



Dr Matt Collins AM QC
Senior Counsel

List A Barristers

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Areas of Practice

- Defamation, Media, Entertainment
- Commercial Law
- Conflict of Laws (Private International Law)
- Constitutional Law
- Contract Disputes
- Government Inquiries
- Mediation
- Royal Commissions
- Telecommunications
- Trade Practices, Consumer Protection

Educational Qualifications

BA, LLB (Hons), PhD

Honours and Memberships

- Member of the Order of Australia, Queen's Birthday Honours 2019, for significant service to the law, to legal standards, and to education
- President, Victorian Bar, 2017–19; Senior Vice-President, 2016–17, Member, 2014–16
- Vice-President, Australian Bar Association, 2019–20; Council member, 2017–19
- Fellow, Australian Academy of Law
- Council member, Australian Institute of Judicial Administration

Admission

- Admitted to the legal profession: 7 March 1994
- Signed Victorian Bar roll: 27 May 1999
- Appointed Senior Counsel: 22 November 2011
- Entitled to practise throughout Australia

Legal Experience

- Author of *Collins on Defamation* (Oxford University Press, 2014), a leading text on the law of defamation of England and Wales
- Author of *The Law of Defamation and the Internet* (Oxford University Press, 2001, 2005, 2010), the standard international text on the application of principles of defamation law to online publications
- Chair, Victorian Bar Readers' Course Committee, 2015–17
- National Chair, Law Council of Australia Media & Communications Committee, 2011–12 (Deputy Chair, 2008–10, member since 2001)
- Senior Fellow, Melbourne University Law School, since 2012
- Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Monash University, 2009–2011
- Door tenant, One Brick Court chambers, London, 2010–19
- Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission into the Building & Construction Industry, 2001–02
- Solicitor/Senior Associate, Mallesons Stephen Jaques, 1994–99
- Associate to the Honourable Justice D.M. Ryan, Federal Court of Australia, 1991–92
- Author of many articles in peer-reviewed journals on aspects of media law.

Selected Matters

Dr Collins has:

- appeared in many of the most significant defamation and free speech cases in Australia of the past generation, including (among many others) *Rebel Wilson v Bauer Media* ('Just who is the Real Rebel?'), *Joe Hockey v Fairfax* ('Treasurer for Sale'), *Eatock v Bolt* (section 18C of the *Racial Discrimination Act*), *Australian Broadcasting Corp v Australian Federal Police* (the ABC raids case) and *DPP v Herald & Weekly Times Pty Ltd and others* (Pell reporting contempt charges);
 - appeared in several Royal Commissions, including the Cole Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Commission (as Counsel Assisting), the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sex Abuse (lead counsel for the Salvation Army Southern Territory) and the Hayne Royal Commission into Financial Services (lead counsel for the Australian and New Zealand Banking Group);
 - appeared in a number of significant competition law and related cases, including *ASIC v Harold Mitchell* (the Australian Open tennis broadcast rights case); *ACCC v ANZ Banking Group Ltd* (the Mortgage Refunds price fixing litigation) and *ACCC v Yazaki Corp* (the global car wire harness cartel case); and
 - appeared and advised in countless commercial disputes.
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