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## Laura Johns

**Partner**

**Sydney**

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Laura Johns is a restructuring, insolvency and banking litigation lawyer based in Sydney.

Laura has extensive experience in insolvency and banking dispute resolution. Laura advises Australia's leading banks and other financial clients on complex corporate insolvency processes, litigation and recovery matters. She was part of the Australian legal team acting for Perpetual Trustees in the US and UK arising out of the Lehman's bankruptcy. Recently, Laura had a lead role in the Bergin Inquiry conducted by the Honourable PA Bergin SC into Crown Casino supporting the Inquiry and Counsel assisting in all aspects of its work.

Laura acts for banks, insolvency practitioners, government bodies, security companies and creditors on issues connected with companies in financial distress and has assisted clients on a variety of insolvency and restructuring assignments domestically and internationally. She regularly advises on security enforcement, receiverships, voluntary administrations, liquidations and disputes.

### **Banking**

Laura acts for banks, insolvency practitioners, companies and creditors on issues connected with companies in financial distress and has assisted clients on a variety of domestic and cross-border insolvency and restructuring assignments. She regularly advises on security enforcement, receiverships, voluntary administrations and liquidations.

While Laura has broad experience in all these areas, advising Banks in relation to secured recoveries from borrowers and guarantors is at the core of her practice. Her experience in this area has been developed by her involvement in numerous assignments for Banks and from her experience while on secondment at NAB.

Laura understands the challenges faced by Banks in these situations, including the importance of brand protection and dealing with reputational and regulatory risk. She has a proven track record of providing effective and strategic advice to clients, which achieves the required outcome, while addressing these challenges. Her experience includes:

- Recovering loans from borrowers in circumstances where they alleged that their signatures on the facility and security documents had been forged by a family member.
- Dealing with distressed borrowers and guarantors who allege claims against the banks in relation to its conduct and carriage of the loan facilities or realisation of securities.
- Dealing with customers who have acted fraudulently in the conduct of their facilities or their businesses.
- Direct negotiations with borrowers and guarantors to achieve a resolution of the dispute to avoid the need for contested enforcement action.

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### **Related services**

- Financial services and regulation
- Bankruptcy, financial restructuring and insolvency

### **Key industry sectors**

- Financial institutions
- Energy, infrastructure and resources

### **Education**

- Hons (LLB)
- IPAA's Insolvency Education Program

### **Admissions**

- Supreme Court of New South Wales 2011
- High Court of Australia 2011
- Admitted as a solicitor in English and Wales 2005

### **Memberships and activities**

- Member of the Australian Restructuring Insolvency & Turnaround Association (ARITA)
- Member of the Turnaround Management Association
- Member of INSOL

### **Languages**

- English