

# Matthew J Lewis

Barrister, LL.B (Hons), LL.M.

## EXPERIENCE

### 5 Wentworth, Sydney, NSW, Australia – Barrister

October 2009 - Present

Matthew is a commercial barrister with over seven and a half years experience in Australia. He has appeared in numerous media and defamation cases and specialises in Internet related disputes. In this regard, Matthew has notably represented Facebook Inc, Facebook Australia Pty Ltd, Google Inc and Google Australia Pty Ltd. Many of these disputes involve cross border issues. Additionally, Matthew regularly acts on behalf of the traditional mass media throughout Australia. Regular clients include: the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Nationwide News Pty Ltd, News Ltd, the Australian Associated Press, SBS, TCN Channel Nine and Fairfax Digital Australia and New Zealand. Matthew has also appeared for persons (including judicial officers) seeking to protect their reputation. Matthew is also a “recommended legal counsel (member or tribunal chairman)” of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC).

### 30 Park Place, Cardiff, Wales, UK – Barrister

September 2001 - August 2007

Matthew started his career as a barrister practising in civil, privacy, family and human rights law. Notable cases include Re BR&C (Children) [2002] EWCA 1825 (led by JHHT Tillyard QC) and he has appeared in numerous privacy injunctions on the Welsh circuit. In 2004, Matthew received the Pegasus Scholarship from Inner Temple, London. Consequently, between September and December 2004 he was based in the NSW Court of Appeal and Federal Court of Australia. Matthew extended this experience to October 2005 by accepting offers of employment from the commercial litigation group in the top tier Australian law firm Clayton Utz (Sydney) and the boutique law firm, Stuart Fowler & Partners (Sydney).



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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

[Breach of Confidence](#)

[Commercial Litigation](#)

[Copyright](#)

[Defamation](#)

[Media](#)

[Pre-Publication Advice](#)

[Privacy](#)

[Private International Law](#)

[Sports Law](#)

[Suppression/Non-Publication](#)

[Trademarks](#)

## ADMISSION DATES

[Called to the Bar \(England & Wales\): 13 October 2000 \(The Hon. Society of Gray's Inn\)](#)

[Called to the Bar \(NSW and Commonwealth\): 4 December 2009](#)

[Admitted as a legal practitioner \(NSW\): 2009](#)

## EDUCATION

University of Sydney, NSW, Australia – LL.M  
2009 to 2010

Subjects included: International dispute resolution; Transnational litigation (conflict of laws); Principles of defamation law (finished 2nd); International human rights advocacy; Dispute settlement in the World Trade Organisation; Class actions and complex litigation; and Competition law.

College of Law, Sydney, Australia – Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice  
2008 to 2009

University of Sydney, NSW, Australia – Graduate Diploma in Commercial Law  
2008 to 2009

University of Wales, Cardiff, Wales – Bar Vocational Course – “Very Competent”  
1999 to 2000

University of Wales, Swansea, Wales – LL.B, upper second class degree (2:1) (Hons).  
1995 to 1999

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

University of New South Wales Law School, Australia – Lecturer “Privacy & The Media”  
2016 to 2017

Matthew teaches LL.M and JD students privacy law. In addition to Australian laws, the course focuses on: the tort of misuse of private information (England and Wales); the Data Protection Act 1998 (England and Wales); harassment; breach of confidence; and comparable laws in the US, Canada and New Zealand.

Macquarie University, NSW, Australia – Tutor “Media Law”  
2014 to 2015

The course included the following topics: Freedom of speech; Open justice; Defamation; Breach of confidence; Privacy; and Freedom of information.

## APPOINTMENTS

2016 to present: Director, 5th Floor Wentworth Chambers Pty Ltd.

2016 to present: Education Committee, NSW Bar Association.

2015 to present: Recommended legal counsel (member or tribunal chairman) of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC)

2014 to 2016: Health and Wellbeing Committee, NSW Bar Association

2011 to present: Defamation Law Committee, NSW Bar Association.

2010 to present: Arbitrator approved by NSW Bar Association

2004: Pegasus Scholar, Inner Temple, London.

2001 to 2007: President, Wales and Chester Circuit Young Barristers Association.

2001 to 2005: Young Barristers Committee, London (Wales and Chester Circuit representative)

2000: Marshall to Mr. Justice Thomas (as the Lord Chief Justice then was).

## PUBLICATIONS & SEMINARS INCLUDE

Contempt of Court, A practitioner's text for LexisNexis, Australia (projected 2018).

Social Media and Defamation Law: An update – 21 March 2017, Advanced Commercial Litigation Conference for Legalwise Seminars.

Social Media and Defamation Law: An update – 18 March 2016, Advanced Commercial Litigation Conference for Legalwise Seminars.

The Rising Tide of Social Media Law: UNSW Defamation & Media Law Seminar – 23 February 2016 (annual defamation & media law seminar).

Defamation Law Reform – 16 February 2016, NSW Young Lawyers seminar (with Professor David Rolph).

Online Legal Issues in Advertising and Marketing Law – 4 September 2015 (seminar chairman).

On the quiet: open justice and suppression orders – NSW LSJ, published 4 September 2014 at p.78 (with Bruce McClintock SC).

Where Angels have traditionally feared to tread: disproportionate defamation claims in NSW – [2014] Gazette of Law and Journalism (29 August 2014).

Social Media: The Wild West of Publishing – [2013] Gazette of Law and Journalism (18 June 2013).

Capping Libel Damages in Australia: A Closer Look – INFORRM, 29 May 2011.

## MEDIA APPEARANCES

Matthew frequently provides comment in the media on matters relating to defamation and social media law including, for example:

7:30 Report, ABC

Wake Up! Network Ten

Seven News at 6, Channel 7

SKY News Business (with Carson Scott), SKY News Australia

The Hack, Triple J Radio (Sydney)

Sydney Morning Herald (National Newspaper)

Australian Financial Review (National Newspaper)

The Australian (National Newspaper)

Practice Notes, Gazette of Law and Journalism (Australia's leading media law journal where Matthew was specifically interviewed about social media law)

## INTERESTS

Sport (rugby union in particular)

Travel

Keeping Fit (gym, cycling, swimming, running)

Acoustic Guitar