

Peter G. Cawthorn KC

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Admitted to the Legal Profession: 03 Dec 1984

Signed Victorian Bar Roll: 28 May 1987

Appointed Silk: 28 Nov 2007

Accredited as mediator: 28 Nov 1993

Nationally accredited mediator: 12 Jun 2008

Qualifications: BA, LL.B (Hons), LLM Michigan
<https://au.linkedin.com/in/peter-cawthorn-qc-280b783b>

Areas of Practice

Common Law/Personal Injury

- Professional Negligence
- Insurance

Commercial

- Banking
- Bankruptcy
- Building and Construction
- Contractual Disputes
- Corporate Insolvency
- Corporations Law
- Insurance
- Intellectual Property
- Real Property
- Securities and Investments

Public/Administrative

- Disciplinary Proceedings

- Judicial Review and administrative law
- Merits Review

Equity

- Family Provision
- Trusts, including constructive trusts
- Wills and Probate

Environment and Planning

- Mining

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Areas of Mediation

As above

PROFILE

- Peter has an extensive commercial law practice. He has appeared in a number of long and complex matters, including at the appellate stage. He acts in and advises in connection with substantial commercial matters in areas of administrative law, contracts, corporations and securities law, equity and trusts, insolvency, insurance law, intellectual property, landlord and tenant, product liability, professional negligence, property law, trade practices and wills and estates.
- Peter has appeared in and advised in connection with a number of class actions, including securities actions involving managed investment schemes (including recently Banksia, Willmott, Great Southern), product liability and environmental law.
- Doyles Guide – Leading or recommended Professional Indemnity Senior Counsel 2020, 2021, 2022, 2025
- Peter accepts briefs as a mediator.
- A selection of reports of cases he has recently appeared in are:

Tex Onsite Pty Ltd v Cornwalls [2026] VSC 482 (30 July 2026)

Costs in claim for proportionate liability

De Kretser Pty Ltd v De Kretser [2026] FCA 779 (19 June 2026)

Interlocutory injunction to restrain breach of directors duties

Bell v Lewis [2026] SASC 67 (8 May 2026)

Preliminary point on separate trial regarding an indemnity

Sekler v Sekler (No 7) [2026] FedCFamC1 F82 (13 February 2026)

Waiver of privilege

[Sheer v Jeffreys \(No 2\) \[2025\] NSWSC 1557 \(15 December 2025\)](#)

Contempt for alleged breach of freezing order

[Mulcahy & Co Accounting Services Pty Ltd v Porter \[2025\] VSCA 261 \(29 October 2025\)](#)

Appeal on damages involving causation of loss

[Ma v Xu \[2025\] VSC 361 \(20 June 2025\)](#)

Contract involving loan from mother to son

[LL UP Pty Ltd v Kegland Distribution Pty Ltd \(No 2\) \[2024\] VSC 801 \(20 December 2024\)](#)

Oppression where claimed shares held on trust

[Shearman v Techin MBS Pty Ltd \[2025\] FCA 1243 \(14 October 2024\)](#)

Termination of contract for sale of apartment off the plan

[Australian Securities Ltd v Victorian Managed Insurance Authority \[2024\] VSC 542 \(6 September 2024\)](#)

Domestic Building Insurance – right of financier to recovery indemnity

[Carl Finance Pty Ltd v Argent Law Pty Ltd \[2024\] VSC 424 \(22 July 2024\)](#)

Recitals in deed created binding obligations

[Independent Tube Mills Pty Ltd \(in liq\) v Corplex Pty Ltd \[2024\] VSC 267 \(24 May 2024\)](#)

Subrogation and assignability in insurance

[Porter & Anor v Mulcahy & Co Accounting Services Pty Ltd & Ors \(No 6\) \[2024\] VSC 171 \(10 April 2024\)](#)

Election between remedies

[Porter & Anor v Mulcahy & Co Accounting Services Pty Ltd & Ors \(No 5\) \[2024\] VSC 6 \(25 January 2024\)](#)

Remedies: damages and account of profits

[Zhang v Zhang & Anor \[2024\] VSC 3 \(16 January 2024\)](#)

Cross-vesting – removal from Supreme Court of Victoria to Federal Court of Australia

Sun v Sunshine International Australia Pty Ltd [2023] VSC 696 (29 November 2023)

Shareholder oppression

[Mikkelsen v Li \[2023\] VSCA 255 \(26 October 2023\)](#)

Misleading and deceptive conduct and contributory negligence