



Rachel Burdett

Partner, Cor Cordis

P +61 3 8320 5600 0401 642 255

e rburdett@corcordis.com.au

Website **LinkedIn**



In what year did you become a registered liquidator?

2010 after I returned from a number of roles in the banking industry.

Briefly summarise your work history.

I never planned a career in insolvency. My original ambition was journalism, and while studying I gained work experience at News Corp and the United Nations, ultimately securing a journalism cadetship. At the same time, an insolvency firm approached my college seeking a para professional, and I was put forward. Encouraged by my father, a pictorial editor in the news industry who understood the volatility of media careers, I accepted the role.

Two days after my 17th birthday, I joined Sheahan Sims (later Sims Lockwood), coinciding with a major national receivership. The intensity and complexity of the work immediately resonated, and insolvency quickly became my chosen path.

I went on to build strong technical and commercial foundations at Ernst & Young and later KPMG, advising on complex insolvency appointments, corporate restructures and contentious matters. These roles sharpened my analytical capabilities and stakeholder management skills, and deepened my understanding of how capital, governance, and decision-making intersect in distress.

That experience led me into senior executive roles in banking, including at National Australia Bank, where I managed high risk portfolios and teams, led process reform initiatives, and focused on improving asset quality and credit outcomes. I later joined BankWest (then part of the HBOS Group) as National Director of Risk Management, with responsibility for credit risk, policy development, asset quality and national teams, and acted as relief Chief Risk Officer as required. Working closely with boards, executives, and offshore stakeholders provided invaluable insight into enterprise level risk management and governance.

Returning to professional practice, I led the East Coast restructuring practice at BDO (formerly PKF), working closely with SME owners, lenders and advisors to navigate turnarounds, restructures and exits. During

this time, I also co founded women's forums within the firm to support diversity, leadership development and inclusion.

Today, as a Partner at Cor Cordis, I bring this breadth of experience together to help businesses navigate complex insolvency and restructuring challenges. It has been a career defined by problem solving, resilience and continuous learning, and one in which I am proud of the impact I have made.

Which external administration/receivership has been a career highlight for you, and why?

Early in my career, I worked on a trade on appointment in the manufacturing and retail sector in South Australia. We worked closely with management and production teams to restructure operations, improve performance, and ultimately sell the business, thereby preserving ongoing employment. The outcome was tangible and deeply impactful, and it reinforced the value a skilled restructuring practitioner can bring through a hands on, practical approach.

Rachel Burdett

At the time, integrated operational and financial restructuring was not widely recognised as part of a practitioner’s core capability. This experience gave me early clarity on where I wanted to focus my career. My subsequent 10 years in banking further strengthened that perspective, providing frequent opportunities to help businesses balance competing operational, financial and risk priorities during periods of stress.

What industries do you have experience in?

- Financial services
- Health (aged care & retirement and pharmaceutical)
- Real estate & construction
- Tourism & Leisure
- Agribusiness
- MIS
- Retail

What is your advice for aspiring registered liquidators?

Stay curious and actively seek out different perspectives. While we work in a specialised field, real value comes from understanding the bigger picture—how businesses operate, how boards and management make decisions, and how industries and sectors, from finance to

government, intersect. Every insight you gain sharpens your judgment, builds adaptability, and better equips you to deal with the unique challenges you’ll face.

What are your other interests?

Volunteering and giving back to the community are central to who I am. Through my various ARITA roles, I am passionate about raising the profile of practitioners across the Asia Pacific region and improving awareness of the important work we do. I am also deeply committed to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging—not as concepts, but as values I actively champion and embed in practice.

Prior to my national presidency role at ARITA, I served as President of a regional community centre focused on emergency relief, family support and housing, and I continue to volunteer there today.

I am also a parent to two young adults, navigating the many adventures that come with that stage of life. Broadening my learning and personal growth is important to me, and when time allows, I enjoy reading and studying to reflect and gain new perspectives. I hold a Master’s degree in Writing and, in 2025, completed a Graduate Diploma in Psychology, both of which have strong synergies with the work I do.

TMA Voluntary Code for Equitable Insolvency & Restructuring Appointments (EIRA)

The EIRA is part of a suite of initiatives by the TMA using generous sponsorship from Houlihan Lokey intended to increase the engagement and retention of women in restructuring and turnaround.

Thanks to the TMA Australia member firms who have signed up to this important initiative.

