

Chris Abbott, Barrister

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General Background

An experienced commercial (advisory) barrister with specific interests in company and commercial law with more than 10 years' experience in ICT (information communications technology) contracts and contract disputes, including outsourcing and insourcing, and network construction, support and maintenance and managed services contracts. Also significant experience in complex securities law disputes, the law of directors' duties and corporate re-structuring, including supporting in-house counsel on all aspects of their role.

Professional Activities

- 2005-present: Commercial Barrister
- 2000-2004: General Counsel, Richmond Ltd, Hawke's Bay
- 1995-1999: Senior Associate, Rudd Watts & Stone, Auckland
- 1988-1995: Company Solicitor, Patent Manager, Insurance Manager and Legal Counsel, Fisher & Paykel Industries, NZ and Australia
- 1982-1987: Employed solicitor at firms in New Zealand and London

Membership of Professional Bodies

- Member, NZ Bar Association
- Member, NZ Law Society

Recent Experience

- Retained by international telecommunications company for 11 years to advise on all aspects of its NZ and Australian operations, including equipment supply, network roll-out contracts, dispute resolution with suppliers and customers, outsourcing and insourcing, support and maintenance and managed services contracts;
- Competition law - claims against regulators and market-dominant entities, cartel conduct issues;
- Property and construction contracts - leases, unit title development and construction contracts;
- Fair trading and consumer protection claims, NZ and Australia;
- Securities law - claims for breach of Listing Rules, Takeovers Code;
- Claims of breach of directors' fiduciary duties;

Also:

- Terms of trade for small and medium size businesses, NZ and Australia
- Sports law advising regulators, organisers and competitors;
- Contractual mistake claims;
- Property and lease issues;
- Employment law advice;
- Occupational safety and health;
- Shareholder agreements, joint ventures;
- Minority oppression/unfair prejudice claims;
- Intellectual property protection, infringement claims;
- Incorporated societies and other NFP entities.

Educational and Professional Qualifications

- Bachelor of Laws, Victoria University of Wellington, 1978-1983
- Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court, 1983