

GILBERT WALKER

Sean Coupe

Associate

E sean.coupe@gilbertwalker.com

DDI +64 9 374 1102

M +64 27 750 6480



Profile

Sean acts for clients in a wide range of complex commercial disputes and regulatory matters. He has particular expertise in representative (class action) proceedings and in professional negligence, insurance and company law matters. He regularly advises and represents clients facing investigations and civil or criminal proceedings brought by the Commerce Commission, the Financial Markets Authority, WorkSafe and other regulators. Sean was listed as a "Rising Star" by NZ Lawyer in 2023.

Sean regularly appears in matters before the High Court and has appeared in courts at all levels, including the Supreme Court. Sean also has experience appearing in arbitrations and mediations.

Prior to joining Gilbert Walker, Sean worked for three years in Bell Gully's litigation department. While at university, Sean undertook an internship abroad at Herbert Smith Freehills in London and tutored contract and tort law. Sean is a member of the New Zealand Law Society's Civil Litigation & Tribunals Committee.

Credentials

- LLB (Hons) / BA (Canterbury)
- Admitted to the Bar in 2016

Recent Experience

- regularly acting for liability insurers on indemnity issues and defending claims against their insureds
- acting for Kea Investments Ltd in a major multinational fraud case, including obtaining worldwide anti-suit and anti-enforcement injunctions in the High Court and the Supreme Court, and successfully establishing that the defendants had engaged in a conspiracy to defraud Kea Investments
- acting for a number of Toyota Dealerships across New Zealand in a large-scale consumer class action alleging that certain Toyota vehicles contained a defective diesel particulate filter and seeking damages for the resulting losses

- acting for former directors of Feltex in the liability and loss phase of the \$200m class action brought on behalf of more than 3,600 shareholder claimants arising from the Feltex IPO in 2004
- acting for defendants facing charges laid by WorkSafe under the Health and Safety at Work Act, including acting for an entity facing charges in relation to the 2019 eruption on Whakaari / White Island
- acting for a New Zealand subsidiary of an overseas-listed company in the first civil penalty proceeding brought by the Financial Markets Authority under the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act
- acting for Lawyers for Climate Action NZ in its judicial review of the Climate Change Commission
- acting for a major commercial landlord on a number of property and leasing disputes across its portfolio
- acting for the Financial Markets Authority in civil proceedings alleging market manipulation of NZX listed shares in breach of the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013
- acting for parties seeking and resisting interim injunctions in a range of disputes
- acting for lawyers, accountants and other professionals facing civil claims
- acting for trustees and beneficiaries in a range of trust disputes