



ASSOCIATE



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Hugh Tait

Hugh is an Australian qualified lawyer with a particular focus on commercial disputes.

Expertise

Hugh's practice encompasses a diverse range of commercial litigation matters spanning class actions, contractual disputes, regulatory investigations, professional negligence, fraud and insolvency.

Before joining Hausfeld, Hugh practiced law at a boutique Australian litigation firm where he gained experience on a variety of commercial litigation matters. During this time, Hugh developed extensive knowledge of class actions and was an integral member of the team working on the first class action filed in Queensland.

Hugh then practiced at one of the largest law firms in Australia, where he gained experience acting for large, sophisticated clients in complex litigation and regulatory investigations.

Clients

Hugh has worked with a wide range of clients including large financial institutions, start-up companies, property developers (including one of the largest in Australia), high-net-worth individuals, liquidators and clients in the healthcare industry.

Hugh also has experience dealing with litigation funders and members of class actions.

PRACTICE AREAS

Commercial Disputes

Since joining Hausfeld, Hugh has been part of the teams:

- Acting for clients in a potential group litigation against a major financial institution related to the alleged miss-selling of financial products.
- Acting for a start-up technology company in its claim against a major financial institution for breach of confidence.

At HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, Hugh gained substantial commercial and financial litigation experience and was a key part of the legal teams acting for:

- A major regional hospital in an Australian Competition and Consumer Commission investigation into anti-competitive conduct.

- A large financial institution in an Australian Securities and Investment Commission investigation into executive misconduct.
- A large financial institution against a claim brought by its former CEO for, among other things, breach of contract. Counterclaiming against the former CEO for, among other things, fraud and breach of director's duties.
- A company in a rectification claim based on a common or unilateral mistake. The dispute centred on the terms of a call option deed.
- A mezzanine financier in enforcing its security and recovering loans from defaulting property developers.
- A major property developer in dozens of claims against defaulting purchasers and real estate agents in the District and Supreme Courts of Queensland.
- An indemnity/subrogation claim brought by a liquidator of a company in the Supreme Court of New South Wales.
- An insolvent trading claim against a company director brought by a liquidator in the Supreme Court of Queensland.

At Creevey Russell Lawyers, Hugh was part of the legal team which:

- Acted for a representative class against an international seed company in the first class action filed in Queensland. The action was in regard to contaminated seeds allegedly sold to farmers throughout Queensland and New South Wales. Damages estimated between \$30 million and \$100 million.
- Acted for a property development company against its joint venture partner in the Supreme Court of Queensland. The claim was for breach of contract, misleading and deceptive conduct, and unconscionable conduct allegedly committed by the joint venture partner.
- Acted for a director of a company in a just and equitable winding up application of two companies.
- Had full carriage of a matter concerning a breach of contract claim by an employee against his employer, which was listed for a three-day trial in the District Court of Queensland.
- Acted for a company against a law firm concerning the alleged negligent conduct of the law firm in failing to advise in relation to, and leaving out, a force majeure clause in a business sale contract.
- Appeared in the Federal Court of Australia as solicitor advocate defending applications to wind up companies.

Competition Disputes

Hugh's competition experience includes:

- Acting for a major regional hospital in an Australian Competition and Consumer Commission investigation into anti-competitive conduct.

EDUCATION

Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, Queensland University of Technology
Bachelor of Laws, Queensland University of Technology
Bachelor of Business, Queensland University of Technology

BAR ADMISSIONS

Supreme Court of Queensland, 2015
High Court of Australia, 2015

AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Member - Queensland Law Society

PERSPECTIVES

June 9, 2020

Notification Clauses: The Devil is in the Detail

April 14, 2020

COVID-19 - Has It Ripped Up Parts of the Competition Rule Book...For Now?