



## Kate Conneely

Partner, Cor Cordis

 0417 692 200

 kconneely@corcordis.com.au

 [LinkedIn](#)

 [Website](#)



### In what year did you become a registered liquidator?

I became a registered liquidator in 2020, right in the middle of COVID. I remember completing my interview from the dining room table whilst homeschooling my son in the living room.

In hindsight I wish I had stopped procrastinating with my application and submitted it about a year earlier. The technical experience section seemed daunting at the time. For anyone thinking about applying, please just sit down and get it done! If you need any help, feel free to reach out to me as I know how overwhelming it can feel to start the process.

### Briefly summarise your work history.

Like many people in this industry, I somewhat stumbled into my role. No one in my family worked in professional services so I found myself tossing up a career in law, tax or insolvency....

Ultimately, I think I chose well with maybe a little luck on my side.

I began my full-time career as a graduate at KordaMentha, where I worked on some of the biggest jobs in the country at the time, developing my skills in crisis leadership, cash and asset management, trading and selling businesses, all of which drove me to become a registered liquidator, and Partner at KordaMentha.

Now almost twenty years (!) later I am a Partner at Cor Cordis in Sydney and couldn't imagine doing anything else. My current role sees me tackle uncertainty every day across the numerous matters I am engaged with, which gives me a great sense of achievement, increasing grey hair and has allowed me to work in some fascinating industries with some colorful characters.

Coming from a larger firm, I have hit the ground running with relaunching the Sydney office with my business partner Rahul, with a big focus on people and culture, and making the insolvency and restructuring space more diverse in people and ways of working.

### What industries do you have experience in?

- Financial and Professional Services
- Infrastructure
- Manufacturing
- Crypto
- Mining
- Telecommunications
- Retail
- Transport
- Property and construction

Whilst not industries per se, I have advised several lenders on their exposures to start ups / scale ups, as well as R&D financing.

## Which external administration/receivership has been a career highlight for you, and why?

What I love about my job is the fact that no two days are ever the same. One day I might be the CEO of an online retailer, and the next I am working out the logistics that go along with a major freight and shipping company ensuring goods are delivered on time without disruption to their customers.

If I had to pick a career highlight to date, I would break from convention and pick three!

- The administration of The Daily Edited which saw us engage in a competitive (and successful) sales process as well as utilising the Court and 90-15 to obtain some quirky orders given we held the dual roles of Administrators and Liquidators. Not something I had done before and wonder if I will ever do again.
- Being appointed Administrator on NetComm Wireless less than a month into joining Cor Cordis stands out for sure. We were able to trade the business and sell via DOCA, which saw an interim distribution of 24c/\$

being paid to unsecured creditors and 100+ employees retain their roles. Seeing the sale announced by Nasdaq in Time Square, NY was pretty amazing, and I can't help but feel a real sense of achievement when I look back on this appointment.

- A throwback is the receivership of Gunns Timber mill. I worked in a tiny town in South Australia for about six months with a team of three. Pleasingly we sold the timber mill and have been able to maintain some great relationships with some of the employees. We also got excellent tips about cream buns at the Penola Bakery, and the best reds in the Coonawarra!

I think the key takeaway from these appointments is that not only am I able to utilise my degrees in accounting, business and law, but my natural attention to detail and keen organisational skills and focus on people are of huge benefit to helping clients solve their financial and operational challenges.

## What is your advice for aspiring registered liquidators?

Trust your gut. Listen to your inner voice. Believe in yourself. Reach out, ask for help. Lean on other people with different skill sets. Don't be shy in asking for what you want and embrace uncertainty... Women are few and far in this industry, so if you're ready to take the next step in your career to become a registered liquidator, please reach out. I would love to answer any questions you might or put those niggling doubts to rest.

## What are your other interests?

I am an avid reader and a (pretend) runner who loves a glass of champagne. I am lucky enough to be Angus' mum, a very lively '11 going on 21-year-old' who is my world.

I love to travel (I have been to Japan and New York this year), and hope to head to Fiji next, or maybe the Caribbean to combine a bit of cricket with a holiday!