

Matthew J Lewis

Barrister, LL.B (Hons), LL.M.

EXPERIENCE

5 Wentworth, Sydney, NSW, Australia - Barrister; and Doughty Street Chambers, London - Associate Tenant.

October 2009 - Present

Matthew is a leading junior barrister specialising in media and defamation law. He regularly acts on behalf of the traditional mass media as well as "new media" throughout Australia at first instance and on appeal. Matthew has represented notable social media platforms including Facebook Inc, Instagram LLC and Twitter Inc. Regular traditional media clients include: the ABC, the Australian Associated Press, Australian News Channel Pty Ltd, Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd, the Guardian News and Media Limited, Nationwide News Pty Ltd, the Nine Network Australia Pty Ltd and the Special Broadcasting Service Corporation. From time to time, Matthew also appears for those seeking to protect their reputation (including judicial officers). He is also a "recommended legal counsel (member or tribunal chairman)" of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC). In July 2019, Matthew was nominated by the AOC to be an Olympic Appeals Tribunal member for the 2020 Australian Olympic Team. Matthew was recognised for his defamation and media law expertise in Best Lawyers 2021.

30 Park Place, Cardiff, Wales, UK - Barrister

September 2001 - August 2007

Matthew started his career practising in civil, privacy, family and human rights law. Between 2004 to 2005, Matthew went to Australia having been awarded the Pegasus scholarship from Inner Temple, London. During that period, he gained experience in the NSW Court of Appeal, and the Federal and Family Courts of Australia. Matthew also worked for the commercial litigation group at Clayton Utz (Sydney).



5/180 Phillip Street, Sydney, NSW
2000

T: +61 (2) 80666189

E: matthew.lewis@5wentworth.com

Clerk: Sarah Tiffen

T: +61(2) 80666111

E: clerk@5wentworth.com

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Breach of Confidence
- Commercial Litigation
- Defamation
- Media
- Open Justice
- Pre-Publication Advice
- Privacy
- Private International Law
- Sports Law
- Suppression/Non-Publication

ADMISSION DATES

Called to the Bar (England & Wales): 13 October 2000 (The Hon. Society of Gray's Inn)

Called to the Bar (NSW and Commonwealth): 4 December 2009

Admitted as a legal practitioner (NSW): 2009

EDUCATION

University of Sydney, NSW, Australia - LL.M
2009 to 2010

College of Law, Sydney, Australia - Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice
2008 to 2009

University of Sydney, NSW, Australia - Graduate Diploma in Commercial Law
2008 to 2009

University of Wales, Cardiff, Wales - Bar Vocational Course - "Very Competent"
1999 to 2000

University of Wales, Swansea, Wales - LL.B, upper second class degree (2:1) (Hons).
1995 to 1999

OTHER EXPERIENCE

University of Sydney, Law School - "Contempt and Open justice" and "Defamation and Privacy", Casual Academic lecturer
2021

University of New South Wales Law School - Lecturer "Privacy & The Media"
2016 to 2018

Macquarie University, NSW, Australia - Tutor "Media Law"
2014 to 2015

NOTABLE APPOINTMENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2021 recognised in Best Lawyers for media and defamation.

2016 to 2020: Director, 5th Floor Wentworth Chambers Pty Ltd

2017 to 2018: Common Law Committee, NSW Bar Association

2016 to 2017: Education Committee, NSW Bar Association

2015 to present: Recommended legal counsel (member or tribunal chairman) of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC)

2014 to 2016: Health and Wellbeing Committee, NSW Bar Association

2011 to present: Defamation Law Committee, NSW Bar Association

2010 to present: Arbitrator approved by NSW Bar Association

2004: Pegasus Scholar, Inner Temple, London

2001 to 2007: President, Wales and Chester Circuit Young Barristers Association

2001 to 2005: Young Barristers Committee, London (Wales and Chester Circuit representative)

2000: Marshall to Mr. Justice Thomas (as the former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales then was)

1999: Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award

PUBLICATIONS & SEMINARS

Defamation Reform Seminar - 28 March 2019, Communications and Media Law Association conference.

Mullets, Rebels and Gayle Force Winds - 6 March 2018, NSW Young Lawyers panel discussion.

Social Media and Defamation Law: An update - 21 March 2017, Advanced Commercial Litigation Conference for Legalwise Seminars.

Social Media and Defamation Law: An update - 18 March 2016, Advanced Commercial Litigation Conference for Legalwise Seminars.

The Rising Tide of Social Media Law: UNSW Defamation & Media Law Seminar - 23 February 2016 (annual defamation & media law seminar).

Defamation Law Reform - 16 February 2016, NSW Young Lawyers seminar (with Professor David Rolph).

Online Legal Issues in Advertising and Marketing Law – 4 September 2015 (seminar chairman).

On the quiet: open justice and suppression orders - NSW LSJ, published 4 September 2014 at p.78 (with Bruce McClintock SC).

Where Angels have traditionally feared to tread: disproportionate defamation claims in NSW - [2014] Gazette of Law and Journalism (29 August 2014).

Social Media: The Wild West of Publishing - [2013] Gazette of Law and Journalism (18 June 2013).

Capping Libel Damages in Australia: A Closer Look - INFORRM, 29 May 2011.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Matthew frequently provides comment to the media on matters relating to defamation and social media law including, for example:

Radio National Breakfast (with Fran Kelly), ABC

7:30 Report, ABC

Wake Up! Network Ten

Seven News at 6, Channel 7

SKY News Business (with Carson Scott), SKY News Australia

The Hack, Triple J Radio (Sydney)

Sydney Morning Herald (National Newspaper)

Australian Financial Review (National Newspaper)

The Australian (National Newspaper)

Practice Notes, Gazette of Law and Journalism