

SE News
HD **Whiz kid takes on own case**
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WC 356 words
PD 17 October 2014
SN Gold Coast Bulletin
SC GCBULL
ED GoldCoast
PG 20
LA English
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FORMER corporate whiz kid Matthew Perrin has dusted off his legal books to represent himself in court.

The **Gold** Coaster, who graduated top of his university law class in 1996, yesterday appeared in the Supreme Court in Brisbane where he is fighting for **millions** from liquidators called in when his **company** Christie Qld collapsed in 2009 owing up to \$60 **million**.

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Previously Mr Perrin has engaged leading law firms to represent him at numerous court hearings. He did not indicate if he was just representing himself for yesterday's brief mention or whether he would now be taking on the whole case himself.

At **stake** is about \$16 **million** in payments from the remains of the **company** originally set to go to ex-wife, Nicole Bricknell.

The case was to go to trial this month but has now been delayed, probably until next year.

Mr Perrin told the court he would like the case to be moved forward quickly given how much time the liquidator had taken to gather material. He said most of the delay was because different accountants were used by each side and extra reports were needed.

Mr Perrin is trying to claim that money Ms Bricknell lent the **company** in its dying days should now be paid to him as he struck a deal with her to take over the debts as part of their divorce settlement.

But liquidator Julie Williams has insisted Ms Bricknell waived her right to the bulk of the money when she signed forms indicating only about \$6 **million** was owed.

At his peak Mr Perrin's worth was estimated at \$132 **million** including property, shares and influence as his role as Billabong CEO before failed investments in **Chinese** supermarkets and a major mortgage dispute with the Commonwealth Bank.

Ms Bricknell fought off the bank by claiming Mr Perrin forged her signature on mortgage documents to raise money against their Cronin Island home without her knowledge. Fraud charges against Mr Perrin are still before the Brisbane Magistrates Court for hearing later this year.

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