

Anna Smith

Special Counsel

Melbourne
+61.3.9205.2072

anna.smith@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Anna Smith is a special counsel in the firm's Finance practice. Anna has over 17 years post-admission experience in both private practice and in-house across a range of disciplines including insolvency and restructuring, securities enforcement, banking and finance, dispute resolution, contentious regulatory investigations and risk management.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

In recent years, Anna worked in the not-for-profit sector, specialising in assisting victims of financial elder abuse. Prior to that, Anna was a Senior Lawyer in the Dispute Resolution Group at Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. Before going in-house, Anna practised for nearly 13 years in the insolvency and restructuring teams at K&L Gates (and it's predecessor firm, Middletons) and MinterEllison.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Law Institute of Victoria

EDUCATION

- LL.M. in Commercial Law, University of Melbourne, 2022
- Graduate Certificate in Advanced Insolvency Law, University of Southern Queensland, 2008
- B.A., University of Melbourne, 2004
- B.A/LL.B, University of Melbourne, 2004

ADMISSIONS

- Federal Court of Australia
- High Court of Australia

- Supreme Court of Victoria

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 14 October 2026, Australian Senate Committee Recommends Criminalising Match-Fixing in Australia

NEWS & EVENTS

- 11 June 2026, K&L Gates Advises Cannatrek on Merger With Little Green Pharma
- 24 July 2025, K&L Gates Advises Australian Seafood Producer Yumbah on AU$60 Million Takeover of Yellowtail Kingfish Farmer

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Mentioned, "K&L Gates Advises Australian Seafood Producer Yumbah on AU$60 Million Takeover of Yellowtail Kingfish Farmer", *Legal Desire*, 30 July 2025

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Restructuring and Insolvency

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Acted for a top four bank in a successful Supreme Court of Victoria action against a guarantor who sought to resist liability under his guarantee on the basis that the bank had breached the Code of Banking Practice.
- Acted for a lender in relation to an action brought by the lender's former customer in VCAT seeking compensation for alleged breaches of consumer protection legislation.
- Acted for an international fine paper merchant in relation to the liquidation of one of its customers, including successfully pursuing a claim for recovery of unpaid money against a number of corporate and personal guarantors. Our client was successful both at first instance and on appeal to the NSW Court of Appeal.
- Acted for the donor of a power of attorney in a proceeding against the attorney and his company in a claim for breach of fiduciary obligations.
- Advised the administrators, then liquidators, of an Australian retail company on all aspects of the administration and liquidation, including statutory reporting requirements, ongoing trading and employee issues, recovery of approximately AU$3 million in preference payments, and a significant insolvent trading claim against the company's former director.
- Acted for the receivers and managers of a fast-food franchisee, including successfully defending an injunction application brought by a third party seeking to restrain the receivers' sale of the fast-food business.