

Katherine Richardson SC

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Kate was called to the Bar in 2002, after obtaining an LL.M from Harvard Law School and practising at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York.

Kate has extensive experience in a range of private and public law litigation and has appeared in the High Court, NSW Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, Federal Court, the Land and Environment Court as well as a range of quasi-judicial and administrative tribunals. She has appeared in more than 20 High Court appeals and special leave applications and regularly appears before intermediate appellate courts.

Kate has particular expertise in public law, regulatory matters, privacy, disciplinary proceedings, professional liability, environment and planning, public inquiries and coronial inquests.

Her clients have included major corporations, federal and state government Ministers and agencies, professionals of all kinds and their insurers.



Public law: Kate acts for both private parties and federal and state Ministers and agencies in administrative and constitutional cases. She argued the same-sex marriage/plebiscite case in the High Court. She regularly acts for the Attorney-General of NSW in the Supreme Court of NSW and the High Court. In the Federal Court, she acts for major corporations, including banks, and on behalf of regulators. Kate has also argued numerous constitutional test cases in appellate courts (including for the Commonwealth Attorney-General and for the NSW Government).

Regulatory matters: In regulatory matters, Kate has acted for the ACCC in civil penalty proceedings and acted for major corporations in large-scale regulatory disputes, including against the Australian Energy Regulator. She is currently lead counsel for the ACCC in ongoing proceedings against Google LLC in relation to its tracking and use of location data.

Privacy: Kate has acted in, and advised on, a number of large privacy matters for major international corporations and regularly advises corporations on matters relating to use of data and SPAM.

Disciplinary proceedings: In disciplinary proceedings, Kate regularly acts for both the prosecution and defendants, including medical practitioners, barristers and solicitors. In medical matters, she has acted in long-running prosecutions involving complex medicine and cross examination of medical witnesses.

Professional liability: Kate regularly acts for defendants in high-value medical negligence suits. She also advises numerous medical insurers in relation to insurance contractual issues and class actions.

Environment and planning: In environment and planning matters, Kate frequently appears for federal and state government Ministers and agencies against corporations and developers.

Public inquiries: Kate has extensive experience in appearing for interested parties at public inquiries. She acted for the Commonwealth in the Royal Commission into Aged Care and is currently acting for The Star Casino in the IGLA's inquiry into the Crown Casino.

Coronials: Kate also has wide-ranging experience in both appearing for interested parties and as Counsel Assisting in major Inquests. She is currently acting as Counsel Assisting in relation to the deaths of four members of a single family and in relation to two deaths in child care.