



## Christien Corns

### Partner

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## OVERVIEW

Christien Corns has extensive experience acting in complex commercial litigation, with a particular focus on insurance, professional indemnity, major torts, sports, defamation and related media issues. He provides clear and practical advice, regularly represents clients in all forms of advocacy and settlement negotiations, and has a proven track record of resolving disputes efficiently.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Listed by *Thomson Reuters* as a Stand-out Lawyers, 2023-2024
- Recognised as a recommended lawyer by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* for Dispute Resolution: Litigation in Australia, 2022-2024

"Christien Corns is a first-rate lawyer. He ticks all the boxes: excellent legal skills, is very good with clients and understanding their needs, and understands the broader commercial and strategic objectives at play. He is very cool under pressure and is the person you want on your team in a contested matter." - *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*, 2023

"Christien Corns has a very balanced approach and has always guided us through a challenging issue with an effective outcome delivered." - *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*, 2023

"I feel, frankly, blessed that Christien Corns has crossed my path." - *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*, 2023

"They make us feel like we are the only clients they act for. We truly mean that. They are caring and attentive. They engage various levels of legal resources as necessary so that we are provided value for money and efficiency. They have acted pro bono on an array of matters as well – and always promptly and led by senior specialists as required. The stand-out partner is Christien Corns. He embodies all of the above and clearly instils it into the wider teams." - *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*, 2022

- Listed in *Best Lawyers in Australia*™ for Litigation, 2021-2025

## PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Australia & New Zealand Sports Law Associate member
- Media and Communications Committee of the Australian Law Council member
- Australian Insurance Law Association member
- Melbourne Press Club member
- Law Institute of Victoria

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Preparing a will – Do the basics well", presented to Victorian lawyers on behalf of the LPLC, 27 September 2023
- "Defamation Reforms – Stage 1", presented to selected insurance claims solicitors, August 2021 and February 2022
- "Legal professional privilege – overview and update", presented to selected in-house counsel, 25 February 2020
- "Publishing Risks and Reputation Management", presented to the Australian Human Resources Institute, February 2017
- "Defamation and Social Media", presented to various clients and colleagues in Melbourne and Sydney, August 2011 and 2015
- "Estate Litigation – An update", presented to University3A, July 2012
- "Insurance considerations for your not-for-profit group", presented to the Public Interest Law Clearing House, October 2010

## EDUCATION

- LL.B., La Trobe University, 2004 (*Honours*)
- B.A., La Trobe University, 2003

## ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of Victoria

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 14 March 2024, Equitable Subrogation and "Controllers" for the Purposes of the *Corporations Act 2001* - Can a Lawyer be a "Controller?"
- 12 February 2024, Institutional Abuse Claims in Victoria—Legal Identity of Defendants (Organisational Child Abuse) Act 2018 Applies to Secondary Victims
- 29 November 2023, *Kneale v. Footscray Football Club Ltd*—Cautions for Both Sides of Institutional Abuse Claims
- 14 November 2023, A Statutory Tort for Serious Invasions of Privacy?
- 21 September 2023, Some "Serious" Developments in Defamation Law
- 6 September 2023, "You Promised Not to Say That!" Non-Disparagement Clauses in Settlement Agreements
- 12 May 2022, Google Reviews - Qualified Privilege Defence Upheld in Defamation Claim
- 30 March 2022, Check Your [Legal Professional] Privilege - A Timely Reminder From the Federal Court of Australia
- 28 March 2022, And So It Begins...First Consideration of "Serious Harm" Threshold in Australian Defamation Claim
- 15 September 2021, Social Media Users and Operators Beware! High Court Confirms that Facebook Page Operators are 'Publishers' of Third Party Comments
- 28 July 2021, Meeting the Threshold: Stage 1 Defamation Reforms Go Live
- 20 April 2020, From Revenge Porn to Big Data Breaches: NSW Opposition Introduces Bill to Redress "Serious Invasions of Privacy"
- 6 March 2019, Preserving integrity in Australian sport
- 5 November 2018, Be Careful Rushing In: Defamation Pitfalls for Young Players

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the publications mentioned below, Christien regularly reviews contentious articles to be published in the Law Institute Journal, the peak journal of the Law Institute of Victoria.

- "Permanent stays: A fair trial need not be a perfect trial", *LSJ Online*, December 2023
- "New Traps in Defamation Reforms", *Law Institute Journal*, November 2021
- "Reputation in the Digital Era", *Law Institute Journal*, 2 May 2018
- "New Zealand's Highest Court Makes Life Difficult for D&O Policyholders (and Their Insurers)", *Insurance Coverage Alert*, January 2014

- "Blogging from the shadows: the dark side of social media", *Dynamic Business*, November 2012
- "Facebook: A Liability?", *Dynamic Business*, February 2009
- "Not quite working: the Working with Children Act", *Law Institute Journal*, February 2007

## NEWS & EVENTS

- 13 February - 21 February 2024, 2024 CPD Program—Australia
- 7 February - 16 February 2023, 2023 CPD Program—Australia
- 2 March 2018, K&L Gates Names 34 New Partners Across Global Platform

## MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, "Clock ticking as Magnis runs out of money", *The Australian Online*, 28 February 2024
- Quoted, "Big Four's Legal Privilege and Lawyer-Client Relationship Protections are Tested in Australia", *Legal Week*, 8 April 2022

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- Insurance Recovery and Counseling
- Professional Liability

## EMERGING ISSUES

- Social Media Law

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Acting for the Legal Practitioners' Liability Committee and Lawcover defending a range of claims against legal professionals.
- Leading a national sport governing body's defence in long-running disputation with its free-to-air television broadcaster.
- Acting for some of Australia's other largest sporting organisations in a variety of contentious matters.
- Acting for a number of multi-state and national organisations, including casino operators and construction groups, in defence of significant liability claims.

- Acting for executors and related parties in multi-million dollar estate and trust litigation, including the estate of the late motor sportsman, Peter Brock.
- Advising in defamation and media related matters for individuals and entities including broadcasters and publishers, professionals, high profile individuals and large insurance companies.
- Acting for large building groups in domestic building disputes.
- Acting for plaintiffs and defendants in general commercial litigation and corporate disputes across all jurisdictions.