

Capability Statement

Media, Reputation Management and Defamation

Bennett

LITIGATION AND COMMERCIAL LAW



Who you need
when it matters.

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Foreword

I am pleased to introduce Bennett's specialised media, reputation management and defamation capabilities to you.

We have a demonstrated expertise in achieving outcomes in high stakes matters and are uniquely placed to act on urgent and sensitive matters. We adopt a holistic view to the reputation management and restoration strategies we provide and work with you to implement them every step of the way.

More broadly, when you enter into a relationship with Bennett, we place you and your legal issues at the forefront of everything we do, drawing on our strong internal pool of expertise to deliver you the best commercial outcomes. We work together on a taskforce basis on all of our matters, bringing together a cohesive and dedicated team of legal practitioners focused on achieving your desired commercial outcome. This may involve bringing together the requisite mix of expertise across our various practice areas.

The enclosed capability statement demonstrates the expertise of the collective team at Bennett and the market leading experience of Bennett's media, reputation management and defamation team.

We strongly value a successful and long term relationship with our clients, and look forward to a positive working relationship with you. If you have any questions concerning our capability statement please contact me or Martin Bennett, Founding Principal, Bennett.

Handwritten signature of Nathan Ebbs.

Nathan Ebbs
Managing Principal



Experience
where
it counts.

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We are the largest and most experienced specialised media, reputation management and defamation law practice in Western Australia.

When the reputations of high profile personalities, politicians, business leaders and high net worth individuals are exposed, they turn to Bennett.

Bennett is a pre-eminent Perth based legal practice and market leader in the area of litigation with specialised defamation and media law expertise.

Bennett has acted for clients in some of the country's most high profile cases including most recently *Reynolds v Higgins* [2025] WASC 345; *Reynolds -v- Sharaz* [No 2] [2025] WASC 388 and *Rayney -v- The State of Western Australia* [No 9] [207] WASC 367.

Our Founding Principal, Martin Bennett is one of Australia's most formidable litigators and is the only Western Australian practitioner to be listed in the 2026 Doyles Guide as Leading Defamation & Reputation Management Lawyers – Australia, 2026.

Our team represent a variety of clients including high net-worth individuals, public officers and politicians, lawyers, sporting and other public personalities, business people and company directors and provide advice and guidance on reputation preservation and restoration when the stakes are the highest.

We understand that litigation resolves only part of the problem. Public narrative management is critical to ensuring a complete restoration of reputation and our expert team provides the support required to manage and respond promptly to media enquiries, draft press releases and statements and otherwise provide an agile restoration management strategy as matters progress.

Not only do we act for the clients in defamation and media related litigation, we also provide pre-publication advice for any type of publication including for authors and entertainers, press releases and media statements and in relation to corporate public disclosures for ASX-listed clients, directors and shareholders.

With our extensive experience, Bennett's media, reputation management and defamation team is uniquely placed to provide the right advice at the right time.

Prominent decisions.

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Prominent decisions handed down to Bennett clients.

No other litigation practice appears as frequently before the defamation list judges in the Supreme Court of Western Australia. Since the inception of Bennett in 2011, we have advised and provided representation to clients in relation to over 200 defamation matters. We have been involved in 9 defamation trials before the Supreme Court of Western Australia, and have obtained in excess of 100 interlocutory and final judgments in defamation proceedings before the Supreme Court of Western Australia and the Federal Court of Australia.

These are some of our success stories:

***Lazos v West Australian Newspapers Ltd* [No 2] [2024] WASC 238**

Bennett acted for the successful plaintiff, a public servant falsely alleged to have misused taxi vouchers. The plaintiff was awarded \$180,000. The plaintiff also received a separate settlement from Channel 10 for a news broadcast of a similar allegation.

***Rayney v Reynolds* [No 4] [2022] WASC 360**

Bennett acted for the successful plaintiff who was defamed during a professional presentation. The plaintiff was awarded damages of \$350,000.

***de Kauwe v Cohen* [No 4] [2022] WASC 35; *Wright v de Kauwe* [2024] WASCA 51**

Bennett acted for the successful plaintiff, a public company director, in respect of two ASX announcements. The plaintiff was awarded damages of about \$530,000 and successfully defended appeals against this award.

***Green v Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd* [No 4] [2021] WASC 474**

Bennett acted for the successful plaintiff, who operates a blockchain-based energy trading platform, in respect of two articles published in The Australian Financial Review. The plaintiff was awarded damages of \$400,000.

***Jensen v Nationwide News Pty Ltd* [No 13] [2019] WASC 451**

Bennett acted for the successful plaintiff, a politician, in respect of two articles published in The Australian. The plaintiff was awarded damages of \$325,000.

***Rayney v State of Western Australia* [No 9] [2017] WASC 367**

Bennett acted for the successful plaintiff who was defamed during a press conference. The plaintiff was awarded damages of \$1,249,549 for economic loss and \$600,000 for non-economic loss, plus interest.

***Sims v Jooste* [No 2] [2014] WASC 373**

Bennett acted for the successful defendant at trial and on appeal.

Thought
leadership.

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Bennett's recent publications in media and defamation law.

Millions in Costs and a Reputation in the eyes of the Court left in Tatters: The Legal Fallout from Ben Roberts-Smith's Failed Appeal

By Demi Swain and Eliza Fletcher

Keep an eye on the time: Defamation and Limitation

By Alex Tharby and Mark Donaldson

How your Western Australian postcode could affect your success in a defamation case

By Dr Michael Douglas and Alex Tharby

Politicians, qualified privilege and the right of reply

By Taleesha Elder and Alex Tharby

Submission on the Communications Legislation Amendment (Combatting Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023 Exposure Draft

By Martin Bennett, Alex Tharby, Demi Swain and Monique Vincent

Reviews in review: The businesses suing and being sued over their online reviews

By Demi Swain and Laura Cohn

Responsibility of OpenAI for defamation by ChatGPT

By Dr Michael Douglas

Can you record someone without their consent? And if you do, can you publish the recording?

By Alex Tharby, Dr Michael Douglas and Andrew Filing

Can the public trust media claims for immunity for investigative journalism?

By Rachel Ross

Submission on the review of model defamation provisions

Stage 2 Part A and Part B

By Martin Bennett, Fabienne Sharbanee, Taleesha Elder, Dr Michael Douglas and Pragma Srivastava



Defamation



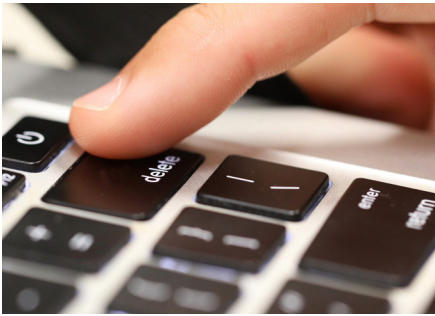
Pre-publication advice



Social media



Online reviews



Suppression orders



Privacy



Government



Corporate



Medical professionals



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