

Sarah Alexandra McCarthy

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Professional Qualifications

Graduate Diploma of Law, University of Sydney (Current)

Bachelor of Laws, University of Technology Sydney, 2010

Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts), University of Wollongong, 2010

Admission to Practice

Barrister: 2018 (Tutors: Elizabeth Raper, Simeon Beckett)

Solicitor: 2010

Core Competencies

- Multi party litigation, acting for major insurers and government agencies
- Forensic legal analysis of expert evidence, including drafting letters of instruction, and wrangling joint expert reports
- Managing complex and highly sensitive litigation that is subject to media exposure
- Effective client communication and expectation management

Key Practice Areas

Employment Law

Coronial Inquiries and Public Law

Tortious Claims and Medical Negligence

Professional Regulatory

Employment Law

As a solicitor, defended adverse action claims in the Fair Work Commission, drafted employment contracts, drafted workplace policies (such as parent leave, discrimination and harassment policies), and conducted company transfer due diligence.

As a senior industrial relations advisor, represented the State Government negotiating industrial disputes and at hearings before in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission (both as advocate and instructing counsel). Provided strategic advice with respect to corporate restructures, change management, and industrial instrument variations. Negotiated award wage increases with employees and union representatives.

Coronial Inquiries and Public Law

Extensive experience as a solicitor representing government and private insured clients in coronial inquests. Government clients include the Department of Family and Community Services and Roads and Maritime Services. Included directly liaising with department heads and ministerial offices, and managing privacy, GIPA and public access to information issues.

Two years' experience with the Crown Solicitor's Office directly supporting the NSW State Coroner and instructing Counsel Assisting. Liaising with NSW Police with respect to forensic investigations, co-ordinating responses from families of the deceased, document management, and engaging experts including medical practitioners, as well as a broad range of other experts ranging from ornithologists to meteorologists.

Tortious Claims and Medical Negligence

As a senior solicitor, managed a high-volume government litigation claims practice (covered under the NSW Treasury Managed Fund, TMF), defending a variety of tortious (property and personal torts) and catastrophic motor vehicle accident claims. Included reviewing and finalising pleadings, taking statements, and analysing evidence and expert evidence.

As a solicitor, daily carriage of busy practice defending medical negligence claims in the District and Supreme Court on behalf of NSW Health (and TMF), Avant, and smaller providers, arising out of public hospital and private clinic procedures.

Professional regulatory

Working in London for Capsticks LLP, the United Kingdom's premier full-service health industry law firm, I represented numerous regulators, including the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the General Dental Council, conducting fitness to practice prosecutions. Involved daily case management of matters to be heard before the regulatory tribunal, taking large numbers of statements and preparing expert evidence.

Employment history

Roles held as solicitor

Sydney

- Senior Lawyer, the Department of Family & Community Services
- Senior Lawyer, Roads and Maritime Services (secondment)
- Lawyer, TrumanHoyle Lawyers
- Lawyer, TressCox Lawyers

London

- Lawyer, Capsticks LLP

Other roles

- Senior Industrial Relations Advisor, the Department of Finance Services & Innovation
- Paralegal & Acting/Solicitor, Crown Solicitor's Office of NSW

Volunteer roles

- Volunteer Solicitor, Kingsford Legal Centre
- Mock Trial Judge, Law Society of NSW
- Mock Trial Coach, Law Society of NSW
- Participant, Law Society of NSW Women's Mentoring Program
- Mentor, Freehills/UNSW Women's Mentoring Program

Other Professional Education

- Advanced Diploma, Screenwriting, Australian, Film Television & Radio School
- Certificate III in Aboriginal Cultural Education, TAFE NSW
- Understanding Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, University of Sydney, Centre for Continued Education
- Advanced Forensic Psychology, University of Sydney, Centre for Continued Education
- Forensic Psychology, University of Sydney, Centre for Continued Education