NYGH'S CONFLICT OF LAWS IN AUSTRALIA

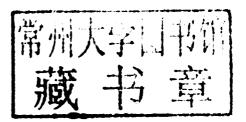
EIGHTH EDITION

M DAVIES • A S BELL • P L G BRERETON



Nygh's Conflict of Laws in Australia

Eighth Edition



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MALAYSIA Malayan Law Journal Sdn Bhd, SELANGOR DURAL EHSAN

NEW ZEALAND LexisNexis, Wellington

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SINGAPORE LexisNexis, SINGAPORE

SOUTH AFRICA LexisNexis Butterworths, DURBAN SWITZERLAND Staempfli Verlag AG, BERNE

TAIWAN LexisNexis, TAIWAN

UNITED KINGDOM LexisNexis UK, LONDON, EDINBURGH

USA LexisNexis Group, New York, NEW YORK

LexisNexis, Miamisburg, OHIO

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

Author: Davies, Martin, 1957-.

Title: Nygh's conflict of laws in Australia.

Edition: 8th edition.

ISBN: 9780409325812 (hbk).

9780409325805 (pbk).

Notes: Includes index.

Subjects: Conflict of laws — Australia.

Other Authors/Contributors: Bell, Andrew S; Brereton, Paul.

Dewey Number: 342.94042

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Reprinted 2010.

7th edition 2002, reprinted 2008.

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Inquiries should be addressed to the publishers.

Typeset in Plantin and GillSans.

Printed in Australia by Ligare Pty Ltd (NSW).

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Preface

This is the first edition of Peter Nygh's book to be published since his untimely death in 2002, the year the seventh edition was published. Peter's co-author on the seventh edition, Martin Davies, is now joined by two new co-authors, Andrew Bell SC of the New South Wales Bar and Justice Paul Brereton of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

Peter Nygh had a distinguished career as an academic and as a judge. As befits the leading Australian private international lawyer of his generation, his life and career had a distinctly international flavour. He was born in Germany, received his primary and secondary education in the Netherlands, his tertiary education in Australia, at the University of Sydney Law School, and his postgraduate education in the United States, at the University of Michigan. His career as an academic began at the University of Tasmania and continued at the University of Sydney, where he was first made Professor, and Macquarie University, where he was a Professor and Founding Head of the Law School. He also taught for a year at the University of Köln in Germany. He was then appointed as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia and later to the Appeal Division of that court. He served on the court for 14 years. During that time he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Sydney, principally in recognition of the contribution to learning made by earlier editions of this book, the first six of which he wrote alone. After retiring from the court, Peter served as Principal Member of the Refugee Review Tribunal and Visiting Professor at Bond University and the University of New South Wales.

Peter was associated with the Hague Conference on Private International Law for over 25 years, beginning with his membership of Australia's first delegation in 1975. He helped to draft the Convention on the Celebration and Recognition of the Validity of Marriages and the Convention on the Law Applicable to Matrimonial Property Regimes, and he represented Australia in the negotiations that led to the Convention on the Protection of Children. He was one of two *rapporteurs* for the Hague Conference's arduous efforts to produce an international convention on recognition and enforcement of judgments. He was honoured by the Australian Government for his outstanding contribution to private international law, and in particular his representation of Australia at the Hague Conference, by the award of a Centenary Medal in 2001 and the Order of Australia in 2002.

A Festschrift was planned to honour Peter on his 70th birthday, which would have been in March 2003. Regrettably, it was eventually published in 2004 as a Gedächtnisschrift. It featured contributions from 30 scholars in 15 different countries, a fitting tribute to the breadth of Peter's international reputation. The essays covered many different areas, reflecting Peter's wide range of interests and expertise. (See Intercontinental Cooperation Through Private International Law: Essays in Memory of Peter E. Nygh, Einhorn and Siehr (eds), TMC Asser Press, The Hague, 2004.) Peter took a particular interest in issues at the intersection of his two main areas of

specialisation — family law and private international law — such as the challenges posed by the differing attitudes of systems of law to social changes such as same-sex marriage and civil unions, and assisted reproductive techniques.

The co-authors of this, the eighth edition, are keenly aware of the weight of the responsibility of continuing Peter Nygh's legacy in this book. We have extensively reorganised and restructured the book in a way that we hope respects Peter's seminal contribution while also expanding and updating the material covered. There are new chapters entitled 'Interlocutory Relief' (Chapter 4), 'Evidence from and for Other Countries' (Chapter 11) and 'Restitutionary Claims and Equitable Obligations' (Chapter 21), each of which contains much-expanded treatment of material covered in previous editions or, in some cases, wholly new material. The chapter formerly called 'The Inappropriate Forum' has been split into three new chapters entitled 'Forum Selection and Arbitration Agreements' (Chapter 7), 'Restraint of Local Proceedings: Clearly Inappropriate Forum' (Chapter 8) and 'Restraint of Foreign Proceedings: Anti-Suit Injunctions, (Chapter 9), with significantly expanded coverage. The chapter formerly entitled 'Arbitration' has been split among Chapter 7 (which deals concurrently with forum selection and arbitration agreements), Chapter 39 on 'Choice of Law in Arbitration' (which now includes a section on sporting arbitrations) and Chapter 43 entitled 'Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards', again with significant expansion of coverage. Bankruptcy and corporate insolvency are now treated in a single chapter (Chapter 36) reflecting the scope and sphere of operation of the Cross-Border Insolvency Act 2008 (Cth) in both areas.

Martin Davies and Andrew Bell jointly revised Chapter 3 entitled 'Jurisdiction in Personam'. The lack of uniformity both as between the states and as between the State Supreme Courts and the Federal Court in relation to extended jurisdiction and service upon individuals and corporations resident or present abroad continues to be an undesirable feature of practice in this area, and is ripe for co-ordinated reform by the rules committees of the several superior courts of the country.

Martin Davies is responsible for Chapters 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 32, 33, 34, 38, 40 and 42. Andrew Bell is responsible for Chapters 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41 and 43. Chapters 7 and 9 draw upon the structure and some of the content of Andrew Bell's earlier work, *Forum Shopping and Venue in Transnational Litigation* (OUP, 2003). Paul Brereton revised the whole of the section on Family Law: Chapters 24–31. All three authors take formal responsibility for the chapters in that section. Martin Davies and Andrew Bell (and, of course, Peter Nygh) are formally responsible for the balance of the chapters.

There have been many developments in the areas covered by this book in the seven years since the previous edition. The new edition considers, among many other things, the decisions of the High Court of Australia in Regie Nationale des Usines Renault SA v Zhang (2002) 210 CLR 491; 187 ALR 1, confirming the application of the lex loci delicti choice of law rule to transnational torts; Dow Jones & Co Inc v Gutnick (2002) 210 CLR 575; 194 ALR 433, considering jurisdiction over alleged defamation on the Internet; Neilson v Overseas Projects Corporation of Victoria Ltd (2005) 223 CLR 331; 221 ALR 213, confirming the application of some form of renvoi in torts cases; and Puttick v Tenon Ltd (2008) 238 CLR 265; 250 ALR 482,

reaffirming the court's adherence to the 'clearly inappropriate forum' test for granting a stay of proceedings. It also considers important decisions of the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia such as Comandate Marine Corp v Pan Australia Shipping Pty Ltd (2006) 157 FCR 45 on the operation of arbitration agreements in relation to claims under the Trade Practices Act 1974 (Cth) and the nature and scope of the Admiralty jurisdiction in rem; and Petrotimor Companhia de Petroleos SARL v Commonwealth of Australia (2003) 126 FCR 354, dealing with non-justiciability on grounds of sovereign authority. These are just examples: there have been many other developments in state and territory courts since the previous edition as the practical importance of the subject, and volume of case law, continues to grow in an ever more interdependent, instantaneous and mobile world.

As well as common law developments, the new edition contains consideration of the Cross-Border Insolvency Act 2008 (Cth), implementing the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency; the extensive revision by most states and territories of their civil procedure rules; and imminent legislative developments as reflected in the Trans-Tasman Proceedings Bill 2009 (Cth), the Personal Property Securities Bill 2009 (Cth), the adoption of the Hague Service Convention and the ongoing review and possible reform of the International Arbitration Act 1974 (Cth). It has not been possible to integrate into the text much discussion of the detailed reforms which will be introduced by the Trans-Tasman Proceedings Bill, in particular. When enacted, this legislation will make provision for the service of Australian initiating process in New Zealand; modify the common law test for stays of proceedings in circumstances where a New Zealand court is the more appropriate forum; permit Australian courts to grant interim relief in support of a New Zealand proceeding; create an obligation to comply with New Zealand subpoenas in Australia; lay down the procedure for the issuing of Australian subpoenas to persons in New Zealand; and facilitate 'remote' appearances in New Zealand proceedings. The Act will also introduce significant changes in relation to the recognition and enforcement in Australia of specified judgments of New Zealand courts and tribunals including non-money judgments. The Act also contains provisions in respect of Trans-Tasman market proceedings and evidence of certain New Zealand matters including matters of New Zealand law by way of consolidation of existing legislation. Reciprocal legislation will be enacted in New Zealand, further integrating the legal systems of both countries.

Although there have been significant legislative developments of the kind just mentioned, Australian conflict of laws is still largely driven by the common law. To that extent, it is increasingly divergent from its parent in the United Kingdom, where the principles governing the traditional conflict of laws areas of jurisdiction, choice of law and enforcement are all now heavily influenced by the instruments designed to shape the processes of dispute resolution within the European Union. The great English conflicts texts such as *Dicey, Morris & Collins on the Conflict of Laws*, 14th ed, Thomson Sweet & Maxwell, London, 2006 and Cheshire, North and Fawcett, *Private International Law*, 14th ed, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2008 are of ever-decreasing utility for Australian lawyers as they understandably focus on the relationship between the United Kingdom and its European neighbours rather than on the traditional common law conflict of laws.

Andrew Bell acknowledges the very valuable assistance of his secretary, Judi Sheridan, in deciphering hieroglyphics of the most obscure and intricate kind, and the forebearance of his family in enduring his constant state of over-commitment. He also warmly acknowledges his very great academic debt to Professor Adrian Briggs who is now surely the pre-eminent conflict of laws academic in the common law world, always hungry for fresh insights and expert in their elucidation. Adrian Briggs and Mary Keyes also gave invaluable assistance to Martin Davies as he grappled with the revision of the chapter on renvoi. Martin Davies and Andrew Bell also thank Tracy Brennan and Catherine Fitch of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department for keeping them informed in relation to the progress of various Commonwealth legislative initiatives. Paul Brereton would particularly like to thank three tipstaves; Anna Coffey, Joseph Johnson and Charles Alexander, who gave him considerable research assistance.

We would also like to express our thanks to Kate Hickey, formerly of LexisNexis, who saw this edition through until almost the end, her replacements at LexisNexis, Banita Dimitrioska and Jocelyn Holmes, and also to Georgia O'Neill for her painstaking and scrupulous editorial work. All who assisted on the production side are particularly to be thanked for their patience as we sent through chapters on an erratic and piecemeal basis. Our thanks go too to Madeleine Davis, who prepared the Index.

Martin Davies New Orleans Andrew Bell Sydney Paul Brereton Sydney

Table of Cases

references are to paragraphs

A Co Ltd v Republic of X [1990] 2 Llovd's Rep

214 3.105

.... 43.3, 43.13

31 FCR 1 35.10

40.19, 40.84, 40.85

ACN 006 397 413 Pty Ltd v International

Movie Group (Canada) Inc [1997] 2 VR 31

Acton Engineering Pty Ltd v Campbell (1991)

Adams v Cape Industries plc [1990] Ch 433

.... 26.62, 35.17, 35.24, 40.10, 40.11, 40.17,

-v National Bank of Greece SA [1961] AC 255 14.42, 14.45, 18.63, 19.101, 35.49

Airbus Industrie GIE v Patel [1999] 1 AC 119;

Turner v Grovit [2002] 1 WLR 107 9.8

(1996) 188 CLR 418 6.32, 7.80, 19.11,

19.18, 19.22, 19.25, 19.26, 19.42, 19.49,

Ajatni v Comptroller of Customs [1954] 1

Akai Pty Ltd v People's Insurance Co Ltd

WLR 1405 17.28

39.2, 39.3, 40.17

520 10.16, 10.35	Adcock v Aarons (1903) 5 WALR 140 3.45
A/O A M Luther v James Sagor & Co [1921]	Addison v Brown [1954] 2 All ER 213
3KB 532 18.24	18.41
A/S Tallinna Laevauhisus v Estonian State SS	Adelaide Electric Supply Co v Prudential
Line (1947) 80 LI LR 99 17.32	Assurance Co [1934] AC 122 19.91
A v A (Child Abduction) [1993] 2 FLR 225	AFG Insurances Ltd [2002] NSWSC 735 36.43
	AG for Ceylon v Reid [1965] AC 720 24.30,
13.36	24.36
A v B [2007] 1 Lloyd's Rep 237 39.8	AG for Victoria v Commonwealth (1962) 107
A v B [1979] 1 NSWLR 57 28.13, 28.15	CLR 529 29.7, 29.9
A v GS (2004) 32 Fam LR 583 28.43	AG v Bouwens (1838) 4 M & W 171 32.30,
Abate v Abate [1961] P 29 26.49	32.39
ABC Shipbrokers v The Offi Gloria [1993]	AG v Glendining (1904) 92 LT 87 32.43
3 NZLR 576 16.43, 33.71	Agar v Hyde (2000) 201 CLR 552 3.29,
ABC v Lenah Game Meats Pty Ltd (2001) 208	3.33, 3.36, 20.12
CLR 199; 185 ALR 1 4.6	Agee, In the Marriage of (2000) 27 Fam LR
Abebe v Commonwealth (1999) 197 CLR 510;	140 28.73, 28.76
162 ALR 1 5.5	Agnew v Usher (1884) 14 QBD 78 3.84
AbidinDaver, The [1984] AC 398 7.88	Agro Co of Canada Ltd v The Regal Scout
Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd v Transfield Pty	(1983) 148 DLR (3rd) 412 7.42
Ltd [1998] VSC 103 7.5	-v The Regal Scout [1984] 2 FC 851 7.21
Abouloff v Oppenheimer (1882) 10 QBD 295	Ah Yin v Christie (1907) 4 CLR 1428 13.18
40.68	Aichhorn & Co KG v The Ship MV Talabot
Abrook v Paterson (1995) 136 ALR 753	(1975) 132 CLR 449 5.11
6.39 6.59	AIG Europe SA v QBE International Insurance
Acc Fin International Securities Ltd v National	Ltd [2001] 2 Lloyd's Rep 268 7.23
Trustees Executors and Agency Co of	AIG Europe (UK) Ltd v The Ethniki [2000]
Australasia Ltd (1990) 99 FLR 432 6.20	2 All ER 566 7.23
ACD Tridon v Tridon Australia [2002]	AIG (UK) Ltd v QBE Insurance (Europe) Ltd
NSWSC 896 7.32, 7.35, 7.56	[2008] QSC 308 6.31, 19.9
Ace Insurance Ltd v Moose Enterprise Pty Ltd	Ainslie v Ainslie (1927) 39 CLR 381 26.52,
[2009] NSWSC 724 7.64, 7.66, 9.1, 9.20,	40.32, 40.42, 40.57, 40.59
9.23, 9.33, 19.14, 19.19	Air Attention WA Pty Ltd v Seeley International
Ace Insurance SA NV v Zurich Insurance Co	Pty Ltd (Walsh J, SC (WA), 3 September
[2001] 1 Lloyd's Rep 618 7.60	1996, BC9604200, unreported) 6.29
Acehill Investments Pty Ltd v Incitec Ltd	Air Foyle Ltd v Center Capital Ltd [2003] 2
[2004] SASC 344 35.10	Lloyd's Rep 753 40.89
ACN 076 676 438 Pty Ltd (in liq)	Air Nauru v Niue Airlines Ltd [1993] 2 NZLR
v A-Comms Teledata Pty Ltd [2000] WASC	632 7.52

- v People's Insurance Co Ltd [1998] 1 Lloyd's Rep 90 9.1, 9.3, 9.20, 19.49, 40.17, 40.43
- v People's Insurance Company (1997) 188CLR 418 7.40, 7.50
- Akbarali v Brent London Borough Council [1983] 2 AC 309 13.34, 13.36
- Al-Bassam v Al-Bassam [2002] EWHC 2281 19.8
- Al Battani, The [1993] 2 Lloyd's Rep 219 7.86, 19.49
- Al Midani v Al Midani [1999] 1 Lloyd's Rep 923 19.8
- Alaska Packers Assn v Industrial Accident Commission of California (1935) 294 US 532 2.22
- Albeko Schuhmaschinen AG v The Kamborian Shoe Machine Co Ltd (1961) 111 LJ 519 19.64
- Alcock v Smith [1892] 1 Ch 238 22.17, 22.22, 22.23, 22.24, 33.25
- Alcom Ltd v Republic of Columbia [1984] AC 580 10.20, 10.36
- Aldridge Electrical Industries Pty Ltd v Mobitec AB (2001) 39 ACSR 287 23.15
- Alexandra I, The [1972] 2 Lloyd's Rep 469 23.4
- Alexsandrov v Alexsandrov [1967] SASR 303 26.48, 26.53
- Ali v Ali [1968] P 564 24.31, 24.34, 24.36, 24.37, 24.39
- Alkimos Shipping Company v Hind Lever Chemicals Corporation Ltd [2004] FCA 969 9.1, 9.20
- All-State Life Insurance Co v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd (No 33) (1996) 64 FCR 17.8
- Allan J Panozza & Co Pty Ltd v Allied Interstate (Q) Pty Ltd [1976] 2 NSWLR 192 16.17, 19.106
- Allen v Kemble (1848) 6 Moo PCC 314 22.29 Allen v Lloyd's of London 94 F 3d 923 (1996) 7.47
- Alliance Bank (Ltd) v Irving (1865) 4 SCR (NSW) Eq 17 37.24
- Allison, In the Marriage of (1981) 1 SR(WA) 248 27.27
- Allonah Pty Ltd v The Ship Amanda N (1989) 21 FCR 60; 90 ALR 391 5.14
- Allsopp v Incorporated Newsagencies Co Pty
- Ltd (1975) 26 FLR 238 20.15, 20.71 Allstate Insurance v Hague (1981) 449 US 302 2.24
- Allstate Life Insurance Co v ANZ Banking Group Ltd (1996) 64 FCR 1 9.1, 9.12, 9.15, 9.29
- —v ANZ Banking Group Ltd (No 18) (1995) 133 ALR 667 11.17
- —v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd (1996) 64 FCR 55 9.13

- —v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd [1995] FCA 1563 9.1
- —v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd (FCA, 21 September 1995, unreported) 9.19
- —v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd (No 33) (1996) 64 FCR 79 17.30
- —v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd (No 18) (1995) 133 ALR 667 11.18
- —v Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd (No 4) (Court's Allstate Judgment No 29) (1996) 64 FCR 61 11.18
- Altertext Inc v Advanced Data Communications Ltd [1985] 1 All ER 395 3.4, 4.16
- Aluminium Industrie Vaassen BV v Romalpa Aluminium Ltd [1976] 1 WLR 676 33.33
- Amaca Pty Ltd v Frost (2006) 67 NSWLR 635 20.11
- Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd v McDonnell Douglas Corporation (1987) 77 ALR 537 35.20, 35.24
- Amanuel v Alexandros Shipping Co [1986] QB 464 3.77, 3.78
- Amazonia, The [1990] 1 Lloyd's Rep 236 7.25, 7.37
- Amchem Products Inc v Workers Compensation Board [1993] 1 SCR 897 9.8
- American Diagnostica Inc v Gradipore Ltd (1998) 44 NSWLR 312 39.1, 39.7, 39.9, 39.10
- American Nonwovens Inc v Non Wovens Engineering SRL, 648 So 2d 565, 567 (Ala 1994) 15.14
- Amin Rasheed Shipping Corporation v Kuwait Insurance Co [1984] AC 50 19.1, 19.23, 19.27, 19.31, 19.32, 19.33
- Amir of Qatar: Thor Shipping A/S v Ship 'Al Duhail' (2008) 252 ALR 20 10.4
- Amor v Macpak Pty Ltd (1989) 95 ALR 10
- AMP Society v GEC Diesels Australia Ltd [1989] VR 407 3.64, 3.80
- -v Gregory (1908) 5 CLR 615 32.5, 32.8, 32.11, 36.6
- Amrad Operations Pty Ltd v Genelabs Technologies Inc (1999) 45 IPR 447 3.36
- Amwano v Parbery (2005) 148 FCR 126; 226 ALR 767 8.37, 17.3
- Andersen v King County, 138 P 3d 963 (2006) (Washington) 24.8
- Anderson v Equitable Assurance Society of the United States (1926) 134 LT 557 23.7
- —v Eric Anderson Radio and TV Pty Ltd (1965) 114 CLR 20 2.13, 2.14, 5.15
- —v Johnson (1877) 1 Knox (NSW) 1 16.39
- v NV Transandine Handelsmij (1941) 31
 NYS 2d 194 35.37
- Andhika Samyra, The [1989] 1 HKLR 198 7.42

- Andrico Unity, The 1989 (4) SA 325 16.43, 33.71
- Angelic Grace, The [1994] 1 Lloyd's Rep 168 7.72
- [1995] 1 Lloyd's Rep 87 9.20, 9.22
- Angliss v Urquhart [2002] NSWCA 256 31.1 Anglo-Australian Foods Ltd v Von Planta (1988) 20 FCR 34 8.4
- Anglo-Czechoslovak & Prague Credit Bank v Janssen [1943] VLR 185 10.6
- Angus v Commonwealth (1962) 79 WN (NSW) 388 5.22
- Annefield, The [1971] P 168 at 173 7.22 Annetts v Australian Stations Pty Ltd (2002) 211 CLR 317; 191 ALR 449 20.27
- Anning v Anning (1907) 4 CLR 1049 33.16, 33.30, 33.63
- Antclizo Shipping Corporation v Food Corporation of India (SC (WA), Bredmeyer M, 6 November 1998, unreported) 43.15
- Anton Piller KG v Manufacturing Processes Ltd [1976] Ch 55 4.1
- Antoniou, In the Marriage of [1990] FLC 92-146 28.21
- ANZ Banking Group Ltd v Cawood [1987] 1 Qd R 131 23.11, 23.20
- ANZ Grindlays Bank plc v Fattah (1991) 4WAR 296 3.30, 3.4, 4.2, 4.16, 4.19, 4.20, 4.25
- APLA Ltd v Legal Services Commr (NSW) (2005) 224 CLR 322 2.3
- Apple Computer Inc v Apple Corporations SA [1990] 2 NZLR 598 7.52
- Apple Corporations Ltd v Apple Computer Inc [1992] RPC 70 9.20
- Applewhite v Etheridge (1936) 187 SE 588 33.53 Application of Whitton [2007] NSWSC 606 4.14
- Apt v Apt [1947] P 127 14.4, 14.16, 14.17, 14.18, 14.41
- -v Apt [1948] P 83 14.4, 25.8
- Arab Monetary Fund v Hashim (No 3) [1991] 2 AC 114 10.60
- Arab Monetary Fund v Hashim (No 5) [1992] 2 All ER 910 4.23
- —v Hashim [1993] 1 Lloyd's Rep 543, affd [1996] 1 Lloyd's Rep 589 21.6
- —v Hashim [1996] 1 Lloyd's Rep 589 21.6
 Aratra Potato Co Ltd v Egyptian Navigation Co (The El Amria) [1982] 1 Lloyd's Rep 119
- Arhill Pty Ltd v General Terminal Co Pty Ltd (1990) 23 NSWLR 545 4.10, 4.14, 11.5, 11.33
- Armacel Pty Ltd v Smurfit Stone Container Corporation (2007) 164 FCR 123 4.12
- —v Smurfit Stone Container Corporation (2008) 248 ALR 573 3.37
- Armagas Ltd v Mundogas SA [1986] AC 717 20.6, 20.19

- Armar Shipping Co Ltd v Caisse Algerienne d'Assurance et de Reassurance (The Armar) [1981] 1 All ER 498 3.58
- Armitage v Attorney-General [1906] P 135 15.17, 26.46
- Armstead v Armstead [1954] VLR 733 13.8, 13.23
- Armstrong v Armstrong [1892] P 98 9.13 Armytage v Armytage [1898] P 178 13.36
- Arnotts Ltd v Trade Practices Commission (1990) 97 ALR 555 5.15
- Ash v Lloyd's Corporation (1991) 6 OR (3d) 235; (1992) 9 OR (3d) 755 7.27, 7.47
- Ashville Investments v Elmer Contractors [1989] 1 QB 488 7.72
- ASIC v International Unity Insurance (General) Ltd [2004] FCA 1060 35.21
- Assetinsure Pty Ltd v New Cap Reinsurance Corporation Ltd (in liq) (2006) 225 CLR 331 32.32, 32.34
- Assicurazioni Generali SpA v Ege Sigorta A/S (Colman I, 31 July 2001, unreported) 7.23
- Associated Alloys Pty Ltd v ACN 001 452 106 Pty Ltd (in liq) (2000) 171 ALR 568 33.34
- Assunzione, The [1954] P 150 19.29
- Astley v Austrust Ltd (1999) 197 CLR 1; 161 ALR 155 20.36
- Atco Industries (Aust) Pty Ltd v Ancla Maritima SA (1984) 35 SASR 408 3.30
- Atkinson Footwear Ltd v Hodgskin International Services Ltd (1994) 31 IPR 186 32.38
- Atlantic Star, The [1974] AC 436 8.9 Attorney-General (Alberta) v Cook [1926] AC 444 13.7, 13.17
- Attorney-General for Ceylon v Reid [1965] AC 720 24.24, 24.33
- Attorney-General (NSW) v Ray (1989) 90 ALR 263 6.48
- Attorney-General of England and Wales v R [2002] NZLR 91 14.40, 21.15
- Attorney-General of New Zealand v Ortiz [1984] AC 1 18.3, 18.24, 18.29, 18.30
- Attorney-General (UK) v Heinemann Publishers Australia Pty Ltd (1987) 10 NSWLR 86 21.12
- v Heinemann Publishers Australia Pty Ltd
 (1988) 165 CLR 30 2.29, 10.70, 18.1,
 18.3, 18.5, 18.8, 18.22, 18.29, 18.32
- Attorney-General v Kent (1862) 1 HL Cas 12 13.23
- -v Kevin (2003) 30 Fam LR 1 24.1, 24.15, 24.16
- —v McLean (1876) 14 SCR (NSW) 72 13.6 —v Parsons [1956] AC 421 35.40
- Attorney General v Otahuhu Family Court [1995] 1 NZLR 603 24.14
- Auckland Corporation v Alliance Assurance Co [1937] AC 587 19.91

- Augustus v Permanent Trustee Co (Canberra) Ltd (1971) 124 CLR 245 21.12, 34.9, 34.11
- Aussie Home Security Pty Ltd v Sales Systems Australia Pty Ltd (2000) 172 ALR 141 20.12
- Austral Pacific Group Ltd (in liq) v Airservices Australia (2000) 203 CLR 136; 173 ALR 619 5.15, 5.16, 5.17, 5.19
- Australasian Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd v Howe (1922) 31 CLR 290 5.2
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation v Lenah Game Meats Pty Ltd (2001) 208 CLR 199 9.5, 9.6
- —v Waterhouse (1991) 25 NSWLR 519
 …. 6.37, 6.40, 6.44, 20.16
- Australian Commercial Research & Development Ltd v ANZ McCaughan Merchant Bank Ltd [1989] 3 All ER 65 8.42, 8.52, 8.54
- —v ANZ McCaughan Merchant Bank Ltd [1990] 1 Qd R 101 3.30
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v April International Marketing Services Australia Pty Ltd [2009] FCA 735 3.32, 3.97
- —v Chaste Corporation Pty Ltd (in liq) [2002] FCA 1183 3.27
- -v Chen (2003) 132 FCR 309; 201 ALR 40
- —v Kokos International Pty Ltd [2007] FCA 2035 3.11, 3.27
- Australian Federation of Consumer Organisations Inc v Tobacco Institute of Australia Ltd (1990) 95 ALR 444 11.17
- Australian Federation of Islamic Councils Inc vWestpac Banking Corporation (1988) 17 NSWLR 623 10.2, 10.9, 10.13, 10.20, 10.65
- Australian Insurance Brokers Ltd v Hudig Langeveldt Pty Ltd (No 2) (1991) 7 WAR 343 3.39
- Australian Iron and Steel v Hoogland (1962) 108 CLR 471 16.13
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xxviii

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 40.54
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 Beldis, The [1936] P 51 5.13
 Belgenland, The, 114 US 355 (1885) 8.8
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- Betta Cones Co Pty Ltd v Microbyte Investments Pty Ltd [1993] ACL Rep 185 Vic 10 4.23, 4.24
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- BHP Billiton Ltd v Schultz (2004) 221 CLR 400 3.25, 5.2, 5.3, 5.18, 6.1, 6.5, 6.13, 6.16, 6.24, 6.28, 6.30, 6.31, 6.35, 6.53, 8.2
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- —v Papierwerke Waldhof-Aschaffenburg AG [1981] 2 Lloyd's Rep 446 39.2, 39.4
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- Boele v Norsemeter Holding AS [2002] NSWCA 363 17.45, 40.42, 40.55, 40.59, 40.81, 40.82
- Bond Brewing Holdings Ltd v Crawford (1989) 1 WAR 517 6.12, 42.28, 42.29
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- —v Commonwealth [1951] AC 201 19.28, 19.90, 23.1, 23.4, 23.5
- Boocock v Hilton International Co [1993] 4 All ER 19 3.30
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- Bulldogs Rugby League Club Ltd v Williams [2008] NSWSC 822 3.11, 3.41, 3.101
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- Busst v Lotsirb Nominees Pty Ltd [2003] 1 Qd R 477 19.30, 19.33
- Buttes Gas and Oil v Hammer [1982] AC 888 10.73, 10.81, 10.82
- Buttigeig v Universal Terminal and Stevedoring Corporation [1972] VR 626 3.65, 20.6, 20.9
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Byrnes v Groote Eylandt Mining Co Pty Ltd (1990) 19 NSWLR 13 16.13

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- C v C (Ancillary Relief: Nuptial Settlement) [2005] Fam 250 34.25
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- C v D [2007] EWHC 1541 39.4, 39.8
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- Cain, In the Marriage of (1987) 11 Fam LR 540 27.24, 27.31
- Caldwell v Caldwell [1946] SASR 185 13.36
- Callwood v Callwood [1960] AC 659 17.5, 27.20
- Cambridge Credit Corporation (In liq) v Lissenden (1987) 8 NSWLR 411 20.51, 32.35
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- Canadian Pacific Railway Co v Parent [1917] AC 195 20.37
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- Cannon Screen Entertainment Ltd v Handmade Films (Distributors) Ltd (July 11, 1989, unreported) 7.65
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- Cardile v LED Builders Pty Ltd (1999) 198 CLR 380 4.6, 4.17, 4.19, 4.28, 9.6, 40.39
- Carl Zeiss Stiftung v Rayner & Keeler Ltd (No 2) [1967] AC 853 17.6, 33.51, 35.38, 35.39, 40.2, 40.35, 40.43, 40.45, 40.50, 40.51, 40.53, 40.88

- Carmona v White (1980) 25 SASR 525 29.10
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- Carolina Co v Assurantie NV [1987] AC 24 9.13
- Carr v Fracis Times & Co [1902] AC 176 10.71
- Carrick Estates Ltd v Young [1988] 1 WWR 261 40.14
- Carroll v Lanza (1955) 349 US 408 2.22
- Carron Iron Co v Maclaren (1855) 5 HL Cas 416 9.2
- Carvalho v Hull, Blyth (Angola) Ltd [1979] 1 WLR 1228 7.28, 7.78, 7.86, 7.88
- Casdagli v Casdagli [1919] AC 145 1.15, 13.5
- Cash v Nominal Defendant (1969) 90 WN (NSW) Pty 1 77 37.6, 37.7, 37.8
- Cashel v Carr (2005) 34 Fam LR 256 26.6 Castillon v P & O Ports Ltd [2007] QCA 364 40.51
- Castree v Squibb Ltd [1980] 2 All ER 589 3.65
- Castrique v Imrie (1870) LR 4 HL 414 33.22, 40.27, 40.28
- Caterpillar Inc v Lewis, 519 US 61 (1996) 5.2
- Catterall v Catterall (1847) 1 Rob Eccl 580 25.8, 25.9
- CBS United Kingdom Ltd v Lambert [1983] Ch 37 4.23
- CE Heath Underwriting & Insurance (Australia) Pty Ltd v Barden (SC (NSW), Rolfe J, 19/10/94, BC9403144, unreported) 8.55
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- Celtic Resources Holdings plc v Arduina Holding BV (2006) 32 WAR 276 4.6, 4.19, 4.20, 40.40
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- Chaff and Hay Acquisition Committee v JA Hemphill & Sons Pty Ltd (1947) 74 CLR 375 35.30, 35.31
- Challenor v Douglas [1983] 2 NSWLR 405 3.64
- Channel Tunnel Group Ltd v Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd [1993] AC 334 4.5, 9.3, 39.1

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- —vTravelstead (1998) 86 FCR 460 36.27, 36.31
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- Charron 19.53
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- Chase Manhattan Bank v New Hampshire Insurance Co, 749 NYS 2d 632 (NY Sup 2002) 8.54
- Chatenay v Brasilian Submarine Telegraph Co [1891] 1 QB 79 19.89
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- Chellaram v Chellaram [1985] Ch 409 34.5, 34.10, 34.14, 34.16, 34.27
- Cheni v Cheni [1965] P 85 24.26
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- Chetti v Chetti [1909] P 67 25.41
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- Chief Executive Officer of Customs v Labrador Liquor Wholesale Pty Ltd (2003) 216 CLR 161; 201 ALR 1 5.15
- China Sichuan Chanhong Electric Company Ltd v CTA International Pty Ltd [2009] FCA 397 43.6
- Choice Investments Ltd v Jeromnimon Midland Bank Ltd, Garnishee [1981] QB 149 23.15, 23.21
- Chong, In the Marriage of (1992) 15 Fam LR 629 28.20
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- Christofaro v Christofaro [1948] VLR 193 12.12

- Christos, The [1977] 1 Lloyd's Rep 109 7.36
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- -v Lo Bianco (1991) 59 BCLR (2d) 334 40.9
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- Cloncurry's Case (1811) 25.21
- Close v Arnot (SC (NSW), Graham AJ, 21 November 1997, BC9706194, unreported) 40.6, 40.69, 41.19
- Clough Engineering Ltd v Oil & Natural Gas Company of India (2008) 249 ALR 458 7.40, 7.47, 19.13, 19.47, 19.48
- Clunies-Ross v Totterdell (1988) 20 FCR 358 36.43
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- Coast Lines Ltd v Hudig & Veder Chartering NV [1972] 2 QB 34 7.43, 19.35, 19.37
- Coates as Liquidator of Campus Holidays Ltd v Charles Porter & Sons Pty Ltd (1990) 2 ACSR 733 3.62
- Codelfa Construction Pty Ltd v State Rail Authority (NSW) (1982) 149 CLR 337 16.22, 19.22, 19.25
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xxxiv