

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 pleasure to deal with, very responsive, commercial and ruthlessly efficient", "a fine legal analytical mind and a good sense of strategy as well", a "very, very good operator" and "good at getting on with it and getting the job done."*

Martin has been a partner of the firm since 2013. 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. As well as his work for commercial clients, Martin also acts for the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society on public interest litigation, and for Lawyers for Climate Action NZ.

Martin regularly presents continuing professional development seminars for the Auckland District Law Society and is a member of the New Zealand Law Society's interview panel for lawyers seeking approval to practise on their own account.

Credentials

- LLB (Hons) / BSc (Victoria) LLM (Cambridge)
- Admitted to the Bar in 2003

Experience

- 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 a listed issuer in defending a derivative action claim brought by the minority shareholder of a subsidiary

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