

William (Bill) Keane

Level 19 Francis Burt Chambers • 77 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA 6000
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Summary

Bill provides advice and representation in commercial and regulatory disputes. His experience includes competition law, consumer law, intellectual property, commercial contract, industrial and employment law. He has appeared in a wide range of matters, including large-scale and complex disputes in the Supreme and Federal Courts.

Bill is a faculty member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), where he facilitates day 2 (the Legal Environment) of the Company Directors' and Indigenous Leaders' Courses, which covers directors' duties and legal risk management. He has served as a writer and reviewer of course materials for the AICD.

Bill is a section editor (Enforcement and Remedies) for the Australian Journal of Competition and Consumer Law.

Bill has been a faculty member for advocacy training for both the Law Society of WA and the WA Bar Association. He was also course coordinator and lecturer in Competition Law at UWA Law School in 2013/2014.

Bill serves on the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia.

Education

MLM (Master of Law and Management) University of NSW and Australian Graduate School of Management (2003)

BA University of Western Australia (1997)

LLB University of Western Australia (1995)

Positions held

Barrister, Francis Burt Chambers	2011 to the present
Section editor (Enforcement and Remedies) AJCCL	2021 to the present
Lecturer and course coordinator (Competition Law) University of Western Australia	2013 /2014
Facilitator, Australian Institute of Company Directors	2005 to the present
Partner, Corrs Chambers Westgarth	2007 to 2011
Senior Associate, Corrs Chambers Westgarth	2002 to 2007
Solicitor, Corrs Chambers Westgarth	1998 to 2002
Articled Clerk and Solicitor, Phillips Fox	1995 to 1998

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Awards and Recognition

Best Lawyers' Lawyer of the Year (Perth, Competition Law)	2010, 2016, 2019, 2024
Chief Justice's Prize (WABA readers' course)	2012
Anita & Meyer Davis Prize (Jurisprudence)	1995
Jackson McDonald Prize (Mooting)	1995

Affiliations/Memberships

Councillor, Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia	2014 to the present
Chairman, Perth Royal Art Prize	2017 to the present
Member, Competition and Consumer Committee, Business Law Section, Law Council of Australia	2007 to the present
Deputy Chair, Competition and Consumer Committee, Business Law Section, Law Council of Australia	2009
Member, Western Australian Bar Association	2011 to the present
Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors	2006 to the present

Publications

- Bill Keane 'Agreed Penalties Under Scrutiny' (2021) 29(3) AJCCL 202
- Bill Keane 'Culture of Compliance - Meaning and Proof' (2019) 27(3) AJCCL 204
- Bill Keane 'High Court holds that Garuda is not immune from jurisdiction in cartel action' (2013) 21(1) AJCCL 52
- Bill Keane 'The Role of Declarations in ACCC Enforcement Proceedings' (2012) 20(2) AJCCL 104

Example Cases

The following list is a representative sample of matters from the past several years in which I have appeared at final hearing and performed a substantial role in both the preparation and presentation of the case.

Reserve Capital Pty Ltd v Seascapes Supermarket WA Pty Ltd & ors WASC CIV 2858 of 2018

Counsel for second and fourth defendants in defence of claim for damages for misleading or deceptive conduct. Trial heard over 18 days between 11 March and 21 August 2024.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Swift Networks Pty Ltd [2023] FCA 1064

Counsel for applicant in cartel enforcement proceeding and penalty hearing.

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Celtic Capital Pty Ltd (as trustee for the Celtic Capital Trust) v Ceccon [2022] WASC 205

Junior Counsel (led by M Howard SC) for plaintiff in proceedings to enforce loan agreement.

Commissioner for Consumer Protection v Starland Management Pty Ltd (as director of Voulon) [2022] WASC 96

Counsel for applicant in enforcement proceeding (unfair contract terms).

Mercor Group Pty Ltd v State One Holdings Pty Ltd [2019] WADC 169

Counsel for State One Holdings in defence of claim for asserted debt. Issues included formation and terms of contract, misleading or deceptive conduct, quantum meruit and illegality.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) v Ashley & Martin Pty Ltd [2019] FCA 1436

Junior Counsel (led by M Howard SC) for Ashley & Martin in defence of proceedings brought by ACCC alleging unfair contract terms.

Australian Building and Construction Commissioner v Molina (No 2) [2019] FCA 1014

Counsel for ABCC in enforcement proceedings alleging coercion and adverse action by CFMMEU and union official.

Australian Securities and Investments Commission v State One Stockbroking Ltd [2018] FCA 1830

Junior Counsel (led by S Vandongen SC) in defence of enforcement proceedings brought by ASIC in relation to contraventions of s 798(1) the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) by reason of admitted breach of ASIC Market Integrity Rules (ASX Market) 2010 (Cth).

Grossetti v City of Wanneroo [2017] WAIRC 00235

Counsel for respondent in unfair dismissal claim.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v Snowdale Holdings Pty Ltd [2016] FCA 541 (2016) 339 ALR 455

Junior Counsel (led by G Archer SC) in enforcement proceedings alleging misleading or deceptive conduct.