



Geoffrey Watson SC

NEW/CHAMBERS

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Admitted to the legal profession	1982
Admitted as a barrister in NSW	1984
Appointment as Senior Counsel	2002
Also entitled to practise in	All Australian jurisdictions (Commonwealth, State and Territory)

Principal areas of practice

Appellate
Criminal
Insurance and reinsurance
Product liability
Professional indemnity

Professional Summary

Geoffrey Watson has a general practice with specialities in product liability, professional negligence, general insurance and appeals. He has a particular interest in tort law. Mr Watson has a national practice, and has conducted appeals in the High Court, and appeals and trials in the Federal Court and the Supreme Courts of each of the States and Territories. His regular clients have included the Australian, British and American governments; the NSW and other State governments; many State and federal government agencies; all major insurers; and the major mining, industrial and banking houses.

In recent years Mr Watson has appeared as counsel assisting in several large scale public inquiries, including the ICAC inquiries investigating allegations of corruption amongst NSW politicians, and the Police Integrity Commission inquiry into allegations of police misconduct in the shooting death of Adam Salter.

In addition to his professional commitments, Mr Watson pursues an interest in academic work. He regularly writes and lectures on the subjects of tort law, insurance and legal history.

Selected cases

- *Motorcycling Events Group Australia Pty Ltd v Kelly* (2014) 86 NSWLR 55 – consumer protection and the implication of warranties into recreational services
- *Idameneo (No 123) Pty Ltd v Gross* (2013) 83 NSWLR 643 – application of the doctrine of equitable contribution
- *Amaba Pty Ltd v Booth* (2011) 246 CLR 36 – causation in the area of asbestos-related mesothelioma
- *Miller v Miller* (2011) 242 CLR 446 – the leading Australian case on illegality in tort
- *Amaca Pty Limited v Ellis* (2010) 240 CLR 111 – the leading Australian case on determination of causation involving concurrent agents
- *Precision Products (NSW) Pty Ltd v Hawkesbury CC* (2008) 74 NSWLR 102 – environmental protection, and the operation of anti-pollution laws
- *Macpherson's Ltd v Eaton* (2005) 65 NSWLR 187 – the leading Australian case on the liability of a retailer for the resale of defective products
- *QBE Workers Compensation v Dolan* (2004) 62 NSWLR 42 – issue estoppel and res judicata
- *Mercantile Mutual Insurance Ltd v QBE Workers Compensation Limited* (2004) 61 NSWLR 655 – co-ordinate liability and contribution as between insurers