

for more
than just law.



Tim Retallack.

For almost 30 years, Tim has acted in a wide range of commercial disputes, gaining experience as an advocate and developing strong strategic and communication skills.

From 2001 to 2006, Tim was a partner in the firm of Hicks Retallack, a litigation consultancy which served a client base requiring dedicated litigation support with Tim typically taking on responsibility for “getting up” cases for trial, either alone, or on larger matters, as part of a team, including long-term project work in relation to two multi-million dollar mine construction and development contract disputes, one privately arbitrated (construction of laterite nickel processing plant), the other (construction of underground zinc mine) litigated in the WA Supreme Court.

From 2006-2012, Tim worked firstly as a consultant, and later Principal, at a dedicated litigation-only practice, Maxim Litigation Consultants, conducting a wide variety of commercial litigation matters, primarily in the Superior Courts and Private Arbitrations, including:

- Performance and payment disputes under land development and sale contracts;
- Construction contracts;
- Disputed mining joint venture entitlements;
- Arbitration of a multi-million dollar ship building contract;
- Negligence claims involving both architects and engineers; and
- Disputes concerning alleged breaches of various business contracts including retail franchise and business sale agreements.

From 2008 to 2010, Tim was instructing solicitor to Chris Zelestis QC at the trial, and subsequent appeal to the WA Court of Appeal, in the matter of Western Areas v Streeter, a \$60 million case involving issues of director’s fiduciary duties and diversion of corporate opportunities in relation to a proposed nickel exploration project.

In December 2011, Tim appeared as junior counsel with Chris Zelestis QC in the High Court, successfully opposing an application for special leave in the Streeter case.

After joining Culshaw Miller as Head of Litigation in 2012, Tim continued in general commercial litigation, and also expanded his role by providing litigation support (including as counsel) to the Wills & Estates team, including contested wills and estate matters, and Family Provision Act claims.

Between 2015 and 2018, Tim played a key role on behalf of defendant beneficiaries in achieving a negotiated settlement of parts of a complex family dispute, and various associated litigation, concerning the multi-billion dollar estate of the late Len Buckeridge.

Tim joined Lawfield in July 2020 with the aim of continuing to provide top quality and practical advice to assist clients in resolving their commercial disputes.

Tim is a longtime member of a wine and food enthusiasts group known as the “Bookless Club”, which is a kind of mobile men’s shed for retired cricketers and active trenchermen. In between “Bookless” meetings, he enjoys research into red wine and improving his cooking.

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