

GILBERT WALKER

Martin Smith

Partner

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Profile

Martin advises and acts on a broad range of commercial and civil disputes, including company and commercial, property, and insurance and professional liability matters. He is ranked in the Dispute Resolution and Insurance sections of the leading Chambers & Partners directory. Recent directory commentary includes *"a fine legal analytical mind and a good sense of strategy as well"*. Martin is also listed as a leading individual by the Legal 500 for Insurance.

Martin has over 15 years' experience in practice. He appears for clients at trials and in other defended hearings and appeals, as well as in less formal dispute resolution forums such as mediation.

Martin has been a partner of the firm since 2013, and an associate since 2008. Prior to joining Gilbert Walker, Martin worked at Russell McVeagh in Wellington (2003-2007) and as a Pegasus Scholar at barristers' chambers in London (2008).

Credentials

— LLB (Hons) / BSc (Victoria) LLM (Cambridge)

— Admitted to the Bar in 2003

Experience

— acting for a major bank in defending a litigation funded class action brought by investors following the collapse of Ross Asset Management, a financial adviser revealed to have been running New Zealand's largest Ponzi scheme

— acting for a major commercial landlord on various leasing and property disputes

— acting for the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated on public interest appeals in respect of environmental matters

— acting for Tower Insurance in advising on and defending a large number of litigated and otherwise disputed claims for property damage caused by the Canterbury earthquakes

- regularly acting for liability insurers on indemnity issues and defending claims against their insureds