

THE CLASS ACTIONS
LAW REVIEW

SEVENTH EDITION

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PREFACE

Class actions and major group litigation can be seismic events, not only for the parties involved but also for whole industries and parts of society. That potential impact means they are one of the few types of claim that have become truly global in both importance and scope, and this is reflected in this seventh edition of *The Class Actions Law Review*.

There are also a whole host of factors currently coalescing to increase the likelihood and magnitude of such actions. These factors include continuing geopolitical developments, particularly in Europe and North America, with moves towards protectionism and greater regulatory oversight. At the same time, further advances in (as well as greater recognition and experience of the limitations of) technology is giving rise to ever more stringent standards, with the potential for significant liability for those who fail to adhere to these protections. Finally, ever-growing consumer markets of increasing sophistication in Asia and Africa add to the expanding pool of potential claimants.

It should, therefore, come as no surprise that claimant law firms and third-party funders around the world are becoming ever more creative and active in promoting and pursuing class actions, and local laws are being updated to facilitate such actions before the courts.

As with previous editions of this *Law Review*, this updated publication aims to provide practitioners and clients with a single handbook to which they can turn for an overview of the key procedures, developments and factors in play in this area of law in a number of the world's most important jurisdictions.

Camilla Sanger and Peter Wickham

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