

## CURRICULUM VITAE: CHRISTOPHER WHITELAW

[Barrister, Chalfont Chambers, Sydney. Telephone: (02) 9223 1728; Email [chris.whitelaw@chalfont.com.au](mailto:chris.whitelaw@chalfont.com.au)]

### General Background

Born 1955 in the United Kingdom. Lived in UK, Canada, USA and Japan. Arrived Australia in 1971. Completed High School at Brisbane Grammar School. Completed Arts-Law degree at the ANU in Canberra in 1980 and Masters Degree in Law at UTS in 2000. Accredited as a Mediator in 2001 (UTS) and appointed Mediator in District Court in 2002 and Arbitrator in District Court and Local Court in 2003.

### Legal/Professional background

- Completed the College of Law in November 1981;
- Admitted as a solicitor in NSW in December 1981;
- Employed by Baker & McKenzie in 1982;
- Employed in general private practice from 1984-1989 - doing mainly commercial litigation, personal injury litigation, family law and criminal law;
- Became salaried partner in firm of Cashman & Partners in 1989 - doing mainly product liability and
- Medical negligence litigation;
- Commenced practice as Barrister in 1992, reading on 9 Wentworth Chambers;
- Became a member of Chalfont Chambers in 1994.
- Appointed as Mediator to District Court panel in 2002
- Appointed District Court and Local Court Arbitrator in 2003
- Principal Areas of Expertise prior to coming to the Bar
- Medical Negligence;
- Professional negligence;
- General tort litigation;
- Product Liability;
- Commercial litigation (general) ;
- Trade Practices Act (Consumer Protection);
- Principal areas of practice at the Bar
- Trade Practices (Consumer Protection)
- Commercial litigation (general) ;
- Personal Injury trials;
- Contracts Review Act / Unconscionable conduct claims;
- Unfair dismissal/wrongful termination claims;
- Unfair Contract claims (s.106 IR Act);
- Professional Negligence suits ( including medical negligence);
- Negligence suits generally;
- Subsidiary areas of practice
- Property (Relationship) Act claims;
- Family Provision Act claims;
- Administrative law ( ADJR and AAT) ;
- Professional Misconduct proceedings;
- Copyright law
- Building and Construction disputes (including Security of Payments law)

#### Academic Qualifications

- \* Bachelor of Arts (ANU) 1978
- \* Bachelor of Law (ANU) 1981
- \* LLM (UTS) 2000

#### Publications/legal writing

Compensation to Relatives Claims ( Young Lawyers Publication 1995) ;

"Proving Professional Misconduct in the Practice of Medicine or Law: Does the Common Law test still apply?" - Australian Bar Review, Vol 13, No.1, June 1995.

- \* "An Introduction to Computer Technology for Barristers" presented to Bar Association in February 1996.
- " Protecting the Rights of the Individual, allowing elected governments to govern and Serving the public interest - is current Australian Administrative Law striking the right balance?" , 1997, LLM (UTS).

The Responsibilities and Potential Legal Liability of Health Care Providers in Relation to Infectious Disease Transmission - What are the Legal and Ethical Considerations?" -

Presented at the 1997 Medico-Legal Congress in Sydney, 24&25 February, 1997.

"How the Court determines the applicable standard of care in different types of medical negligence suits" ; presented at August State Legal Conference - Wentworth Hotel, 26 August, 1997 ( Australian Conference Organisers Pty Ltd).

Infectious Disease transmission and Your Liability - Health Law Update April 18, 1997.

Paper entitled "The 20 steps to effective preparation of a medical negligence case and maximising chances of early settlement", delivered at the March State Legal Conference, Wentworth Hotel in 1998.

Paper entitled "Copyright and the Internet - An appraisal of the Government's digital agenda reforms." 1999, published by Prospect Publishing in Australian Intellectual Property Law Bulletin Jan/Feb 2000 (Part 1) and March/April 2000 (Part 2).

"The 10 Steps to becoming a confident solicitor advocate" – first published in 2003 for seminar presentation and revised in 2004. This paper is part of a hands-on advocacy course designed for solicitor advocates.

Opportunities for Solicitors in the Federal Magistrates Court – Paper delivered to the State Legal Conference in Sydney on 29 August 2006.

#### Public Duties

2001/2002 – Member of Bar Associations Legal Aid Committee

2002/2003/2004/2005/2006 – NSW Bar Association's delegate on Law Council's Access to Justice Committee.

#### Association Memberships

NSW Bar Association

Australian Lawyers Alliance

Commercial Law Association