Australia on representative action in an eco-tourism resort.
- Advising and acting for Australian and overseas designers' manufacturers, importers and suppliers on work, health and safety regulatory obligations.