



## Shani Horii-Watson

### Lawyer

Sydney  
+61.2.9513.2376

Shani.Horii-Watson@klgates.com

### OVERVIEW

Shani Horii-Watson is a lawyer in our Commercial Disputes team in Sydney. She assists clients by providing advice on the strategic handling and resolution of a wide range of corporate and commercial disputes with a focus on general contract, consumer complaints, misleading and deceptive conduct and commercial property disputes.

Shani's legal skills are complemented by her resolve in adverse situations. She has previously represented victims of institutional child abuse in personal injury claims against vicariously liable institutions and completed a nine month secondment to the Australian Public Service providing advice relating to the medical evacuation of refugees from Nauru and PNG to Australia under the Medevac Legislation.

### ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised as a winner of the *K&L Gates Women's Achievements Awards for Community Service*, 2023

### PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Co-Coordinator of the K&L Gates Law Re-Imagined Committee
- Member of the K&L Gates Australian Innovation Committee
- Law Society of New South Wales
- Mentor, Sydney University Law Careers Mentoring Program (2020 and 2021)

### EDUCATION

- BSc, Australian National University, 2019 (*Cognitive Neuropsychology*)
- LL.B., Australian National University, 2019 (*Honours*)

## ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of New South Wales

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 20 October 2022, High Court of Australia to Hear Appeal on Recognition of ICSID Arbitral Award Against Spain in November 2022
- 28 March 2022, High Court of Australia Grants Special Leave to Appeal Decision Recognizing ICSID Arbitral Award Against Spain

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- International Arbitration

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Representing the Kingdom of Spain in the High Court of Australia in enforcement proceedings concerning renewable energy projects under ICSID arbitrations.
- Representing a Sydney-based real estate investment management group in landmark litigation seeking to recover unpaid rent from tenants owned by The Just Group which have refused to pay rent in full since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Defending Honda Australia in the Takata Airbag Consumer Class Action brought on behalf of 437,000 vehicle owners or lessees.
- Representing a large privately owned residential property development and construction group, as well as its directors and officers, defending a range of allegations made in relation to breach of fiduciary duties and diversion of company funds associated with the operation of the business.
- Representing numerous CBD landlords in Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane in respect of commercial tenants who refuse to pay rent in full due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Representing an Australian Buy-Now-Pay-Later provider in relation to alleged breach of oral contract and misleading and deceptive conduct.
- Advising an ASX listed company in relation to consumer claims for alleged misleading and deceptive conduct, breach of contract and breaches of consumer guarantees resulting from the sale of defecting products purchased from an overseas producer that had been certified by the international accredited registrar and classification society.

- Advising a dual ASX and NYSE listed company on ATO disclosure and responding to interrogatories as the issues relate to an ongoing consumer class action claims in New Zealand.
- Representing an Australian-owned petrol company in relation to a leasing dispute connected to the destruction of the iconic 1/40 scale replica of Uluru colloquially known as the Rock.