

Michelle Segaert

Partner



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Sydney

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Overview

Michelle is a Corporate Partner in our Sydney office with more than 20 years' experience in advising on corporate and financial services matters. Michelle is Dentons Australia's Sector Leader for PE/VC and Co-Leader of Australia's Investment Funds practice.

Michelle advises on corporate structuring and investments and has a significant investment funds practice advising mid-market fund managers in the establishment of property, credit, carbon, crypto, venture, water and private equity funds. Michelle also advises financial services businesses in fintech, consumer and commercial credit, digital assets, payments systems and financial advice.

Michelle advises clients on financial services and consumer credit licensing, product governance and financial product design and distribution arrangements, anti-money laundering (AML) programs, ESG reporting, data privacy (and GDPR) and the FATCA/CRS regimes. Michelle is a highly experienced financial services regulatory specialist, having been involved in advising large financial institutions (e.g., banks, insurers, trustees), investment managers and fintechs on financial services regulatory requirements, in particular as a response to the reforms arising out of the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services industry. Michelle has market leading expertise in delivering major regulatory compliance projects for banks, insurers and wealth managers.

Experience

- **Carbon Growth Partners:** Establishment of Australian fund investing in carbon instruments, assistance with establishment of Cayman funds, and advising on fund lifecycle matters and transactions.
- **Confidential investment manager client:** Establishment of a series of property funds investing in commercial property in Australia.
- **Confidential investment manager client:** Establishment of a series of mortgage funds investing in commercial loans and mortgages.
- **Confidential private equity fund manager:** Establishment of VCLP where a major Australian

superannuation fund is the cornerstone investor.

- **Confidential VC fund manager:** Establishment of ESVCLP investing in early-stage technology investments.
- **The Nature Conservancy:** Advising on the establishment of the Murray Darling Basin Balanced Water Fund including drafting all relevant fund documents and contracts for acquiring water rights.
- **Confidential fintech client:** Advising on attaining of AFSL, ACL, AML program, data privacy (and GDPR) policy and procedures, as well as drafting contractual documents for financial products and distribution arrangements.
- **Confidential family office client:** Advising on licensing requirements and investment terms for investment into a fintech business, drafting shareholders and subscription agreements and product documentation.
- **Major bank:** Advising on AML/CTF exemption and successful attainment of exemption from AUSTRAC.
- **Major superannuation fund:** Advising on ASIC exemption.
- **Major insurer:** Advising on Australian compliance framework and remediation of compliance obligations inventory.
- **Major insurer:** Advising on AFSL variation to include authorisations for personal financial advice in connection with the development of a financial planning business.
- **Major bank:** Advising on conflicts of interest framework and management procedure.
- **Major bank:** Advising on prudential obligations framework.
- **Foreign bank:** Conducting a review of the bank's compliance framework and advising on compliance matters.

Recognition

- *Best Lawyers Australia*, 2015-2025: Recognised in Corporate Law, Funds Management, Investment Funds
- *Lawyers Weekly Australian Law Awards*, 2015-2022: Partner of the Year Finalist
- *Australian Lawyers Weekly*, 2019: Partner of the Year in the Financial Services Law
- *Women's Agenda Leadership Awards*, 2017: Finalist in the Emerging Leader in the Legal Sector
- *Euromoney Australasian Women in Business Law Awards*, 2014: Rising Star in the Corporate

Insights

- Co-author, "**Current regulatory review of Australia's investment landscape**," Dentons Client Alert, February 28 2024

Activities and Affiliations

- Board Director of the Australian Investment Council (2021-2024)
- Board Director of OIC Cambodia (2017-2022)

Community Involvement and Pro Bono

- Regtech Association: Pro bono legal services, 2022

- Girgensohn Foundation: Pro bono legal services, 2022

Presentations

- Presenter, ING Bank Presentation "ESG Update – Mandatory climate-related reporting in Australia, sustainable finance and greenwashing", May 2024
- Presenter, Australian Investment Council "Climate, Nature and Biodiversity, What's next?", April 2024

Memberships

- Member, Law Society, New South Wales
- Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Mentor in the Australian Investment Council Women in Private Capital: 2023 and 2024 Mentoring Program
- Co-Chair and Member of the Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee, Australian Investment Council (2015-2024)
- Member, Governance Committee, Cancer Council NSW, 2014-2023

Areas of focus

Practices

- **Banking**
- **Corporate**
- **Corporate Governance**
- **Retail and Consumer Finance**
- **Commercial Agreements**
- **Mergers and Acquisitions**
- **Privacy and Cybersecurity**
- **Venture Technology and Emerging Growth Companies**

Industry sectors

- **Financial Institutions**
- **Insurance**

Education

- University of New South Wales, B.Com; LL.B, Commerce (Finance)/Law
- University of New South Wales, Bachelor of Laws, LLB, Law

Admissions and qualifications

- Solicitor, England and Wales, 2000

- Solicitor, Supreme Court of New South Wales, 1995

Languages

- Mandarin