



GREENWAY CHAMBERS

Dinesh Ratnam

Solicitor 2004 / Barrister 2015

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Practice

Dinesh Ratnam is a commercial law barrister with more than 22 years' legal experience (admitted as a solicitor in 2004, called to the bar in 2015). His practice focuses on equity, contractual disputes, banking and finance law, consumer law, fraud, insolvency, company law and building and construction law.

Dinesh represents clients in all jurisdictions and regularly appears in the Supreme Court of New South Wales and Federal Court of Australia. He also frequently appears in courts and tribunals in Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria.

Dinesh's clients have included liquidators, receivers, banks, insurers, insurance brokers, corporate entities, company directors, shareholders, venture capitalists, corporate trustees, builders, geotechnical engineers, commercial and residential property owners, landlords and tenants. He has also acted for sporting identities and clubs (UFC World Feather Weight Champion Alexander Volkonovski, NRL player Zachary Lomax and the Parramatta Eels). He has represented his clients in actions involving winding up and bankruptcy applications, unfair preferences claims, uncommercial transactions, shareholder oppression suits, trust disputes, contractual enforcement, restraint of trade, injunctions and freezing order applications. He has also acted for companies and individuals in consumer disputes involving misleading and deceptive conduct claims.

Dinesh believes in taking a collaborative approach with instructing solicitors, so that litigation runs more efficiently and effectively. He believes that effective advocacy means more than simply appearing in court. It involves taking a strategic and methodical approach to the matter, even before pleadings are filed.

Outside of Court, Dinesh is a mediator and Advocacy Instructor for the New South Wales Bar Association.

Professional Recognition

Best Lawyers Australia 2026 - Ones to Watch for Construction & Infrastructure Law

Doyles Guide 2017 - Emerging Construction & Infrastructure Junior Counsel within NSW

Areas of Expertise

Commercial Law & Equity

Corporate Law

Contractual Disputes

Consumer Law

Fraud

Trade Practices Law

Qualifications

Bachelor of Laws (Bond) 2003

Bachelor of Human Resource Management (Bond) 2003

Notable Cases

Watts v Chopsonion Pty Ltd (Controllers Appointed) [2026] FCAFC 99

Appeal to the Full Court - finding of facts overturned - accessorial liability - fraud - misleading and deceptive conduct - formulation of the appropriate counterfactual - causation - loss and damage

First Class Securities Ltd v Global Future Holdings Pty Ltd [2026] FCA 1 & First Class Securities Limited v Global Future Holdings Pty Ltd (Freezing Orders) [2026] FCA 48

Application for freezing orders - orders made - primary proceedings involving a Mauritius based company (First Class Securities) taking up an investment opportunity relating to an Australian infrastructure project - allegations of misleading and deceptive conduct and breach of contract.

Kraft v BPR Audit Pty Ltd [2025] FCA 422

Dinesh was involved in the representative proceedings involving the action brought by trustees of SMSFs who were allegedly defrauded by Melissa Caddick. He acted for one of the auditors.

In the matter of Forte Sydney Construction Pty Ltd [2025] NSWSC 1560

Application to set aside a Statutory Demand - Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act 1999 debt - offsetting claim - demand not set aside.

GEMI 169 Pty Ltd v Suria Global (L) Pty Ltd; Shamoon v F & L Violi Pty Ltd (No 9) [2025] NSWSC 975

Equitable mortgages - enforcement of loan - misleading and deceptive conduct.

Jianglong Shipbuilding Pty Ltd v Birdon Pty Ltd [2025] NSWSC 683

Security for Costs - place of incorporation or residence out of jurisdiction - plaintiff domiciled in People's Republic of China and has significant assets.

Reform Projects Pty Ltd v Merman Investments Pty Ltd [2025] NSWDC 460

Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment Act 1999 - enforcement - whether plaintiff contracted to withdraw payment claim - whether parties objectively evinced an intention to withdraw a payment claim - where defendant did not serve a payment schedule - where plaintiff did not forfeit statutory rights but rather made a commercial accommodation for minor reduction of sum claimed in payment claim.

Chopsonion Pty Ltd (Controllers Appointed) v Watts Meat Machinery Pty Ltd (No 2) [2025] FCA 4; **Chopsonion Pty Ltd (Controllers Appointed) v Watts Meat Machinery Pty Ltd (No 3) [2025] FCA 457;** **Chopsonion Pty Ltd (Controllers Appointed) v Watts Meat Machinery Pty Ltd (No 4) [2025] FCA 636;** **Chopsonion Pty Ltd (Controllers Appointed) v Watts Meat Machinery Pty Ltd [2022] FCA 1309;** **Chopsonion Pty Ltd (Controllers Appointed) v Watts Meat Machinery Pty Ltd [2021] FCA 491**

Breach of director duties – ss 181 & 182 Corporations Act – breach of fiduciary duties – accessorial liability – directors engaging in conduct contrary to s 18 of the ACL – deceit – fraud – estoppel – negligence – construction of contract – calculation of interest.

Nest Insurance Consult Pty Ltd v Resilium Insurance Broking Pty Ltd [2025] NSWCA 221

Contractual construction – whether disclosure of client portfolio information to competitor following termination was a breach of a confidentiality clause – whether client portfolio information was confidential information.

Guildford Montessori Kindergarten Pty Ltd v Wehbe [2025] NSWSC 145

Security for costs – trustee considerations – disclosure – substantive case involving allegations of fraud and misappropriation of monies.

Resilium Pty Ltd v Nest Insurance Consult Pty Ltd [2024] NSWSC 1190

Breach of contract – Resilium an insurance broker and Australian Financial Services Licence holder – Nest Insurance an Authorised Representative terminated for providing false information – Resilium transmitted the client information to another Authorised Representative to carry out a policy remediation process and service the clients – construction of contract – ownership of Confidential Information.

37 York Road Pty Ltd v Reece Australia Pty Limited [2024] NSWSC 1213

Construction of Lease – make good provisions.

Oliveri Legal Pty Ltd (t/as Oliveri Lawyers) v Cassegrain Tea Tree Oil Pty Ltd [2024] NSWCA 74

Directors and officers – authority – actual – ostensible – construction of a contract of guarantee and indemnity – Estoppel by convention.

Oliveri Legal Pty Ltd v Cassegrain Tea Tree Oil Pty Ltd (No 2) [2023] NSWSC 1082

Whether director had authority to bind a company to a guarantee and indemnity – contract construction.

Guildford Montessori Kindergarten Pty Ltd v Wehbe [2022] NSWSC 1560

Freezing orders – allegations of misappropriation of monies.

DTS Retail Pty Ltd v Bingara Wilton Holdings Pty Ltd [2022] NSWSC 1523

Equitable remedies – Injunctions – Lease of shop premises.

Blackcitrus Pty Ltd (in liquidation) v Parramatta Rugby League Club Limited [2022] NSWSC 1329

Security for costs – whether plaintiff's impecuniosity was attributable to the defendant's conduct – substantive case involving illegality or sham contract.

Reform Projects Pty Ltd v Macarthur Projects Pty Ltd [2022] NSWSC 672

Winding up in insolvency – presumed insolvency – whether discretion should be exercised.