

CATHERINE BEMBRICK

5 Wentworth Chambers

TEL: +61 2 8066 6145
EMAIL: catherine.bembrick@5wentworth.com

OVERVIEW

Catherine was called to the Bar in 2015, after ten years' experience as a solicitor advising on complex commercial and regulatory matters. She is known for her client focused, strategic and specialist expertise.

Catherine advises clients across a range of sectors including transport, manufacturing, education, gaming and pharmaceuticals. She regularly appears unled in both first instance and appellate matters and has expertise cross-examining lay and expert witnesses.

Catherine's practice is broad and spans intellectual property, competition and consumer, employment and discrimination law. She is recognised nationally as an expert in each of those areas, including by Chambers & Partners for both Employment and Intellectual Property (2026); Best Lawyers Australia for Labour and Industrial Law (2026); the Legal 500 guide in each of Competition Law, Intellectual Property and Commercial Disputes (2024-2026); and Doyle's Guide as a leading junior counsel for both Intellectual Property (2022-2026) and Competition (2025).

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Intellectual Property: Copyright, Patents, Trade Marks.
- Employment and Industrial.
- Competition and Consumer: Part IV and ACL matters.
- Discrimination.
- Commissions and Inquiries.

ADMISSIONS

- Barrister, New South Wales **2015**
(Ludlow's award: highest aggregate mark July 2014 bar exams)
- Solicitor, New South Wales and High Court of Australia **2006**

QUALIFICATIONS

- Master of Laws (Hons): University of Cambridge **2009**
- Bachelor of Laws (Hons): University of Sydney **2005**
- Bachelor of Arts (Hons): University of Sydney **2001**

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Senior Associate and Solicitor: Allens Linklaters

2006-2015

- Advising on the application of Part IV of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) and the Australian Consumer Law including misuse of market power, exclusive dealing and cartel conduct.
- Obtaining ACCC merger clearance for clients in industries including medical devices, pharmaceuticals, mining and manufacturing.
- Representing clients in defending proceedings brought by the ACCC and others including: acting for Pfizer Australia in defending misuse of market power proceedings: *ACCC v Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd* [2015] FCA 113; Viscas Corporation in defending cartel proceedings: *ACCC v Prysmian & Ors* [2013] FCA 294 and Amcor Limited in defence of a cartel class action damages claim: *Jarra Creek Central Packing Shed Pty Ltd v Amcor Australia* [2011] FCA 298.

Associate: Slaughter and May London

2010-2011

- Advising clients on the application of UK and EU competition law, Competition Appeal Tribunal proceedings and obtaining OFT clearance for significant mergers.

Inner Temple Trust Pegasus Scholar

2009

- Scholarship at the London Bar: Monckton Chambers, One Essex Court, Charter Chambers. Assisted in the preparation of submissions for the UK's first criminal cartel prosecution.

Associate to Hon Justice Bennett AC (Federal Court of Australia)

2008-2009

- Assisting her Honour with respect to hearings and docket matters.

OTHER EXPERIENCE, MEMBERSHIPS AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Chair of the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct and Appeals Committee (2016 to date).
- Casual Academic Lecture, LLM Employment Law Advocacy, University of Sydney (2024 to date).
- Casual Academic Lecturer in Evidence Law, University of Sydney Law Extension Committee (2016 to 2023).
- Member of IPSANZ and the NSW Bar Association.
- Member of the NSW Bar Association Practice Development Committee (2022 to date).
- Committee member Women Barristers Forum (2025 to date).
- Recent publications:
 - "I am; therefore, I think: establishing a corporation's state of mind" (June 2025) Law Society Journal: C Bembrick, A Vial and M Donohue.
 - "ACCC v BlueScope Steel – cartels and 'attempts to induce'" (February 2023) Law Society Journal: C Bembrick and A Vial.
 - "An Australian first: Custodial sentences for cartel conduct" (October 2022) Law Society Journal: C Bembrick and L Witt.
 - "A cautionary tale for IP settlement agreements" (September 2022) Law Society Journal: C Cochrane and C Bembrick.