

FRANCES LEITCH

Fifth Floor St James' Hall
Frances.leitch@stjames.net.au

ADMISSIONS

Barrister, New South Wales Bar (2025).

Admitted as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of New South Wales (2013) and the High Court of Australia (2013)

EDUCATION

2015 – 2019 **UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, SYDNEY LAW SCHOOL**
Master of Laws

Nancy Gordon Smith Postgraduate Prize for LLM by Coursework (awarded to the most proficient student at graduation)

2007 – 2011 **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, ANU COLLEGE OF LAW**
Bachelor of Laws, 2011 (First Class Honours)
University Medal

Prizes (2011): Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department Prize (Final Year Law Student with the best academic result); Mallesons Stephens Jacques Prize for Law Studies (for the top combined mark in Equity and Trusts and Property Law); Thomas Reuters Prize for Animals and the Law (best academic result); Minter Ellison Prize for Litigation and Dispute Management (best academic result); George Knowles Memorial Prize (best result in the year)

Other Prizes: Selected for International Exchange to the University of Copenhagen, Denmark (2009 for 2009 to 2010); *Chancellors Letter of Commendation* for outstanding academic performance (2009); ACT Director of Public Prosecutions Prize for Criminal Law (2008); Burgmann College award for Academic Excellence (2008)

2007 – 2010 **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, ANU COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Bachelor of Arts (Major in Art History)

Awards: Janet Wilkie Prize for Art History and/or Curatorship (awarded to the graduate of that year with the highest aggregate mark over the past 4 years)

EMPLOYMENT

May 2025 to **Barrister (reader),**
present **Fifth Floor St James' Hall**

(July) 2022 to 2025	Senior Associate King & Wood Mallesons, Sydney
2019 to 2021; 2013 to 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dispute resolution, corporate and financial services regulation: lead Senior Associate acting for five respondents in a class action concerning matters arising from the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry (filed in July 2020 and ongoing); assisting on other litigious matters, including leading and supervising discrete discovery reviews; ad hoc advice in relation to corporate and financial services regulation (including in relation to AFCA determinations); ad hoc advice in relation to pre-litigious or settlement issues (e.g. deeds of release). - Tax litigation: acting on a tax litigation matter for a multinational client concerning transfer pricing, involved, for example, preparing advice in relation to evidentiary requirements; preparing affidavits; preparing briefs to Counsel. - Tax Advisory: Advising a large real estate developer in relation to duty on a billion dollar investment into a Queensland real estate asset; advising one of Asia's largest diversified real estate groups in relation to stamp duty on a Singaporean restructure of a listed Real Estate Investment Trust holding Australian real estate assets; preparing rulings and submissions to the Commissioner of Taxation or the Revenue Offices on various transactions for a wide range of clients. - Financial services (financial markets): I also spent time as part of the financial services and regulation team, advising clients in relation to financial services regulation and netting, collateral and clearing arrangements, including with respect to the general law, Chapter 7 of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth), and various exchange, settlement, listing or operating rules. - Pro-bono: I was an active member of our pro-bono practice during my time at KWM and assisted and/or lead projects in relation to a wide variety of areas, including a potential claim considered by the National Justice Project and projects run by Refugee Legal.
2021	Associate to the Hon. Justice Stephen Gageler AC (as the Chief Justice then was) High Court of Australia
2018	Senior Legal Counsel, Commonwealth Bank of Australia Primary legal responsibility for advising Commonwealth Securities Limited and Australian Investment Exchange Ltd.