

CURRICULUM VITAE

Jason Opperman

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Full Name	Jason Charles Opperman	
Current Role	Partner and Practice Area Leader, K&L Gates	
Formal Qualifications	LL.B., University of New South Wales, 1992 B.Com, University of New South Wales, 1992 M.B.A., Melbourne University, 2013	
Admissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Court of Australia• Supreme Court of New South Wales	
Employment Summary	March 2015 - Present	K&L Gates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice Area Leader, Finance• Partner, Restructuring and Insolvency
	1995 - March 2015	Henry Davis York <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice Leader (2009 - 2014)• Partner (from July 2001)
	1994 - 1995	Westpac Banking Corporation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-house counsel
	1993 - 1994	Henry Davis York <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate Lawyer
Professional Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member of International Association of Restructuring, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Professionals (INSOL)• Member of Australian Restructuring Insolvency and Turnaround Association (ARITA)• Banking and Financial Services Law Association (BFSLA) member• Law Society of New South Wales member	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnaround Management Association (TMA) member
Legal Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Restructuring, formal and informal workouts and insolvency, including liquidations, voluntary administrations, receiverships and bankruptcy. ➤ All aspects of insolvency litigation, including winding up proceedings, bankruptcy proceedings, defending unfair preference and voidable transaction claims, insolvent trading and breach of director's duties, bankruptcy notices, proofs of debt, creditor meetings and committees, deeds of company arrangement, conflicts, reports to creditors, public examinations, asset tracing and recoveries, litigation funding, priorities and employee entitlements. ➤ Banking and financial services litigation, including securities enforcement, recovery proceedings, banker-customer disputes, fraud and tracing, misleading and deceptive conduct claims and breach of mandate. ➤ Formal and informal dispute resolution, including mediations, neutral evaluations, drafting and negotiating settlement agreements and forbearance arrangements.

OVERVIEW

Jason is an accomplished and highly regarded insolvency specialist with more than 25 years' experience and recognised legal expertise in complex and challenging domestic and cross border administrations and liquidations. He has acted on many large and high profile administrations, liquidations and corporate restructures and is well known for his strategic advice and ability to achieve exceptional outcomes.

Jason has acted for and guided Australia's largest banks and financial institutions, corporations, government agencies and statutory bodies on a range of insolvency and turnaround matters. He is also trusted by some of the country's best known insolvency practitioners to advise them in the context of formal appointments and informal workouts.

Jason combines specialist technical expertise in restructuring and insolvency with deep commercial experience across a range of industries, including aviation, transport and logistics, real estate and construction, manufacturing, automotive, information technology and communications and financial services. He has been a member of several boards and advisory committees and has played an active role in a number of industry bodies, including the Institute of Factors and Discounters and the Australian Equipment Lessors Association.

Jason is a member of the Australian board at K&L Gates, a global co-Practice Area Leader for Finance and a coordinator of the Restructuring and Insolvency team across the firm's 46 international offices.

REPRESENTATIVE WORK

- Acting as the lead advisor to the liquidators of Halifax Investments Services, a complex multi-jurisdictional winding up involving over AUD250 million of assets and 12,500 investors and advising on all aspects of the liquidation, including court proceedings involving cross border judicial cooperation and joint sittings between the Federal Court of Australia and the New Zealand High Court (*Kelly (Liquidator), in the matter of Halifax Investment Services Pty Ltd (in liquidation) v Loo* [2021] FCA 531; *Halifax New Zealand Limited (in liq) v Loo & Ors* [2021] NZHC 1113). The matter is currently on appeal and has been set down for a joint hearing before the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia and the New Zealand Court of Appeal.
- Representing various international aircraft lessors owed in excess of AUD500 million in relation to the administration of Virgin Australia with approximately a third of the airline's fleet and as a member of the committee of inspection in the administration. The matter involved a complex restructure of JOLCO leasing arrangements, originated in Japan, in conjunction with the sale of the airline to Bain Capital which won the Australasian Law Awards Insolvency and Restructuring Deal of the Year in 2021. The restructure was achieved against a backdrop of complex interactions between aspects of the voluntary administration regime under the Corporations Act and the Cape Town Convention in relation to aircraft.
- Representing a Singapore-based aircraft lessor in court proceedings commenced in the Supreme Court of New South Wales against an Indonesian airline in relation to a multi-million dollar claim for outstanding rental payments pursuant to an English law governed aircraft lease. A PKPU court application has been filed against the airline in Indonesia and the company expects to pursue a UK scheme to implement a restructure of its aircraft leasing arrangements.
- Acting for and advising an integrated asset manager listed in Hong Kong and headquartered in Singapore in respect of the liquidation of the iProsperity Group comprising more than 60 entities globally with liabilities to investors and creditors in the hundreds of millions of dollars. The matter involved action for the recovery of more than AUD50 million invested in hotel and real estate assets in Australia and the US.
- Acting for the administrators and liquidators of the Keystone Group, a high profile collapse involving 19 separate trading venues, including iconic bars and restaurants such as the Jamie Oliver branded Jamie's Italian restaurants in Australia, with debts to secured lenders and unsecured creditors in excess of AUD100 million.
- Advising Formula One on the administration of Network 10 and successfully negotiating with Fox Sports Australia to take over as the primary Australian rights holders and distributors for F1 content. This transaction took place alongside the broader sale transaction by the administrators to CBS Corporation and helped secure the future of motor racing in Australia after renegotiating the rights to broadcast the Formula One Championship.
- Acting for a major Australian bank and its receivers in relation to the high-profile collapse of BBY Ltd, the largest independent stockbroker in Australia and New Zealand by market share and a corporate advisory and asset management business before its spectacular collapse.

- Representing a major Australian bank in the enforcement of securities over significant commercial real estate and agricultural interests and defending a counter claim for in excess of \$200 million. The matter involved reputational sensitivities and attracted strong political interest from a number of Commonwealth senators and other political leaders before being resolved through an innovative form of alternative dispute resolution.
- Advising a large European bank on solvency issues and directors duties concerning its winding down of operations and withdrawal from Australia, including its exposure arising out of foreign exchange transactions and residual taxation liabilities.
- Acting for WaterNSW in relation to the liquidation of RCR Tomlinson Ltd, a publicly listed engineering and construction company which employed 2,800 workers and thousands of contractors when it collapsed in late 2018. The role included strategic legal advice to WaterNSW regarding its dealings with the company for the delivery of major works in time critical circumstances.
- Acting for a major contractor to Atlas Iron Ltd to achieve an innovative cost restructure which enabled the survival and continued operation of three iron ore mines owned by this listed mining company in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The deal involved a debt for equity swap and evolved into a scheme of arrangement and won Australasian Lawyer's Restructuring and Insolvency Deal of the Year.
- Advising a major Australian bank in relation to the liquidation of Courtenay House Capital Trading Group Pty Limited involving a Ponzi scheme and various court proceedings commenced by the Group's Liquidators in relation to investor funds.

RECOGNITION

- *Best Lawyers in Australia*, listed for Insolvency and Reorganization Law (2021-present)
- *Best Lawyers in Australia*, listed for Litigation (2021-present)
- Recommended for Restructuring and Insolvency by Chambers Asia-Pacific (2017 to present): Clients find: *"He is an extremely measured and sophisticated operator. He's a calming influence, with a very clear and well-reasoned approach to complex or volatile situations."*
- Recognised in *Asia Pacific Legal 500* for Restructuring and Insolvency (2017, 2018 and 2019)
- Recommended New South Wales Insolvency and Restructuring Lawyer, *Doyle's Guide* (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019)
- Recognised in *Best Lawyers* for Insolvency, Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (2020)
- Recognised in *Australasian Lawyer's Hot List* 2016
- Recognised by *Australasian Lawyer* for his work on the Atlas Iron Restructure, awarded "Restructuring and Insolvency Deal of the Year" in 2016