

Scott Butler

Partner
Hall & Wilcox



With over 25 years' experience, Scott is a leading commercial dispute resolution lawyer with a broad practice working with clients, company directors, and advisers in a range of sectors. Specialising in restructuring and insolvency, Scott is recognised as one of Queensland's leading and most experienced lawyers in this field. As an expert in distressed turnarounds and restructures, Scott often works collaboratively with other turnaround and restructuring professionals, assisting with and documenting corporate restructures, and advising company directors in relation to their duties.

Brett Cook

Partner
Clayton Utz



Brett advises banks and other financiers, insolvency practitioners, government and semi-governmental entities, and corporate clients on all aspects relating to secured recovery work, restructurings and workouts, receiverships, voluntary administrations, deeds of company arrangement and liquidations. Brett's experience includes receiverships of property developments and construction companies, rural and agricultural businesses, airlines, retail and other trading enterprises, mining companies, investment schemes, hotels and pubs, aged care facilities and retirement villages, to name only a few. Brett has also undertaken major debt restructuring work arising from the insolvency or near insolvency of substantial corporate clients. He advised the Australian subsidiaries of Parmalat Finanziaria SpA, following the multi-billion dollar global collapse of that group. His recent engagements include Virgin Australia Airlines, Collection House and Caledon Coal, together with a number of safe harbour advisory roles.

Joanne Dunn

Senior Managing Director
FTI Consulting



Joanne Dunn has more than 26 years of experience in corporate finance and restructuring, leveraging expertise in all aspects of corporate and personal appointments including receiverships, voluntary administrations, liquidations, deed of company arrangements, Part X arrangements and bankruptcies.

As a liquidator and bankruptcy trustee, Joanne has worked on appointments across a broad range of industries including mining and mining services, property development, engineering services, labour hire, retail and entertainment.

Joanne utilises her experience and professional skills to project manage complex appointments, working closely with a diverse team to produce the best commercial outcome for all stakeholders.

Michael Fingland

Executive Director and CEO
Vantage Performance



Michael has 25 years of experience in corporate turnaround and transformation. He has worked with SME's through to large listed companies turning over up to \$2bln, across a wide range of industries. Michael regularly acts as a Chief Restructuring Officer, Board Advisor or NED ensuring that the executive team has a robust Strategic/Turnaround Plan, a stable platform upon which to execute it and that the organisation develops a strong culture based around disciplined people, disciplined thought and disciplined action. Michael founded Vantage Performance in 2005 as there was a lack of specialist turnaround advisory firms to help companies navigate their way through their critical challenges. Vantage has since evolved into a firm that also specialises in helping companies scale up.

Scott Guthrie

Director – Turnaround Management Association
Partner - Thomson Geer



Scott draws on his more than 25 years of expertise to advise clients in the finance, insolvency and property industries. Scott's clients include investors, shareholders, directors and insolvency practitioners. Scott also has discrete expertise in property disputes, advising developers and land owners in various matters, including lease disputes, co-ownership disputes and joint venture and partnership disputes. Scott also advises directors and other officers in regulatory matters, including proceedings or investigations by ASIC and other regulators.

Kevin Higgins

Executive Director
Vantage Performance



Kevin, a CPA, has more than 18 years of corporate restructuring experience. He has proven himself to be a proactive and successful Chief Restructuring Officer; having led start-up, turnaround and high growth organisations. He has worked on a number of assignments across a range of industry sectors, both locally and nationally. Kevin's advisory and restructuring experience includes independent business reviews, development and implementation of financial restructuring, recapitalisation and refinancing strategies. Prior to joining Vantage Performance Kevin worked for two national corporate recovery firms, which included a secondment to Perth, where he played a key role in establishing the practice in Western Australia.

Kevin Hozapfel

Partner
PwC



Kevin is a Partner in PwC's Financial Advisory practice and is the Brisbane Deals people and site leader. Kevin is a Chartered Accountant and a TMA member who specialises in lead advisory with a focus on undertaking reviews in relation to business viability and sustainability to identify opportunities to improve business operations. He has extensive experience in financial capacity and business viability assessments focusing on the identification of financial risks, including developing strategies to mitigate these risks when working with financial institutions, private corporations and various levels of Government. Kevin has over 20 years corporate advisory and restructuring experience including 5 years based in the United Kingdom.

Scott Sharpy

Partner
Clayton Utz



Scott is an experienced commercial litigator and restructuring and insolvency specialist having acted for a wide range of private sector, Local, State and Federal government clients over the past 20 years throughout Australia. He acts in large complex commercial litigation, Corporations Law and insolvency matters including for banks, financiers, liquidators, receivers and administrators. Scott has also had roles in relation to some of the largest scale corporate collapses in the State (for example MFS/Octavio and Storm) and has led the teams involved in large scale Commission of Inquiry matters in Queensland. Scott is also the current Partner-in-charge of the Brisbane office of Clayton Utz.

Kate Whalan

Staff Partner
McInnes Wilson Lawyers



Kate is a Principal in the Disputes and Insolvency division at McInnes Wilson Lawyers with significant expertise in Court and Tribunal matters, advocacy, negotiation and alternative dispute resolution. She works to resolve disputes in the corporate and commercial, consumer law, property, insolvency, defamation, education, agricultural, and intellectual property fields, and represents clients in corporate investigations and shareholder and director disputes. Kate has particular expertise in complex and high value business-critical disputes with multiple stakeholders, and has led large multi-disciplinary teams in high profile cases. Kate regularly provides expert advice to directors and officers of some of Australia's largest companies, CEO's, business owners and high profile individuals.

Mark Holland

Partner
McGrathNicol



Mark has more than 15 years' experience as a restructuring, turnaround and financial advisory specialist. He has worked with private sector companies, listed groups, government, lenders and legal advisors during periods of financial challenge, distress and change. Mark is a Registered Liquidator and delivers insightful and practical advice derived from extensive experience undertaking independent business reviews, operational restructuring, risk management, financial advisory, formal insolvency appointments and distressed M&A engagements. Mark has worked across a broad range of industries including construction, government, hospitality, infrastructure, mining, property, renewable energy and retail.

Jenna Scott

Partner
Norton Rose Fulbright



Jenna Scott is a specialist insolvency and restructuring lawyer based in Brisbane, with significant litigious experience in insolvency, regulatory, class action, banking and general commercial matters, as well as transactional restructuring, across geographic locations. She has acted on significant and highly complex litigation, regulatory and insolvency matters, involving substantial documentary evidence and multifaceted lay and expert witness evidence across jurisdictions, including acting in one of only a handful of securities class actions to be litigated in Australia. Jenna's clients include government regulators, intermediaries, all of the major Australian banks and major corporates.

Lisa Brentnall

Senior Litigation Manager
CASL



Lisa has over 15 years of experience in the litigation funding industry having worked as a Senior Investment Manager in the industry since 2006. Lisa has managed the funding of a significant number of legal proceedings, varying in size and complexity, achieving successful outcomes for her funded clients. Lisa's funding experience covers a broad range of matters including insolvency, commercial, class actions, insurance and employment. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Economics from Macquarie University and a Diploma of Law from the Legal Practitioner's Admissions Board. Prior to joining the litigation funding industry, Lisa worked as an Associate Solicitor in private practice where she acted for both plaintiffs and defendants in a range of insolvency and general commercial litigation matters. Lisa has a genuine passion for the litigation funding industry and the benefits that it can bring to plaintiffs that otherwise would not have the resources to achieve justice through the legal system.

Richard Hughes

Partner
Deloitte



Richard specialises in corporate turnaround and restructuring with over 28 years professional experience. He specifically assists companies to develop, execute and communicate turnaround strategies, and assists with negotiations with stakeholders. Richard has experience across several sectors, including manufacturing, real estate, agribusiness, tourism, mining services, aviation and auto dealerships. Most recently he was one of the administrators of Virgin Australia, which was successfully restructured in November 2021.

Ann Watson

Special Counsel
Hall & Wilcox



Ann is a dispute resolution Special Counsel with a particular focus on restructuring and insolvency, corporate workouts and banking and debt recovery. Commercially minded, Ann focuses on reaching straight forward solutions in a timely manner. Ann provides advice to companies and their directors on restructuring and insolvency matters and also advises administrators, liquidators, receivers, trustees in bankruptcy and Government and regulatory bodies. Ann's experience includes working for small to medium sized businesses as well as publically listed entities within a number of sectors including retail, property, mining and resources. Ann assists her clients in both an advisory and litigious capacity, often running a matter from the early stages through to a negotiated out of court resolution or successfully prosecuting contested litigation.

David Johnstone

Partner
KordaMentha



David's determination to solve problems, combined with his leadership style, technical skills, and awareness of risks, enables him and his team to quickly simplify complex issues and creatively solve challenging issues in all areas of business. He is a leader who works collaboratively with clients, conducts himself with empathy, and establishes stakeholder rapport which allows David to simplify complex situations and achieve positive outcomes. With almost 15 years in professional services, David has worked on a diverse range of client engagements. His experience includes managing major financial and operational stakeholders, preparing independent business reviews and risk reports, managing all areas of trading operations, managing informal workouts and utilising formal insolvency options for corporate restructures.

Helen Newman

Partner
BDO



Helen is a Business Restructuring Partner with BDO in Brisbane. Helen provides solutions to companies to manage the challenges of poor trading performance, cash flow shortages and creditor pressure. Helen works closely with key stakeholders to understand their concerns and the drivers of their business then implements change to achieve the best result possible. Helen also acts for financiers in the management and sale of property portfolios and distressed businesses and the conduct of investigations. Helen has been with BDO since 2010 and has over 30 years' experience involving many insolvency engagements, corporate restructures and asset divestment strategies in Queensland, nationally and internationally.

Megan Stewart

Senior Business Banking Manager
NAB



Megan is currently a Senior Business Banking Manager at NAB, where she manages a portfolio of diversified Brisbane based Business Banking customers. She is experienced in all stages of the business lifecycle, and has a particular passion for trading businesses. Megan started her professional career as a Graduate at Ernst & Young, where she worked across Audit, Business Restructuring and Operational Transactional Services. After a year long career break travelling around Central America, Megan joined Vantage Performance, a Brisbane based consultancy firm specialising in turnaround and performance improvement. Prior to her current role at NAB, Megan spent 18mths in the Deals Strategy & Operations team at PwC, advising on large scale M&A projects from an operational lens. Megan gets great satisfaction from seeing businesses grow and helping them navigate challenging times.

Stacey Clisby

Executive Director
KordaMentha



Stacey considers openness and honesty of the utmost importance when working with distressed businesses and their stakeholders. She has a collaborative approach which is important in bringing together different stakeholders and expertise. Her experience in the insolvency and restructuring industry includes formal insolvency appointments, business review engagements for secured lenders, and advising businesses experiencing financial distress. She has worked in the UK for an international bank and has completed a 12 month secondment for a major Australian lender in their distressed loan management division. Her recent experience has focussed on the mining, financial services and property industries. Stacey enjoys the frequent challenges that present themselves in insolvency and restructuring engagements while focusing on achieving the best possible outcome for her clients and all stakeholders.

Chad Kuo

Principal

Queensland Treasury Corporation



Chad is a Principal of Portfolio & Learning in Queensland Treasury Corporation's Advisory Services Division. She has a strong background in regulatory compliance, risk & audit, project management, business improvement, governance and is adept at leading and managing complex projects and ensuring compliance to deliver value-added solutions to clients and stakeholders. Chad has over 10 years of experience working in various industries, including mining, resources, workers' compensation, health, insurance, finance, and banking.