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Steve White - Brief Biographical Details

Steve White is the principal and founder of the law firm [White SW Computer Law](#).

[White SW Computer Law](#) is a law firm which has practiced in the areas of [Intellectual Property](#), Information Technology and Telecommunications law since 1994.

It has [offices](#) in Melbourne, Sydney and Hong Kong, which provides legal, and legal related services, to:

- the information technology industry,
- information technology customers,
- intellectual property owners and licensees and
- the telecommunications industry.

It provides:

- commercial legal advice services,
- [litigation](#) services,
- [mediation](#) services,
- [expert determination](#), and
- [arbitration](#) services

with an emphasis on [intellectual property](#), information technology and telecommunications issues.

Mr White is:

- admitted to practice law in Australia,
- an [Accredited Commercial Litigation Specialist](#),
- a [registered trade mark attorney](#),
- a qualified [mediator](#) and [arbitrator](#),
- a [member](#) of the [Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia](#) .au domain name dispute resolution panel,
- a [fellow](#) and [grade 1 arbitrator](#) of the [Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia](#),
- a member of the [LEADR](#) .au domain name dispute resolution panel,
- a member of the [auDA Review Panel](#),
- a member of the [Law Society of New South Wales](#),
- a member of the [Law Institute of Victoria](#),
- a [fellow](#) of the [Australian Computer Society](#),
- a [fellow](#) of the [Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration](#),
- an [accredited mediator](#) and graded arbitrator of the [Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia](#),
- a member of the [WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre](#) general list of mediators and arbitrators,
- a member of the [Victorian Society for Computers and the Law](#),
- a member of the [Copyright Society](#),
- a former professional grade [member](#) of the [Insolvency Practitioners Association of Australia](#) (now [ARITA](#)),
- a [member](#) of [LEADR](#),
- a [member](#) of the [ACDC Mediation Panel](#),
- a [member](#) of the [Chinese Arbitration Association, Taipei](#) panel of arbitrators,
- a [member](#) of the [Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre](#) panel of arbitrators,

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- a [member](#) of the [Shenzhen Arbitration Commission Panel of Arbitrators](#),
 - a member of the NBN Co Dispute Management Pool,
 - a [fellow](#) of the [Chartered Institute of Arbitrators](#),
 - a member of the [Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration's arbitration panel](#), [domain name disputes panel](#) and [mediation panel](#),
 - listed on the [Law Society of New South Wales](#) list of mediators and arbitrators,
 - listed on the [LIV Mediators List](#),
 - listed on the [LIV Magistrates Court external mediator list](#),
 - an author for [LexisNexis Practical Guidance](#) and
 - an author for [The College of Law](#) for its Commercial Litigation Masters subject, [Intellectual Property Litigation](#).

Mr White has:

- a [bachelors degree](#) in [Law](#),
- a [bachelors degree](#) in [Computer Science](#),
- a [Masters of Industrial Property](#),
- a [professional certificate](#) in [arbitration and mediation](#),
- completed a [certificate in commercial mediation](#) from the [Accord Group](#),
- a [certificate](#) in [Insolvency](#) and
- a [diploma in international arbitration](#) from the [Chartered Institute of Arbitrators](#).

Mr White has over 20 years of litigation experience in the [Federal Court](#), the [Supreme Court of New South Wales](#) and the [Supreme Court of Victoria](#).

Mr White served on the board of examiners for [Accredited Commercial Litigation Specialist](#) for 10 years.

Mr White has acted for a wide range of clients in involved in intellectual property, information technology and telecommunications including various government departments and agencies, universities, information technology companies and their customers and telecommunication companies and their customers.

Mr White is a regular conference speaker and has written various papers, which have been published both in Australia and internationally.

Mr White has acted as arbitrator in numerous substantial commercial disputes. [Mr White's arbitral resume can be found here](#).

Mr White was the arbitrator in the leading decisions of.

- [Larkden Pty Limited v Lloyd Energy Systems Pty Limited](#)¹
- [Larkden Pty Limited v Lloyd Energy Systems Pty Limited](#)²
- [Larkden Pty Limited v Lloyd Energy Systems Pty Limited](#)³
- [Larkden Pty Limited v Lloyd Energy Systems Pty Limited](#)⁴

His award has been upheld in each case. Further, those cases have been followed by subsequent Court decisions and now form part of the well-established arbitral law in Australia.

Mr White is a nationally accredited and experienced mediator acting as mediator in numerous substantial matters. For more information please visit www.mediator.com.au

Mr White is also the director and founder of [Software Escrow & Copyright Agents Pty Ltd](#) which provides escrow and technology services to many Australian and International companies and governments.

1. [2011] NSWSC 268
2. [2011] NSWSC 1331
3. [2011] NSWSC 1305
4. [2011] NSWSC 1567

Prior to commencing to practice law in 1992, Mr White worked in the IT industry for a number of years including time at [IBM Australia](#) as a software developer and as an instructor in Australia and South East Asia in:

- local area network products and services,
- operating systems,
- database design and
- communications systems.

Mr White has appropriate Australian Government Security Clearances.

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Mr White's Reported Arbitral Decisions

Our [Mr White](#) has more reported arbitrations than any other arbitrator in Australia. In every case his arbitral decisions have been upheld by the Court and become enforceable judgments of the Court as if they were made by a Court in the first instance. His reported decisions, set out below, have included jurisdiction, specific performance, injunctions, damages, declarations, proceedings against third parties and substantial costs orders in relation to technically complicated subject matter. Third parties commentators have said in relation to Mr White's work that the brevity of the process and the positive outcome, in that the award was enforced, bodes well for the efficacy of enforcement actions pursuant to the new Act. His decisions have been cited with approval and followed by various Courts in subsequent cases.

[Larkden Pty Limited -v- Lloyd Energy Systems Pty Limited](#)¹

- Our [Mr White](#) was the arbitrator in this matter.
- [Commercial Arbitration Act s33B\(1\)](#)
- Mr White's costs award of approximately \$1m was upheld by the Supreme Court of New South Wales.
- Followed in
 - [Bluechip Development Corporation \(Gladstone\) Pty Ltd v Sunstruct Pty Ltd & Ors \(No.2\)](#)²
 - [Australian Gypsum Industries Pty Ltd -v- Dalesun Holdings Pty Ltd](#)³
- Followed by the Full Federal Court in:
 - [Central Queensland Development Corporation Pty Ltd v Sunstruct Pty Ltd](#)⁴
- Cited with approval in:
 - [Australian Gypsum Industries Pty Ltd -v- Dalesun Holdings Pty Ltd](#)⁵

[Larkden Pty Limited -v- Lloyd Energy Systems Pty Limited](#)⁶

- Our [Mr White](#) was the arbitrator in this matter.
- Commercial Arbitration Act 2010 (NSW), ss [35](#) and [36](#)
- Award by arbitrator declaring a constructive trust, ordering specific performance of a Licencing Agreement and requiring the defendant to take steps
- Recognition and enforcement opposed on the basis that part of the Award dealt with the dispute not contemplated by or falling within the terms of arbitration and that recognition and enforcement of parts of the Award would be contrary to the public policy of this State
- Orders for recognition and enforcement made
- For third party commentary about this leading decision please visit the following links:
 - [Mr Warrick Rothnie, Leading IP/IT Counsel \(formerly partner Mallesons Stephens Jaques\)](#)
 - [Allens Arthur Robinson Focus: Arbitral award enforced against a company in administration](#)

¹ [2011] NSWSC 1567

² [2013] FCCA 1898

³ [2014] WASC 89

⁴ [2015] FCAFC 63

⁵ [2014] WASC 89

⁶ [2011] NSWSC 1331

Larkden Pty Limited -v- Lloyd Energy Systems Pty Limited⁷

- Our [Mr White](#) was the arbitrator in this matter.
- Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), [s440D](#)
 - An application for leave to bring and continue proceedings against a company in voluntary administration for recognition and enforcement of an arbitral award pursuant to Commercial Arbitration Act 2010 (NSW) s 35
 - Nature of discretion to be exercised
 - Relevant circumstances
 - Leave granted
 - For third party commentary about this leading decision please visit the following links:
 - [Allen Arthur Robinson Focus: Is it easier to bring proceedings against companies in administration?](#)
 - [Ashfords Solicitors Cross Border Restructuring & Insolvency](#)
 - [Pmf Legal Insolvency International](#)
 - Followed in
 - [Arogen v Leighton](#)⁸
 - [Australian Competition and Consumer Commission v ACN 135 183 372 \(Administrators Appointed\) \(formerly known as Energy Watch Pty Ltd\)](#)⁹
 - [Hopkins v AECOM Australia Pty Ltd](#)¹⁰
 - [Kruger v Kruger](#)¹¹
 - Cited in
 - [Modcol v National Buildplan Group](#)¹²

Larkden Pty Limited -v- Lloyd Energy Systems Pty Limited¹³

- Our [Mr White](#) was the arbitrator in this matter which included two substantial arbitrations involving renewable energy technology.
- This was one of the first reported cases under the leading arbitration legislative instrument in Australia namely the [Commercial Arbitration Act 2010 \(NSW\)](#) which follows the [UNCITRAL](#) model and is being adopted in slightly different forms in each state and territory of Australia.
- This case was also cited with approval in:
 - [Welker & Ors v Rinehart & Anor \(No 2\)](#)¹⁴
 - [Rinehart v Welker](#)¹⁵
- For third party commentary about this leading decision please visit the following links:
 - [Clayton Utz - LEADR legal update](#)
 - [Mr Warrick Rothnie, Leading IP/IT Counsel \(formerly partner Mallesons Stephens Jaques\)](#)
 - [Mallesons Stephens Jaques, Mr Jason Clapham, Senior Associate](#)
 - [Piper Alderman, Mr Andrew Robertson, Partner](#)
 - [AR Conolly & Company Lawyers](#)
 - [Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration - June 2011 Update](#)
 - [Mallesons Stephens Jaques, Adjunct Professor Max Bonnell, Partner](#)
 - [TollFree800Legal.com](#)
 - [Lexology](#)
 - [i-law](#)
 - [Supreme Court of Victoria Commercial Court](#)
 - [Bazpat IP Clauses in Licensing Agreements](#)
 - [ACICA December 2012 Newsletter, Mark Robertson, Domestic Arbitration Legislation Update](#)

⁷ [2011] NSWSC 1305

⁸ [2013] NSWSC 1099

⁹ [2012] FCA 586

¹⁰ [2012] FCA 1204

¹¹ [2012] FamCA 760

¹² [2013] NSWSC 380

¹³ [2011] NSWSC 268

¹⁴ [2011] NSWSC 1238

¹⁵ [2012] NSWCA 95

- This was the first decision under the new Act for recognition and enforcement of an arbitral award. The brevity of the process and the positive outcome, in that the award was enforced, bodes well for the efficacy of enforcement actions pursuant to the new Act.

[April 30, 2010 - Oakton Services Pty Ltd v Tenix Solutions IMES Pty Ltd](#)¹⁶

- Our [Mr White](#) did all the preparatory arbitration work for Tenix Solutions IMES Pty Ltd for over 12 months including running the dispute process which was the subject of this reported decision.

Domain Name Decisions

- [thinktelecom.com.au](#) - Sole Arbitrator
- [13taxi.com.au](#) – Sole Arbitrator
- [aussiepigs.com.au](#) - Sole Arbitrator
- [schoolinterviews.net.au](#), [schoolinterview.com.au](#) - Sole Arbitrator
- [costumesdirect.com.au](#) - Arbitrator in three member arbitrator panel in relation to a domain monetisation dispute. This is the leading decision on domain monetisation in Australia.
- [transportworkersunion.com.au](#), [tonysheldon.com.au](#), [twunsw.com.au](#), [twunsw.net.au](#), [wayneforno.com.au](#) - Sole Arbitrator
- [jldavies.com.au](#) - Sole Arbitrator
- [unforgettable.com.au](#) - No Further Action pursuant to Para 4(k) of the auDRP - Sole Arbitrator

[Redrock Holdings Pty Ltd & Hotline Communications Ltd v Hinkley](#)¹⁷, [Hotline Communications Ltd v Hinkley](#)¹⁸, [A2B Telecommunications Pty Ltd v Hinkley](#)¹⁹

- Our [Mr White](#) acted as solicitor for Redrock Holdings Pty Ltd in relation to successful copyright infringement claims against a former employee of Redrock.
- This is the leading case in Australia in relation to, amongst other things, the ownership of software created by employees including, without limitation, class libraries.
- As part of the litigation a successful application was made to the Court to inspect software obtain using an [anton piller](#) order by a third party in its own litigation against the former employee.

[Australian Competition & Consumer Commission v Internic Technology Pty Ltd & Anor](#)²⁰

- Our [Mr White](#) successfully acted for Internic Technologies Pty Ltd against the [ACCC](#), the US Government and various other parties in Australia and US litigation (including class litigation).
- This is not an arbitration decision but it was a very early leading domain name decision at a very important time for the development of the internet and class litigation.

Unreported Decisions

- Typically most arbitration decisions are unreported. That is a key advantage of arbitration.
- Our [Mr White](#) has heard and made many arbitral decisions of substantial disputes including, without limitation:
 - intellectual property licences and distribution agreements
 - constructive trusts and equitable relief in relation to intellectual property
 - breach of contract (including orders for specific performance)
 - breaches of fiduciary duty
 - unconscionable conduct in relation to lost opportunities and application of equitable relief in accordance with the principles set out in *Pallant v Morgan*²¹
 - research and development agreements
 - intellectual property ownership
 - telecommunication systems and billing

¹⁶ [2010] VSC 176

¹⁷ [2001] VSC 91

¹⁸ [1999] VSC 74

¹⁹ [1999] VSC 76

²⁰ [1998] FCA 818

²¹ [1952] Ch 43

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- telecommunication access
 - hardware and software implementations
 - applications for interlocutory relief (including injunctions)
 - the scope of [discovery](#) including resolution of the categories of documents to be discovered
 - the application of [Legal Professional Privilege](#) to both discovered and subpoenaed documents
 - the application of [Common Interest Legal Professional Privilege](#) to both discovered and subpoenaed documents
 - the application of [Without Prejudice Privilege](#) to both discovered and subpoenaed documents
 - disclosure of confidential information to a non-arbitral party pursuant to [Section 27G of the Commercial Arbitration Act 2010 \(NSW\)](#)
 - whether or not particular [discovery](#) should be permitted pursuant to [Section 19\(2\) of the Commercial Arbitration Act 2010 \(NSW\)](#)
 - awards of legal costs in excess of \$2m
 - whether or not [indemnity](#), [solicitor client](#) or [party/party](#) costs should apply
 - whether or not costs should be immediately determined and payable or determined and paid at the end of the arbitration
 - whether interest should be payable on costs awards
 - whether a Tribunal should proceed with the arbitration whilst it is subject to appeal pursuant to [s16\(9\) of the Commercial Arbitration Act 2010 \(NSW\)](#)

Expert Determinations

- Our [Mr White](#) has made many expert determinations including the determination of:
 - breach of contract claims and damages in relation to hardware and software disputes.
 - breach of contract claims and damages in relation to telecommunications billing disputes.

Intellectual Property, Information Technology and Telecommunications Audits

- Our [Mr White](#) conducted many audits including
 - the auditing of whether or not information technology infrastructure has been properly decommissioned and if so when
 - the auditing of the removal of intellectual property and other electronic data.

Court Order Supervision

- Our [Mr White](#) has supervised the execution of Anton Piller Orders on behalf of the Federal Court.

Defence Force Proceedings

- Our [Mr White](#) also has experience in proceedings under the [Defence Force Discipline Act 1982](#).

More Information

- [What are Mr White's fees?](#)