

Christien Corns

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Christien Corns has extensive experience acting in complex commercial litigation, with a particular focus on insurance, professional indemnity, major torts, sports, defamation, and related media issues. He has particular experience advising in connection with:

- Defending a range of claims against legal professionals on behalf of the Legal Practitioners' Liability Committee and Lawcover.
- A variety of contentious matters for some of Australia's other largest sporting organisations.
- High-profile litigated matters seeking to ensure animal welfare for Australia's peak animal rights organisation.
- Defending significant liability claims for a number of multi-state and national organisations, including casino operators and construction groups.
- Multi-million dollar estate and trust litigation for executors and related parties.
- Defamation and media related matters for individuals and entities including broadcasters and publishers, professionals, high profile individuals and large insurance companies.
- Domestic building disputes for large building groups.
- General commercial litigation and corporate disputes across all jurisdictions for plaintiffs and defendants.
- Firefighters, who allegedly developed cancers from firefighting and exposure to smoke and chemicals, including PFAS.

Christien also acts as Independent Legal Advisor to senior company employees and officers in ASIC and IBAC compulsory examination hearings. He is sought after for his clear and practical advice, regularly represents clients in all forms of advocacy and has a proven track record of resolving disputes efficiently. In addition, Christien leads the firm's pro bono program in Victoria.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognised by *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific* as a Recommended Lawyer for Dispute Resolution: Litigation in Australia, 2022-2026

"Christien Corns is a proactive problem solver who comes with solutions and recommendations to litigation. He stays ahead of the process and keeps the interests of his client at the centre of his decision making and recommendations. He is a sound sounding board, open to challenge and challenging clients, leading to pragmatic decision making and a strong relationship built on trust." (The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2025)

"Christien Corns is an exceptional lawyer who is sharp, considered, responsive and very down to earth." (The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2025)

"Christien Corns is a first-rate lawyer. He ticks all the boxes: excellent legal skills, is very good with clients and understanding their needs, and understands the broader commercial and strategic objectives at play. He is very cool under pressure and is the person you want on your team in a contested matter." (The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2023)

"Christien Corns has a very balanced approach and has always guided us through a challenging issue with an effective outcome delivered." (The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2023)

"I feel, frankly, blessed that Christien Corns has crossed my path." (The Legal 500 Asia Pacific, 2023)

- Recognised by *Doyles Guide* as a Leading Indemnity Lawyer Rankings – Victoria, Australia, 2026
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in Australia*™
  - Defamation and Media Law, 2027
  - Insurance Law, 2026-2027
  - Legal Malpractice Litigation, 2026-2027
  - Sports Law, 2026-2027
  - Litigation, 2021-2027
  - Lawyer of the Year for Legal Malpractice Litigation, 2027
- Listed by *Thomson Reuters* as a Stand-out Lawyers, 2023-2024

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Australia & New Zealand Sports Law Associate member
- Media and Communications Committee of the Australian Law Council member
- Australian Insurance Law Association member

- Melbourne Press Club member
- Law Institute of Victoria

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Preparing a will – Do the basics well", presented to Victorian lawyers on behalf of the LPLC, 27 September 2023
- "Defamation Reforms – Stage 1", presented to selected insurance claims solicitors, August 2021 and February 2022
- "Legal professional privilege – overview and update", presented to selected in-house counsel, 25 February 2020
- "Publishing Risks and Reputation Management", presented to the Australian Human Resources Institute, February 2017
- "Defamation and Social Media", presented to various clients and colleagues in Melbourne and Sydney, August 2011 and 2015
- "Estate Litigation – An update", presented to University3A, July 2012
- "Insurance considerations for your not-for-profit group", presented to the Public Interest Law Clearing House, October 2010

EDUCATION

- LL.B., La Trobe University, 2004 *(Honours)*
- B.A., La Trobe University, 2003

ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of Victoria

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 14 October 2026, Australian Senate Committee Recommends Criminalising Match-Fixing in Australia
- February 2026, Australian CPD Series 2026: Legal Professional Privilege
- October 2024, Cyber Day: Session 6–Litigation–Statutory Tort and Direct Rights of Action
- 1 October 2024, The New Australian Statutory Tort for Serious Invasions of Privacy–What Does It Currently Look Like?

- 14 March 2024, Equitable Subrogation and "Controllers" for the Purposes of the *Corporations Act 2001* - Can a Lawyer be a "Controller?"
- 12 February 2024, Institutional Abuse Claims in Victoria—Legal Identity of Defendants (Organisational Child Abuse) Act 2018 Applies to Secondary Victims
- 29 November 2023, *Kneale v. Footscray Football Club Ltd*–Cautions for Both Sides of Institutional Abuse Claims
- 14 November 2023, A Statutory Tort for Serious Invasions of Privacy?
- 21 September 2023, Some "Serious" Developments in Defamation Law
- 6 September 2023, "You Promised Not to Say That!" Non-Disparagement Clauses in Settlement Agreements
- 12 May 2022, Google Reviews - Qualified Privilege Defence Upheld in Defamation Claim
- 30 March 2022, Check Your [Legal Professional] Privilege - A Timely Reminder From the Federal Court of Australia
- 28 March 2022, And So It Begins…First Consideration of "Serious Harm" Threshold in Australian Defamation Claim
- 15 September 2021, Social Media Users and Operators Beware! High Court Confirms that Facebook Page Operators are 'Publishers' of Third Party Comments
- 28 July 2021, Meeting the Threshold: Stage 1 Defamation Reforms Go Live
- 20 April 2020, From Revenge Porn to Big Data Breaches: NSW Opposition Introduces Bill to Redress "Serious Invasions of Privacy"
- 6 March 2019, Preserving integrity in Australian sport
- 5 November 2018, Be Careful Rushing In: Defamation Pitfalls for Young Players

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the publications mentioned below, Christien regularly reviews contentious articles to be published in the Law Institute Journal, the peak journal of the Law Institute of Victoria.

- "Serious harm to reputation in the context of online defamation claims — the Australian position", Internet Law Bulletin, May 2025
- "Defamation law reforms stage 2 — tips and traps for practitioners", Legal Practitioners' Liability Committee, November 2024
- "The implied obligation - case update", *Legal Practitioners' Liability Committee*, July 2024
- "Permanent stays: A fair trial need not be a perfect trial", *LSJ Online*, December 2023
- "New Traps in Defamation Reforms", *Law Institute Journal*, November 2021

- "Reputation in the Digital Era", *Law Institute Journal*, 2 May 2018
- "New Zealand's Highest Court Makes Life Difficult for D&O Policyholders (and Their Insurers)", *Insurance Coverage Alert*, January 2014
- "Blogging from the shadows: the dark side of social media", *Dynamic Business*, November 2012
- "Facebook: A Liability?", *Dynamic Business*, February 2009
- "Not quite working: the Working with Children Act", *Law Institute Journal*, February 2007

NEWS & EVENTS

- 16 April 2026, More Than 80 K&L Gates Lawyers Across Asia-Pacific Recognised in 2027 Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch Editions
- 3 February - 19 February 2026, 2026 CPD Program–Australia
- 2 February 2026, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Recognized on *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyers List
- 11 March 2025, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Receive Global Recognition in *Thomson Reuters*' Stand-out Lawyers List
- 11 February - 20 February 2025, 2025 CPD Program–Australia
- 15 October 2024, Cyber Day–Cybersecurity and Proposed Privacy Reforms
- 13 February - 21 February 2024, 2024 CPD Program–Australia
- 7 February - 16 February 2023, 2023 CPD Program–Australia
- 2 March 2018, K&L Gates Names 34 New Partners Across Global Platform

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, "Daryl's Day", *The Age (Australia)*, 10 April 2025
- Quoted, "Cybersecurity class actions to increase with latest reforms", *Lawyerly*, 13 September 2024
- Mentioned, "K&L Gates: Serving Humanity through legal practice", *Australian Pro Bono Centre*, June 2024
- Quoted, "Clock ticking as Magnis runs out of money", *The Australian Online*, 28 February 2024
- Quoted, "Big Four's Legal Privilege and Lawyer-Client Relationship Protections are Tested in Australia", *Legal Week*, 8 April 2022

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes

- Insurance Recovery and Counseling
- Professional Liability

INDUSTRIES

- Apparel and Footwear
- Consumer Goods and Services

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Leading a national sport governing body's defence in long-running disputation with its free-to-air television broadcaster.
- Acting on the multimillion-dollar estate and trust litigation on behalf of the late motor sportsman, Peter Brock.
- Acted for an owner and operator of casino hotels in regards to an application to the Court of Appeal for the determination of the question of whether a Medical Panel determination is binding on the County Court of Victoria in respect of all defendants, where only one defendant successfully referred the matter to the Medical Panel.
- Acting for an ASX-listed company in a transnational dispute with a US-based counterparty relating to the supply and suitability of our client's secure wireless sample tracking with integrated temperature sensing technology (litigation in Australia and California).
- Acting for an ASX-listed pharmaceutical manufacturing company in a contractual dispute with a major pharmaceutical supply company.
- Acting for an Australian prestige audio-visual supplier in a transnational contractual dispute with a US distributor (litigation in Australia and Utah).