



AUSTRALASIAN LAW AWARDS²⁰¹⁹

2019 WINNERS

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AUSTRALASIAN LAW AWARDS 2019

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Meet the triumphant winners on the biggest night in the legal calendar

Over 600 of the nation's legal professionals united on Thursday 23 May for a glittering celebration of the industry they love – and the high-fliers who've raised the bar over the previous year.

The Star Sydney was host to the 2019 Australasian Law Awards. Hosted by comedian Lawrence Mooney, this stellar evening also featured entertainment by musician Linden Furnell and aerial troupe Aerialize ... and, of course, the announcement of the big awards winners themselves.

You can meet the deserving winners in the following pages.

Thanks to all our nominations, finalists and winners – as well as our judges, presenters and sponsors. Special thanks goes out to FTI Consulting for their continuous support.

Here's to the 2019 winners! See you again next year ...

FTI CONSULTING
INSOLVENCY & RESTRUCTURING DEAL OF THE YEAR
**PALADIN ENERGY
RESTRUCTURING**



A global firm (King & Wood Mallesons) showcased its national and regional capabilities as it helped in the complex restructure of a Western Australia-based uranium producer. The process was additionally complicated by the multi-jurisdictional assets of the company, its dual listing on the ASX and on the Toronto Stock Exchange, and the multiple stakeholders involved.

FINALISTS

- Quintis Group Restructuring

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PROPERTY, INFRASTRUCTURE & PROJECTS DEAL OF THE YEAR
**HUNTER CLASS FRIGATE
AND ASC SHIPBUILDING
RESTRUCTURE**



Several law firms have advised on one of the largest Australian naval shipbuilding projects ever undertaken. Teams from Ashurst and Herbert Smith Freehills worked closely together advising the Department of Defence; Allens advised Bae Systems Australia; and Baker McKenzie advised ASC Group.

FINALISTS

- NSW Government disposal of Westconnex stake
- Victoria land titles concession

DEBT MARKET DEAL OF THE YEAR
WORLD BANK BOND-I



“This was a great project to work on with CBI and the World Bank,” said Claire Warren of King & Wood Mallesons. “It was great to work with their customers as well. This was a totally enjoyable project on which we had to work together.”

FINALISTS

- Debt financing for the acquisition of Origin's Acumen business
- Kwinana waste-to-energy project financing
- Pilbara Minerals – POSCO subscription agreement and convertible bond
- Port of Melbourne bond issuance

ENERGY & RESOURCES DEAL OF THE YEAR
**SANTOS ACQUISITION OF
QUADRANT**



“It was a great deal, and I think quite market-changing,” reflected Emma Covacevich of Clayton Utz. “The highlight was working with the HSF team, they're fantastic.”
“Between the two firms, it's been great to work together,” added Mark Hethel of Herbert Smith Freehills. “So we're very happy.”

FINALISTS

- Coronado Global Resources IPO
- Jadestone Energy acquisition of Montara oil project
- Rio Tinto's Queensland coal asset sales

EQUITY MARKET DEAL OF THE YEAR TRANSURBAN EQUITY RAISING



“It’s really great to win, very exciting,” said Jack Hills from King & Wood Mallisons. “It’s a culmination of a lot of hard work by the firm. I think it was the people; people at our firm, the people at Transurban and also the underwriters.”

FINALISTS

- Seven Group share conversion
- Viva Energy IPO
- WorleyParsons pro-rata accelerated non-renounceable entitlement offer

M&A DEAL OF THE YEAR COLES DEMERGER FROM WESFARMERS



“Winning is amazing,” said Stephanie Wilkinson of Herbert Smith Freehills. “It’s also the largest merger in Australian history. So it was an incredible transaction; so great to do it.”

FINALISTS

- Foxtel-Fox Sports merger
- Oxford Properties acquisition of Investa Office Fund
- PEXA acquisition
- Snowy Hydro acquisition
- Unibail-Rodamco acquisition of Westfield

INTERNATIONAL DEAL OF THE YEAR SALE OF BHP’S US OIL AND GAS ASSETS



“It was difficult,” said David Lyons, Herbert Smith Freehills, modestly describing a transaction with 340 actively involved individuals and five set of gatherings. “It’s fantastic to win.”

FINALISTS

- Australia Pacific LNG refinancing
- Joint takeover of Sirtex Medical
- Oracle acquisition of Aconex
- Reliance acquisition of John Guest
- Yancoal dual listing on ASX and HKEx

AUSTRALASIAN LAWYER CORPORATE CITIZEN FIRM OF THE YEARTE CITIZEN FIRM OF THE YEAR SALVOS LEGAL



“Winning feels fantastic,” said Mary Anne Ireland, Managing Partner of Salvos Legal. “Our humanitarian lawyers work very hard and help a lot of people. We have a commercial side of the firm that pays for that work, and so those lawyers’ names need to be recognized as well.”

FINALISTS

- Ashurst
- Clayton Utz
- Gilbert + Tobin
- Harmers Workplace Lawyers
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- King & Wood Mallesons
- Lander & Rogers
- Madison Marcus Law Firm

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MARSH
EXCELLENCE EMPLOYEE HEALTH & WELLBEING AWARD
LANDER & ROGERS



“We’re really delighted to win,” said Genevieve Collins from Lander & Rogers. “There were lots of finalists, and we’re really pleased that Marsh has sponsored the award, and are recognizing the importance of well-being in the legal industry.”

FINALISTS

- Clayton Utz
- Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers
- DLA Piper
- Employsure Law
- Gadens
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- Lander & Rogers
- Madison Marcus Law Firm

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EXCELLENCE IN TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
ALLENS



“We are very honored to win this award,” said a company spokesperson. “We’ve done a lot of work in technology in trying procedures for the benefit of clients, so that we can provide the best service in areas the clients need us in.”

FINALISTS

- AMP and Ashurst Advance
- Bird & Bird LLP
- Clayton Utz
- Dentons
- Gilbert + Tobin
- HBA Legal
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- LegalVision
- LOD - Lawyers On Demand

EMPLOYMENT LAW SPECIALIST FIRM OF THE YEAR
**HARMERS WORKPLACE
LAWYERS**



“Winning is absolutely fantastic,” said Sandra Marx, Harmers Workplace Lawyers. “We’ve won 11 times before, and we didn’t win it last year, but we’re back on track. So we’re very excited about it.”

FINALISTS

- Australian Business Lawyers & Advisors
- Danny King Legal
- Employsure Law
- FCB Group
- HR Law
- McDonald Murholme Solicitors
- Workdynamic Australia

LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR
THOMSON REUTERS AUSTRALIA



“We’re so proud to win,” Catherine Roberts from Thomson Reuters Legal. “Our innovation labs are extra ordinary and leading a way when it comes to legal industry and innovation.”

FINALISTS

- Aderant
- BigHand
- Dazychain
- GlobalX
- The College of Law

AIG
INSURANCE SPECIALIST FIRM OF THE YEAR
CARTER NEWELL LAWYERS



“It’s a real delight to win,” said Paul Hopkins of Carter Newell Lawyers. “Such a prestigious award, and it’s a real credit to our team. We got a fantastic team that is dedicated to the market. So I’m really thrilled to accept this award for them.”

FINALISTS

- Barry Nilsson.
- Gilchrist Connell
- HBA Legal
- Holman Webb Lawyers
- Meridian Lawyers
- Sparke Helmore Lawyers
- TurksLegal

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BOUTIQUE FIRM OF THE YEAR
CLARENDON LAWYERS



“We’re thrilled to win,” said Robert Feiner of Clarendon Lawyers. “Even though we’re a smaller firm, we punch above our weight and get great results for our clients, which puts us in a great position in the market.”

FINALISTS

- Bellanhouse Lawyers
- Hamilton Locke
- Mitry Lawyers
- Phi Finney McDonald
- Sierra Legal
- The Fold Legal
- Vincent Young Lawyers

THE RESOLUTION INSTITUTE
AUSTRALIAN ARBITRATOR OF THE YEAR
**BRIAN MILLAR & SCOTT ELLIS,
FRANCIS BURT CHAMBERS**



“We’re very proud and humble,” said Brian Millar, Francis Burt Chambers. “We’ve been involved in an endeavor to try and promote arbitration and Australian arbitration practitioners, and spend a lot of time and effort in being involved in that.”

FINALISTS

- Maurice Edwards, Watts McCray Lawyers
- Rob Zikmann, Chalfont Chambers

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THE RESOLUTION INSTITUTE
AUSTRALIAN MEDIATOR OF THE YEAR
**TOM STODULKA,
TOM STODULKA MEDIATOR**



“Winning is unbelievable,” said Tom Stodulka. “Success is about loving people, working with people, and trying to get people across the line ... sometimes very complicated these days because people live such complicated lives. But it’s still worth the effort.”

FINALISTS

- Alison Shaw, Dispute Resolution
- Anne-Marie Rice, Rice Dispute Resolution
- Debra Parker, Watts McCray Lawyers
- Dr Anne Purcell, Resolution Partners
- Emily Dewberry, Dewberry Mediations
- Lianne Iriks, Life Mediation
- Nicky McWilliam, Sydney Mediation Partnership

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YOUNG PRIVATE PRACTICE LAWYER OF THE YEAR (30 OR UNDER)

**MADELEINE MCINTOSH,
BAKER MCKENZIE**



“I feel very honored to win this award, and I’m sure it was a very competitive category,” said Madeleine McIntosh of Baker McKenzie. “I’ve been able to work with and learn from some amazing people, and those life and work experiences will stay with me forever.”

FINALISTS

- Alex Solo, sprintlaw
- Daniel MacPherson, Gilbert + Tobin
- Erin MacMullin, Herbert Smith Freehills
- Flora Ma, Allens
- Hannah Catherine Morris, Mills Oakley
- James Skelton, Swaab
- Julia Taylor, Allens
- Stipe Vuleta, Chamberlains Law Firm
- Sunny Jong, Allens
- Timon Ibrahim, Ashurst
- Tomoyuki Hachigo, sprintlaw

YOUNG IN-HOUSE LAWYER OF THE YEAR (30 OR UNDER)

**KATIE DILLON, TELSTRA
CORPORATION**



“I’m pleased and very honored to have won, especially given the quality of the finalists for this category,” said Katie Dillon. “I’m thankful for the opportunities Telstra has provided me, and for the support and encouragement of my colleagues, mentors and family and friends along the way.”

FINALISTS

- Bianca Gomez, Dentsu Aegis Network Australia
- Kelly Xiao, VMware
- Samantha Walker, Nova Entertainment
- Theo Kapodistrias , University of Tasmania

SPARKE HELMORE
INSURANCE IN-HOUSE TEAM OF THE YEAR
STEADFAST



“Winning is absolutely fantastic,” said Duncan Ramsey of Steadfast Group. “We’re really, really enjoying the ceremony.”

FINALISTS

- AIA Australia and New Zealand Legal Team
- AIG
- Berkley Insurance Australia
- Chubb
- IAG Legal
- Lexon Insurance Pte Ltd Risk & Claims Team

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**sparke
HELMORE**
LAWYERS

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES IN-HOUSE TEAM OF THE YEAR

BANK OF QUEENSLAND



“Winning the Banking & Financial Services In-house Team of the Year Award is important external recognition and validation of the efforts of BOQ’s small but outstanding legal team over the past 12 months,” said Craig Chapman, Group General Counsel at BOQ Group. “It is an important acknowledgement of the achievements of the team in assisting BOQ to navigate a particularly challenging time for financial institutions generally and in setting BOQ up for success in the future.”

FINALISTS

- ASX Limited
- Commonwealth Bank of Australia Advisory & M&A Legal Team
- J.P.Morgan
- Macquarie Capital
- Queensland Treasury Corporation
- UBS AG, Australia Branch
- Westpac

CLAYTON UTZ
AUSTRALIAN IN-HOUSE TEAM OF THE YEAR
ACCORHOTELS PACIFIC LEGAL TEAM



“It’s a fantastic award win especially with the other competitors out,” said Sir John Lord from AccorHotel Group. “Just 12 months ago, there was integration between two of the largest hotel groups in Australia. The team’s integrated very well and we’ve become one team very quickly and managed to complement each other very well.”

FINALISTS

- AIA Australia and New Zealand legal team
- Baxter Healthcare Legal team
- James Hardie Asia Pacific Legal Team
- Nova Entertainment Legal Team
- Tabcorp Holdings
- UBS AG, Australia Branch
- Viva Energy legal team

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CLAYTON UTZ

RUSSELL MCVEAGH
NZ IN-HOUSE TEAM OF THE YEAR
FONTERRA CO-OPERATIVE GROUP



“Receiving this award for a fifth consecutive year is a fantastic way to recognise the excellent work our team does,” said Andrew Cordner, Director of Legal at Fonterra. “We are extremely proud to bring the award home again. Every member of the team has played a part in enabling us to win this award and I wish to thank them for that.”

FINALISTS

- AIA
- Mercury NZ
- Skycity Entertainment Group
- Sparke New Zealand
- UBS NZ
- Wellington City Council

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RUSSELL MCVEAGH

FTI CONSULTING
AUSTRALIAN IN-HOUSE LAWYER OF THE YEAR
JULIE GALLIGAN, TRANSURBAN



“This is actually great recognition for the work my team do,” said Julie Galligan of Transurban. “I lead an exceptional team of phenomenal lawyers, and we’ve had a wonderful year. And so, this is a great reflection of that.”

FINALISTS

- Cesilia Kim, Snowy Hydro
- Christian Paech, Santos
- Erin Scarrow, Accenture
- Lachlan Pfeiffer, Viva Energy Australia
- Nik Andersen, IXOM
- Paul Gregory, WesTrac
- Ray Pagliano, Optus
- Richard Bell, Aristocrat

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NEW ZEALAND DEALMAKER OF THE YEAR

JOHN STROWGER, CHAPMAN TRIPP



“It’s a great win for the team,” said Tim Tubman, partner at Chapman Tripp. “We’re very lucky to work with very good clients over a number of deals. And we’re just very pleased.”

FINALISTS

- Andrew Matthews, Simpson Grierson
- Anna Buchly, Bell Gully
- David Hoare, Russell McVeagh
- Garth Sinclair, Webb Henderson
- Silvana Schenone, MinterEllisonRuddWatts
- Simon Vannini, Simpson Grierson

SP SEARCH AND CONSULTING

AUSTRALIAN DEALMAKER OF THE YEAR

REBECCA MASLEN-STANNAGE, HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS



“I have such a fantastic team, and winning gives them a really great boost,” said Rebecca Maslen-Stannage of Herbert Smith Freehills. “I just love working on a range of deals.”

FINALISTS

- Adam Laura, Gilbert + Tobin
- Costas Condoleon, Gilbert + Tobin
- David Eliakim, King & Wood Mallesons
- Dr Martyn Taylor, Norton Rose Fulbright
- Guy Alexander, Allens
- Jason Watts, King & Wood Mallesons
- Kate Towey, Allens
- Philippa Stone, Herbert Smith Freehills
- Tom Story, Allens

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NZ DEAL FIRM OF THE YEAR

CHAPMAN TRIPP



“It’s a great win for the team,” said Tim Tubman, partner at Chapman Tripp. “We’re very lucky to work with very good clients over a number of deals. And we’re just very pleased.”

FINALISTS

- Bell Gully
- MinterEllisonRuddWatts
- Russell McVeagh
- Simpson Grierson
- Webb Henderson New Zealand

AUSTRALIAN DEAL TEAM OF THE YEAR

HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS, M&A TEAM



“Winning is very exciting,” said Natalie Bryce of Herbert Smith Freehills. “It was a real nation-building transaction, and so we’re very proud. This one had a few quite innovative elements to it, and it was a real team effort; a lot of camaraderie and support from other friends as well.”

FINALISTS

- Allens M&A Deal Team
- Gilbert + Tobin’s Corporate Advisory team
- Herbert Smith Freehills, Energy Transactions
- Herbert Smith Freehills, Equity Capital Markets
- King & Wood Mallesons, M&A Team
- MinterEllison, Infrastructure, Construction and Property
- MinterEllison, Mergers & Acquisitions

LAW FIRM LEADER OF THE YEAR (<200 EMPLOYEES)
SHANE BARBER, BIRD & BIRD



“This is great recognition of the work that the firm has done in the past four years since we’ve merged and become part of Bird & Bird,” said Shane Barber of Bird & Bird. “It’s a very authentic place. So I think we can really enjoy being there. People come and they stay.”

FINALISTS

- Bryn Hardcastle, Bellanhouse Lawyers
- Chris Ward, Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers
- Claire Carton, Griffin Legal
- Michael Harmer, Harmers Workplace Lawyers
- Paul Hopkins, Carter Newell Lawyers
- Rosalyn Gladwin, Gladwin Legal



SP SEARCH AND CONSULTING
LAW FIRM LEADER OF THE YEAR (>200 EMPLOYEES)
ROB CUTLER, CLAYTON UTZ



“Winning feels great,” said Robert Cutler of Clayton Utz. “A lot of our workloads are very high and stressful. But we put a lot of attention to employee well-being ... to try to get through that stressful period.”

FINALISTS

- Anthony Foley, Baker McKenzie
- Danny Gilbert, Gilbert + Tobin
- John Nerurker, Mills Oakley
- Michael Tooma, Clyde & Co
- Michelle Dixon, Maddocks
- Phillip Salem, Sparke Helmore Lawyers
- Tony Macvane, Hall and Wilcox

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AUSTRALIAN DEAL OF THE YEAR
COLES DEMERGER FROM WESFARMERS



This category recognises the most significant deal involving an Australian party or Australian subject matter. All winners of deal awards automatically gets to be finalist of the Australian Deal of the Year. Tom Story of Allens and Stephanie Wilkinson of Herbert Smith Freehills remarked that winning was “fantastic”.

FINALISTS

- World Bank bond-I
- Santos acquisition of Quadrant
- Transurban equity raising
- Paladin Energy restructuring
- Sale of BHP’s US oil and gas assets
- Hunter Class Frigate and ASC Shipbuilding restructure

STATE/REGIONAL FIRM OF THE YEAR
KEYSTONE LAWYERS



“It’s a fantastic achievement for everybody that’s involved with the firm,” said Lou Stojanovski, Keystone Lawyers. “I think we’ve got that caring attitude and we want to look after our clients, and their success is our success. And this is testament to the way that we do that.”

FINALISTS

- Clarendon Lawyers
- Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers
- Morgan + English Commercial Lawyers
- NDA Law
- Pragma
- Redenbach Lee Lawyers
- Southern Waters Legal

LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR (1-100 LAWYERS)
CARTER NEWELL LAWYERS



“I’m totally delighted to accept this on behalf of our fantastic team,” said Paul Hopkins, Managing Partner at Carter Newell Lawyers. “They are incredibly client-focused. We have a wonderful culture and I’m so proud of our team.”

FINALISTS

- Bird & Bird
- Chamberlains Law Firm
- Holman Webb Lawyers
- Keypoint Law
- LegalVision
- Madison Marcus Law Firm

GLOBALX
LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR (101-500 EMPLOYEES)
GILBERT + TOBIN



“It’s always great when you’re appreciated,” said a company spokesperson. “Getting an award like this is a testament to all our people and contributions they make. So it’s exciting.”

FINALISTS

- Baker McKenzie
- Barry.Nilsson.
- Gadens
- Hall & Wilcox
- Holding Redlich
- LOD - Lawyers On Demand
- Mills Oakley
- Sparke Helmore Lawyers

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FTI CONSULTING
LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR (>500 LAWYERS)
ALLENS



“We are very proud to have been awarded Law Firm of the Year (>500 lawyers) by Australasian Lawyer,” said Germaine Graham, Senior Corporate Communications Manager at Allens. “It is a great recognition for our team and our focus on helping our clients succeed and shape the future.”

FINALISTS

- Ashurst
- Clayton Utz
- Dentons
- Herbert Smith Freehills
- King & Wood Mallesons
- Minter Ellison

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CLAYTON UTZ

Clayton Utz is a leader in legal services and a firm with a uniquely independent culture. Our success reflects our focus on our two key assets: our people and our clients. We encourage our people to show leadership in everything they do and stay true to their direction. We celebrate diversity and we're passionate about access to justice - as well as giving back to the community through our Community Connect program and the Clayton Utz Foundation.

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