

Arnold Bloch Leibler

Lawyers and Advisers



John Mitchell, BEc LLB (Syd)

Partner

- commercial litigation and dispute resolution
- corporate regulatory investigations

John Mitchell is a commercial litigation partner in Arnold Bloch Leibler's Sydney office. He has more than 20 years' experience as a commercial litigator, acting in a large variety of matters in the New South Wales and Victorian Supreme Courts, the Federal Court and the High Court. John has acted for major Australian and overseas corporations as well as high-net-worth individuals, and has particular experience in representing numerous directors and officers in various corporate regulatory investigations.

John joined Arnold Bloch Leibler in November 2005 and was appointed a partner in 2006. Previously, he was a partner at an international law firm practising in Sydney.

Practice focus

John is a member of the litigation & dispute resolution group. His practice focuses on the following areas:

- commercial litigation and dispute resolution;
- corporate regulatory investigations;
- insolvency and reconstruction; and
- banking and insurance.

Major assignments

John has acted for major Australian and international corporations, government bodies and private clients in a range of matters, including:

- Allco Finance Group: acting for the former executive directors of Allco in public examinations by the receivers and ASIC's investigation into the collapse of Allco;
- Great Southern Limited: defending the former executive directors of Great Southern in numerous class actions in Victoria, Western Australia and New South Wales arising from the collapse of Australia's largest agricultural managed investment scheme manager;
- Project Wickenby: acting for various high-net-worth individuals in relation to investigations by the joint task force known as Project Wickenby comprising the Australian Tax Office, the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Crimes Commission and the Australian Securities and Investment Commission;
- Chris Corrigan: in Federal Court proceedings commenced by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission alleging anti-competitive arrangements between Patrick Corporation and P&O;
- AWB Limited: in relation to the Cole Inquiry into the Oil-for-Food Program;
- Keycorp Limited: defending the directors of Keycorp in the Federal Court in a claim brought by US corporation, HID Global Inc;

- HFA Holdings Limited, funds manager: in relation to proceedings in the Supreme Court of NSW arising from an employee share scheme and related margin loans;
- KordaMentha: in relation to the receivership of a large residential project in Sydney, including disputes over payments under the *Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act* and building defects disputes;
- GEO Property Group: successfully defending GEO in an expert determination claim for performance bonuses under a development agreement for a large industrial site;
- the CFO of Arimco Mining NL: in relation to insolvent trading claims brought by the liquidator of Arimco;
- purchasers of HIH converting notes: in Federal Court proceedings against the underwriter to the note issue;
- MDS Nordion Inc, a Canadian nuclear medicine manufacturer: in concurrent proceedings in New South Wales and France;
- Ansett Airlines: representing six of the former directors of Ansett in proceedings commenced by the Travel Compensation Fund;
- Great Lakes Council: successfully defending the Council in the High Court in Wallis Lake Oyster class action (*Graham Barclay Oysters v Ryan*);
- investors in Australia's largest vineyard and producer of bulk wines: in a contract dispute with a major Australian wine company;
- various financial advisers: in relation to claims for negligent advice made to the Financial Ombudsman Service; and
- various banks and financial institutions, including Investec, Gresham, Babcock & Brown, and Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited.

To contact John Mitchell

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