

DR GEOFF O'SHEA

Barrister

FREDERICK JORDAN CHAMBERS

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With a wealth of legal and commercial industry experience prior to being called to the Bar, Geoff maintains a broad commercial practice, with a strong focus on the financial services industry.

Geoff's core strengths lie in financial services law; in particular, insolvency and bankruptcy, given his vast in-house experience working for major financial institutions, insurance companies and superannuation funds. With over 25 years' in the employ of Westpac, Geoff now applies his practical business knowledge when advising and appearing for liquidators, creditors and insurers in various Federal and State courts and tribunals. His accounting qualifications also serves to enhance his ability to interpret expert reports relating to companies' financial performance and general financial health.

Leveraging his considerable knowledge and experience, of which his clients receive great benefit, Geoff also practises in the other areas, including commercial law, corporations, Australian Consumer Law, equity, real property and trusts, succession, matrimonial property, family provision and superannuation law. Areas of interest also include common law and personal injury, family law and criminal law.

A Fellow of several reputable professional bodies, Geoff also holds a Doctor of Juridical Science (Thesis subject: "Unconscionability in Financial Services"), a Master of Laws and a Bachelor of Laws, all from the University of Technology, Sydney. He also holds a Diploma of Corporate Management from the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and an Accounting Certificate from Sydney TAFE.

ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE

- 2013 Admitted to the Bar of New South Wales
- 2001 Admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- 2011 Doctor of Juridical Science: University of Technology, Sydney
 - 2002 Master of Laws: University of Technology, Sydney
 - 1992 Bachelor of Laws: University of Technology, Sydney
 - 1988 Diploma of Corporate Management: Institute of Chartered Secretaries
 - 1987 Accounting Certificate: Sydney TAFE
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PRINCIPAL AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Commercial Law, Corporations and Australian Consumer Law
- Common Law, Personal Injury and Medical Negligence
- Criminal Law
- Equity, Real Property and Trusts
- Family Law and Matrimonial Property
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy
- Succession and Family Provision
- Superannuation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2013 – present Barrister, Frederick Jordan Chambers
- 2012 – 2013 AMP, Future of Financial Advice (FoFA) and Stronger Super Project
- 2011 – 2011 Manager Risk and Compliance, MasterKey, MLC (part of NAB Group)
- 2009 – 2010 Senior Manager, Office of the Trustee for the superannuation Trustees of MLC Nominees Pty Ltd and NULIS Nominees (Australia) Pty Limited
- 2007 – 2009 Senior Compliance Manager, Superannuation and Wrap Solutions, BT Risk, BT Financial Group (part of Westpac Banking Corporation)
- 2005 – 2007 Operational Compliance Plan Project Officer and Risk Standard Leader with MLC
- 2002 – 2005 Head of Risk Management (reported to the Managing Director), Arab Bank Australia Limited
- 1977 – 2002 Counsel, Legal & Secretariat – Australian Guarantee Corporation Limited: Westpac Banking Corporation Group
- 2000 – 2000 Manager Legal, Banking Products Group, Australian Banking Group Legal: Westpac Banking Corporation
- 1995 – 2000 Manager Credit Administration, NSW Credit Centre
- 1977 – 1995 Various positions within Westpac (including Business Banking Manager)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- Member, New South Wales Bar Association
- Fellow, Governance Institute of Australia (FGIA)
- Fellow, Financial Services Institute of Australasia (F Fin)
- Fellow, Institute of Public Accountants (FIPA)
- Fellow, Institute of Chartered Secretaries (FICS)
- Member, Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (TEP)
- Associate, Association of Corporate Counsel
- Member, Francis Forbes Society for Australian Legal History
- Committee Member, Sydney Corporate Cup Inc.

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PUBLICATIONS

- *When a board of directors meeting comes off the tracks* Governance Directions, Governance Institute of Australia June 2015
- *Seeming Anomaly drops out of the darkness – ability of the Family Court of Australia to adjust property vested in a trustee under a personal insolvency agreement* co-written with Counsel J T Johnson and published on the Law Chat Blog site of Wolters Kluwer Central 17 August 2015
- *SMSF Trustees taken to the cleaners - Deputy Commissioner of Taxation (Superannuation) v Ryan* [2015] FCA 1037 published in Infinance Weekly by FINSIA 18 December 2015

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *Bankruptcy in Family Law Proceedings* - jointly presented with Counsel John Longworth for the Legalwise 9th Annual Family Law Conference in Sydney: March 2017