

Nicole Ward

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Nicole Ward is a partner in the firm's Finance practice. She has over 17 years of experience acting in commercial litigation, restructuring and insolvency matters across a wide range of industries.

She advises listed and unlisted companies, financial institutions, accounting firms and directors on all types of corporate and personal insolvency appointments including receiverships, liquidations and winding up proceedings, voluntary administrations and deeds of company arrangement, as well as bankruptcy matters.

Nicole also handles a large number of debt recovery and securities enforcement matters for banks, government organisations and corporate clients. She has extensive experience handling complex litigation in all Courts, including regularly acting in freezing order applications and insolvency relation litigation.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* as a Recommended Lawyer for Restructuring and Insolvency in Australia, 2024-2026
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in Australia*™
  - Insolvency and Reorganisation, 2021-2027
  - Litigation, 2025-2027

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Nicole has completed post graduate studies in Advanced Insolvency Law, Corporate Finance Law and Personal Property Securities Law.

EDUCATION

- B.Com, Deakin University, 2003
- LL.B., Deakin University, 2003 *(Honours)*

ADMISSIONS

- Federal Court of Australia
- High Court of Australia
- Supreme Court of Victoria

NEWS & EVENTS

- 16 April 2026, More Than 80 K&L Gates Lawyers Across Asia-Pacific Recognised in 2027 Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch Editions
- 5 March 2021, K&L Gates Names 31 New Partners Across Global Platform

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- Corporate and Acquisition Finance
- Restructuring and Insolvency

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Acting for Pioneer Electronics Australia Pty Ltd in a retention of title claim against Wow Audio Visual Superstores Pty Ltd (Receivers and Managers Appointed) seeking recovery of stock valued at approximately AU$430,000. This matter involved consideration of the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009 (Cth)* and its application to retention of title claims. Pioneer was one of the few creditors in the receivership of WOW to successfully make out its retention of title claim as a transitional security interest under the PPSA.
- Acting on behalf of a major bank in the recovery of a loan book totalling approximately AU$280 million made to investors in various Willmott Forests managed investment schemes (whether individuals, companies and/or trusts).
- Acted for the liquidator of Atco Controls Pty Ltd (in liquidation) in the High Court of Australia in an action against its subsidiary Newtronics Pty Ltd (in liquidation) (receivers and managers appointed), and its appointed liquidator. The matter involved a claim by Newtronics' liquidator that he was entitled to retain certain settlement monies pursuant to a liquidator's equitable lien arising from the principles set in Re Universal Distributing Co Ltd (in liquidation) (1933) 48 CLR 171.
- Regularly acting for government organisations in complex and significant debt recovery matters, including issuing applications for freezing orders and the appointment of special purpose liquidators.