

# Bruce Taylor

Solicitor 1994

Barrister 2012 (NT)

Barrister 2015 (NSW)

(02) 9151 2961

[bruce.taylor@greenway.com.au](mailto:bruce.taylor@greenway.com.au)

Bruce Taylor is a specialist commercial barrister and nationally appointed mediator with particular interests in equity, building disputes and corporations law, employment disputes and family law. He appears in Sydney courts and tribunals, and regularly works with firms and clients from the New England area, as well as the Central Coast and North Coast regions of New South Wales.

Bruce has appeared as an advocate in various NSW and NT jurisdictions in commercial litigation, employment and workplace health and safety matters. He also appears in criminal proceedings and has acted in the past for the Department of Public Prosecutions NT, Legal Aid and North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA).

Bruce has held several roles outside of his work as a barrister. These include acting as a procurement and governance consultant to the Royal Australian Air Force, as well as being appointed statutory manager of the Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust by the NT Attorney General. He has also been a councillor for the Law Society of the Northern Territory, and is a Nationally Accredited Mediator.



Bruce accepts briefs to advise and appear in commercial and employment contract disputes, equity matters including estate and probate, and disputes under the Family Law Act. He has recently appeared in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and has advised and appeared in coronial inquiries. Bruce also has Chambers in Newcastle.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

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Bachelor of Laws (UNSW) 1993

Bachelor of Arts (Sydney) 1990

## **SPECIALISATIONS**

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Commercial litigation

Contract disputes

Corporations Law

Equity, including Estate disputes

Inquests and Commissions

Family Law

Building disputes

Alternative Dispute Resolution - Commercial and Family Law Mediator

## Work Experience

### **Barrister - Hunter Street Chambers Newcastle and Greenway Chambers Sydney**

December 2015 - Current

- Appearing at Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse Case No. 42;
- Appearing in the Supreme Court for Equity; Corporations Law and Succession Law Hearing; Appearing in the FCC for Workplace and Family Law Hearings; Appearing in the Family Law Courts;
- Appearing at NCAT Hearings and Appeals for Building, Consumer and Residential Law divisions;
- Consulting and advising RAAF on governance, commercial restructuring and contract negotiations;
- Appearing in FWA and advising on Workplace Safety, awards and employment disputes;
- Appearing in NSW District Court and Local Court jurisdictions on diverse civil and criminal matters;
- Mediator on assorted commercial, employment and family property disputes.

### **Barrister - William Forster Chambers Darwin**

January 2012 - November 2015

- Advising on Administrative Law, Civil Law (OHS, Employment and IR, Family Law, Commercial and Residential Building Disputes), Criminal Law Hearings for NT Department of Public Prosecutions, NT Legal Aid and North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA);
- Appearing in Federal Circuit Court, Fair Work Australia; and all NT civil and criminal jurisdictions / tribunals for hearings and appeals.

### **Statutory Manager - Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust**

October 2012 - November 2013

*Summary: oversee and co-ordinate rebuild of Royalty Trust administration and funds; commence civil and criminal recovery proceedings in court; establish market garden and small business enterprises for community employment.*

- NT Government appointment to administrator and rebuild of Trust finances of \$30 million organisation;
- Commence civil and criminal actions against financial and legal advisors and former Trustees - brief Counsel and interstate lawyers;
- Establish management structure and operations structure from ground up, draft contracts and employ / manage staff;
- Manage external business contract and investments, manage commercial leases and market garden; provide reporting to NT Government; provide employment incentives;
- Create culture support programs for indigenous communities and facilitate life-skills training; incentivise education attendance, establish community businesses.

### **Minter Ellison Lawyers - Adelaide / Darwin**

**Special Counsel** February 2010 - January 2012

*Summary: advising on Employment Law and Commercial Litigation appearing in FWA*

- Advising on Industrial Relations Law, Mining Law and Commercial Disputes; Defence procurement contracting and Occupational Health and Safety; development of IR practice business;
- Advising clients on commercial and insurance litigation matters;
- Appearing in Fair Work Australia and Common Law Courts.

### **Commercial Contracts / Project Consultant - RAAF Tactical Fighter Special Projects Office - RAAF Williamtown, Newcastle**

**Project Management Office** March 2007 - January 2010

*Summary: provide project leadership and advice on commercial maintenance contracts of \$900 million; advise senior RAAF staff; provide project assurance oversight; negotiate commercial contracts*

- Advise on F/A-18 Hornet \$800 million maintenance and upgrade RFT/contract 2007/9 - undertaking contract drafting, response and evaluation; reporting to the Tactical Fighter Special Projects Office (TFSP) Group Captain and Air Marshall, Project Management Office (PMO) on contract and commercial strategies measured against risk and value;
- Providing program assurance and contract management direction to project managers and teams on commercial procurement matters; drafting reports to executives and drafting work contracts / SOW; attending weekly contract meetings with contractors;
- Co-lead Negotiator for TFSP on F/A-18 \$30 million maintenance procurement contract negotiations with Boeing Australia Limited and British Aerospace; Co-lead for Hornet Data Recorder \$28 million contract negotiations held with Elbit Systems Isreal and GE Systems Australia;
- Assisting project personnel and contract schedules and contracting processes including risk issues; co-ordinating with stakeholders and resolving commercial and legal issues with external legal providers; ensuring compliance with Defence Procurement Policu (DPPM);
- Strategic reporting on commercial risk to the Office Commanding, the Director Tactical Fighter Business Management Unit, Director Tractical Fighter Project Management Unit and to Air Commodore.

### **Henderson Taylor Lawyers (merged with Hicksons Lawyers) - Sydney**

**Managing Partner** March 2004 - March 2007

*Summary: provide legal and business administration leadership; advise clients on litigation; employment and OHS issues; represent clients in Courts and Coronials; provide industry seminars; instruct Counsel*

- Responsible for strategic direction and growth of Industrial practice and undertake Common Law litigation; presentation of seminars and published papers on employment / OH&S / Industrial Law;
- Responsible for business marketing and strategic direction for a boutique IR and Employment Law practice (HTL); staff management and support; office administration and business finances;
- Drafting of various Australian Workplace Agreement, employment contracts; presentation of seminars and papers on employment, commercial litigation and workplace safety law;
- Acting for clients in successful High Court of Australia *Smits v Roach* [2006] HCA 36 appeal - Trade Practices and exclusive dealing;
- Instructed by NSW Dept. of Commerce for coronial enquiry into workplace death; representing the Department at coronial;
- Advising Caltex Australia on a number of industrial claims, involved with union negotiations to avert industrial stoppages on safety issues;
- Conducting negotiations with unions; negotiating workplace agreement; advice on interpretation of awards, advice on business process and staff management issues;
- Appearing before Federal Court, NSW Industrial Relations Commission, Supreme Court and Local Courts.

### **HWL Ebsworth / Michell Sillar - Sydney**

**Senior Associate** May 2000 - March 2004

*Summary: advise clients on commercial litigation and employment issues, represent clients in Courts and Tribunals; providing article commentary and seminars on OHS and Employment Law*

- Responsible for providing direction and co-ordinating seminars / drafting papers on client strategic directions, projects, contract negotiations and business cases; communicating risk minimisation strategies;
- Providing clients with staff management direction and drafting of various employment policy and procedures, evaluating executive and commercial contracts, share issues, reviewing confidentiality agreements, assessing risk prevention, employee restraint provisions;
- Conducting defence to prosecutions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, reviewing cost and legal objectives, scheduling meetings with stakeholders and communicating risk management expectations with subsequent outcomes equalling projections;
- Advising and drafting on all aspects of strategic issues for clients including BHP and Westpac, drafting of executive contracts, award interpretation and Enterprise Agreements;
- Acting for NBN Television in contract negotiations, preparing and maintaining all review documentation, regular communication to clients of expected strategic outcomes.



## Work Experience - Continued

### **PriceWaterhouseCoopers Legal - Sydney**

**Solicitor** May 1999 - April 2000

*Summary: provide legal advice on Employment Law and general litigation; instruct Counsel and appear in federal and state courts and tribunals*

- Commercial contract litigation and risk management including action for misrepresentation in respect of share sales and conducting successful interlocutory application; evaluating management procedures;
- Employment Law litigation and mediation including conducting successful defence on behalf of French company in dispute of CEP contract; advice on restructuring workplace;
- Advising generally on workplace restructuring, negotiating enterprise agreement, termination of employment contracts, redundancy procedures and strategic documentation for travel and coal industries;
- Advising on the interpretation of awards and successfully negotiating enterprise agreements; assisting and conducting litigation in all forums of the Industrial Courts and Tribunals including discrimination tribunals.

### **Cridlands - Northern Territory Lawyers - Darwin**

**Solicitor** February 1995 - May 1999

- Advising on professional indemnity matters, commercial contract / TPA disputes between Town Councils and local developers, Employment Law and HR disputes, Aboriginal land rights matters, land acquisition disputes;
- Clients including AMP and AON Insurance, Darwin and Tennant Creek Councils, Aboriginal Development Foundation, Pastoralists local businesses;
- Drafting and managing court claims and defence requesting particulars and administering interrogatories in the Local and Supreme Courts, drafting insolvency applications, interlocutory advocacy.

### **Northern Territory University - Part-time Tutor in Contracts Law**

1996 - 1997

### **College of Law - DipLeg Prac - Sydney**

July 1994 - November 1994

## Memberships

- Board members NT Rugby Union 2011 - 2015
- Member of NSW Bar Association
- Councillor - Northern Territory Law Society 2011 - 2012
- Panel member of the NT Local Government Disciplinary Committee 2014 - 2015
- Member Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia (MIAMA) 2011 - 2015
- Member of the Australian Institute of Family Lawyers and Mediators (AIFLAM)
- Fellow of the Governance Institute Australia (FGIA)
- Fellow of the Chartered Secretaries Institute of Australia (FCIS)
- Presented seminars on commercial contracts and employment law, mediation and family law, written articles on industrial and employment law, written articles on industrial and employment law
- Present annual seminars on Corporate Governance on behalf of the Governance Institute of Australia 2010 - 2015
- Editorial Board *Workplace Review* 2013 - 2017
- Advisory Board for Crawfords Freight Pty Ltd 2017