

Curriculum Vitae

# Antony Holmes



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RICHMOND  
CHAMBERS

# Antony Holmes

Barrister

Antony Holmes is commercial litigator with over 20 years of experience in complex disputes and contentious regulatory matters. who has acted in a wide range of commercial disputes and contentious regulatory matters. Known for both pragmatism and precision, he has particular expertise in construction and insolvency, as well as contractual, property and internal business governance disputes.

He commenced his career at leading firms in Auckland, before moving to the independent bar, then to London, and then back. He was (at the time) the youngest founding member of Richmond Chambers.

Antony represents clients at all stages from initial advice through to commencing proceedings, interlocutory stages, at trial and on appeal (when required). He is adept at achieving resolution through other dispute resolution processes, including negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Independent Barrister (2012–Present)**

**Slaughter and May, London (2010–2012)**

**Independent Barrister (2008–2010)**

**Wilson Harle (2005–2008)**

**Bell Gully (2001–2004)**

## ADMISSIONS

**New Zealand (2002)**

**As a solicitor, England & Wales (2012)**

## RECOGNITIONS

**Doyles Guide: Leading Junior Counsel in Construction & Infrastructure**

## NOTABLE CASES

### **MB Technology Ltd v Ecomi Technology PTE Limited & Others [2025] NZHC 1012**

- Successful defence of company and officers against allegations of deceit and misleading & deceptive conduct by a disgruntled advisor/investor in a start-up digital collectibles business
- Three week High Court trial involved complex legal, evidential and technical issues relating to crypto currencies and non-fungible tokens, with significant quantum at stake

### **Body Corporate 392619 v Focus Remediation Ltd [2024] NZHC 2784**

- Represented a construction company in dispute with the administrator of a Body Corporate regarding the liability of unit owners for Body Corporate debts
- Significant case on powers of administrators appointed to Body Corporates

### **Dobbe & Anor v Taylor & Anor [2024] NZHC 3657; [2025] NZHC 731**

- Acted for construction company and director in claim for breach of contract and negligence
- Complex evidential case involving an alleged oral agreement and quantum issues

### **Yoonwoo C & C Development Corp v Huh [2023] NZHC 1395; CA 363/2023**

- Lead counsel for plaintiff/appellant in a claim on a foreign judgment issued by a Court of the Republic of Korea
- Case involved significant questions about the enforcement of foreign judgments and limitation periods

### **Demasol Limited v South Pacific Industrial Limited [2022] NZCA 480**

- Successfully acted for appellant in Court of Appeal case that clarified the proper approach to payment claims under the Construction Contracts Act 2002
- Overturned earlier High Court judgment, reinforcing the "pay now, argue later" principle

### **Do Yay Ltd (in liq) v Wei & Anor [2020] NZHC 759**

- Lead counsel securing increased damages through expectation damages for misrepresentation
- Established client's entitlement to benefit of bargain lost where represented value exceeded price paid

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Barrister

## **Li v I10 Formosa (NZ) Limited [2018] NZHC 3418**

- Acted for defendants facing an \$18 million claim arising from a \$4.8 million contribution to a land purchase
- Court reaffirmed principles of resulting trusts, particularly Quistclose trusts

## **Xiao v Sun [2018] NZHC 536**

- Lead counsel in five-week trial proving client had borrowed funds at 5% weekly interest
- Court found arrangements illegal and would have been oppressive under consumer credit legislation

## **Ecowize Ltd v Affco New Zealand Ltd (14 Dec 09, HC Hamilton, Dobson J, CIV 06-419-1119);**

- Junior counsel for defendant in a dispute over cleaning services at a meat processing plant involving contractual interpretation of a Heads of Agreement document
- Case clarified principles related to "agreements to agree" and process contracts, with significant analysis of limitation periods and implied terms

## **The Minister of Education v Econicorp Holdings Ltd (21 Dec 09, HC Auckland, Keane J, CIV 2008-404-7268).**

- Junior counsel for defendant in a High Court case concerning liability for building defects in a school hall construction
- Successfully argued strike out of causes of action based on limitation period and absence of duty of care in tort for economic loss (subsequently overturned on appeal)

## **Vodafone New Zealand Ltd v Telecom New Zealand Ltd [2007] HC WN CIV-2007-485-826**

- Acted as junior counsel for Vodafone in a High Court appeal challenging the Commerce Commission's determination under the Telecommunications Act 2001

## **Lab Tests Auckland Ltd v Auckland District Health Board [2008] NZCA 385**

- As junior counsel, acted for Auckland DHBs in judicial review of \$560 million contract decision, both at first instance and in the Court of Appeal.
- The Court of Appeal overturned the High Court judgment, and in doing so clarified standards for public entities in awarding significant contracts