

# WILLIAM PORTER

wporter1994@gmail.com • +1 345 526 2085

## EDUCATION

**Columbia Law School**, New York, NY

*LLM* (May 2023)

Awards: Honours; Spencer Mason Travelling Scholarship in Law.

**Victoria University**, Wellington, New Zealand

*BA/LLB* (May 2018)

Majors: Law, Psychology and Politics.

Awards: First Class Honours; Dean's List for Academic Excellence (2013, 2015, 2016); Academic Excellence Scholarship (2013).

## EXPERIENCE

**Appleby**, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

*Associate* (Aug. 2023 – present)

- Associate in the Dispute Resolution Team with a focus on insolvency related disputes.

**Bankside Chambers**, Auckland, New Zealand

*Junior Barrister* (Oct. 2020 – Jun. 2022)

- Junior barrister at one of New Zealand's leading commercial barristers' chambers.
- Broad trial and appellate experience, including cross-examination of witnesses at trial; oral argument at trial, at defended hearings, and on appeal; drafting legal submissions and court memoranda; and preparing factual and expert witnesses.
- Extensive client advisory experience, including as to litigation strategy and merits in complex civil and commercial matters.
- Project-managed several proceedings and assisted clients in mediation/settlement discussions.
- Particular focus on insolvency-related disputes, including advising insolvency practitioners and company directors as to their rights and obligations.

**Wynn Williams**, Auckland, New Zealand

*Litigation Solicitor* (Feb. 2018 – Sep. 2020)

- Advised clients on contractual disputes, shareholder disputes, insolvency matters, debt recovery, and trusts and estates.
- Conducted legal research, drafted legal submissions, and prepared witnesses.
- Attended and assisted at court hearings and mediations.
- Supervised junior staff.

## BAR STATUS

- New York Bar (sitting July 2023).
- High Court of New Zealand (Barrister and Solicitor, Nov. 2018).
- Supreme Court of New South Wales, Australia (Legal Practitioner, May 2019).

## PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTIONS

- Awarded Research Essay Prize of the Banking and Finance Law Association (Australia and New Zealand) with a paper on 'insolvent trading' (2021).
- Noted as a "Key Lawyer" for Wynn Williams by *The Legal 500* (2021).
- Granted Membership of the Restructuring, Insolvency & Turnaround Association of N.Z. (2020) and Associate Membership of Arbitrators' & Mediators' Institute of NZ (2020).
- Numerous publications in leading Australasian commercial law journals (2020-2022).

**INTERESTS**

- Sports (tennis, rugby and long-distance running); international travel; reading (biographies, business and politics).

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## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

### Insolvency and Company Law

Acted for private individual in litigation against directors of failed technology firm, including appearing at four-week trial and conducting oral argument on appeal. *Banks v. Farmer* [2021] NZHC 1922 (N.Z.). See Chris Keall, *Auckland man takes failed tech company's directors to court after losing 'early inheritance'*, New Zealand Herald, Jul. 10, 2019.

Acted for company director defending claim by creditor of failed property development, including appearing at nine-day trial and conducting cross-examination. *Dempsey Wood Civil Ltd. v. Gapes* [2021] NZHC 2362 (N.Z.). See Victoria Young, *Developer Tony Gapes appealing 'double jeopardy' decision*, BusinessDesk, Mar. 28, 2022.

Acted for Israeli businessman successfully liquidating suspected Ponzi Scheme, including conducting oral argument at several defended hearings. *Arjang v. NF Global Ltd.* [2021] NZHC 395 (N.Z.). See Martin Van Beynen, *NF Global must find \$17m to avoid liquidation by international depositors*, Stuff, Mar. 7, 2021.

### Arbitration

Acted for high-net-worth individual successfully applying to stay litigation and compel arbitration. The dispute related to control of large New Zealand company. Details of proceeding are subject to confidentiality orders.

### Contract

Acted for Chief Executive of company claiming against holding company in relation to alleged breaches of options agreement. The matter settled after two days of mediation.

Acted for large logistics company defending claim for breach of contract brought by international pallet supplier. The matter settled at mediation.

### Trust Law and Equity

Acted for property-holding company associated with the Anglican Church seeking court directions in relation to proceeds of substantial insurance payout. *Church Property Trustees v. Carrell* [2021] NZHC 1130 (N.Z.).

Acted for high-net-worth family in litigation against trustee of several trusts, including attending three-day trial and subsequent appeal. *Public Trust v. Kain* [2021] NZHC 1000, (2021) 5 NZTR31-002 (N.Z.); *Kain v Public Trust* [2021] NZCA 685 (N.Z.). See Martin Van Beynen, *Multimillion-dollar family dispute spanning two decades back in the courts*, Stuff, Jul. 11, 2020.

Appeared at appeal for individual found to have breached fiduciary duties owed to former co-venturer. *Li v. 110 Formosa (NZ) Ltd.* [2020] NZCA 492 (N.Z.).