

JOEL RUFFLES LLB, BA

Joel Ruffles comes to the Bar with 15 years' experience in commercial law and commercial litigation, during which time he has worked at national firms in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Joel's legal expertise includes advising on all aspects of commercial and corporate law and managing all types of commercial disputes including complex and high-value litigation in the Supreme Court of Victoria, the Federal Court of Australia and the Senior Courts of England and Wales.

He has represented—

- National and international banks, finance companies, insurers and financial derivative trading companies;
- Government (including government departments, essential services, councils, statutory bodies) and industry self-regulatory bodies;

- Information and communication technology businesses;
- Liquidators, administrators and receivers;
- Australian and European property developers;
- Professionals (including accountants, solicitors, architects, stockbrokers and dentists); and
- Retailers, manufacturers and other businesses of all sizes.

Joel is reading with mentor Peter Wallis and his senior mentor is Tim North QC.



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AREAS OF PRACTICE

Commercial

- Banking
- Competition
- Consumer Protection Law
- Contractual Disputes
- Corporate Insolvency
- Corporations Law
- Insurance

- Intellectual Property
- Professional Liability
- Real Property
- Securities and Investments

Equity

- Real Property
- Trusts

LISA MENDICINO LLB (Hons), BA

Lisa Mendicino has over 15 years' experience in a broad range of criminal law matters across all jurisdictions in Victoria.

Lisa comes to the Bar having worked as a solicitor advocate at Victoria Legal Aid, in private practice and at the Office of Public Prosecutions. In these roles, she had the carriage of complex criminal matters in both State and Commonwealth proceedings, including violence offences, property offences, drug offences, sexual offences and murder.

In 2012, Lisa was recognised as an Accredited Criminal Law Specialist by the Law Institute of Victoria.

Lisa has regularly appeared in bail applications, plea hearings, contested committals, summary contested hearings, appeals and breaches in the Magistrates', Children's and County Courts.

Lisa appeared as junior counsel for the accused in a County Court incest trial involving complex legal argument.

Lisa was also junior counsel in *DPP v Hunter* [2013] VSC 440 and *The Queen v Da Costa* [2014] VSC 458 in the Supreme Court.

Lisa has also appeared as Counsel Assisting the Coroner.

Lisa has considerable experience as an advocate in a variety of complex hearings which have included working with clients with a disability, mental illness and drug and alcohol addictions. She has instructed in a number of trials in the County and Supreme Courts, including hearings conducted under the Crimes (*Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried*) Act 1997.

Lisa is committed to providing access to justice to her clients and ensuring that the interests of justice are served.

Lisa is reading with Michael Cahill. Lisa's Senior Mentor is Lesley Taylor Q.C.



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AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Criminal Law
- Criminal Law (Appellate)
- Commissions of Inquiry/Inquests
- Public/Administrative Law

MICHAEL ALLEN BA, JD (Melb)

Michael accepts briefs to appear and advise in both criminal and civil jurisdictions.

Prior to signing the Bar Roll, Michael completed graduate legal training at Tony Hannebery Lawyers, and, after being admitted to practice, commenced employment as a solicitor at Galbally & O'Bryan, where he worked under Paul Galbally. During his time at these firms, Michael was exposed to a broad range of matters, including proceedings involving:

- summary and indictable crime;
- work health and safety offences;
- the Office of the Chief Examiner;
- the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission; and
- the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

While at Galbally & O'Bryan, Michael also gained experience appearing as an advocate in the Magistrates' Court.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Juris Doctor from the University of Melbourne. In the final year of his law degree, he received the *Melbourne JD Award (Third Year)* for finishing the top ranked third year student in 2014, together with academic prizes in *Legal Research, Legal Ethics, Rule of Law, and Advocacy*.

Whilst a law student, Michael was also employed by Jesuit Social Services, where he worked with young people involved in the criminal justice system. Since 2013, he has served on the Policy Committee of Liberty Victoria.

Michael is reading with two mentors: Scott Johns, who specialises in criminal law, and Andrew Woods, who specialises in administrative and commercial law. His senior mentor is Michael O'Connell SC.



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AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Public/Administrative Law
- Criminal Law (Appellate)
- Commissions of Inquiry/Inquests
- Environment and Planning

RACHEL WATERS LLB, BA

Rachel practises primarily in Criminal Law. She accepts briefs in a broad range of matters within this area including crimes against the person, sexual assault, drugs, traffic offences, and property offences.

Rachel began her training in Criminal Law under a seasonal clerkship at the Office of Public Prosecutions where she was assigned to the Appeals Directorate. In this capacity, Rachel prepared briefs for and instructed Crown Prosecutors in the Court of Appeal.

Rachel is passionate about social justice and human rights. As counsel her practice will be particularly focused on assisting marginalised clients: those with mental health issues, clients from indigenous and migrant backgrounds, and young offenders. From 2009 to 2011, Rachel participated in the Asylum

Seeker Resource Centre Legal Program (ASRC) where she was responsible for drafting client briefs and general case management.

She is available for appearances in summary and indictable matters in Melbourne and in regional Victoria; and in Darwin, Alice Springs and Hobart. Rachel also accepts briefs on a pro bono basis.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Rachel was associate to His Honour Judge Stuart at the County Court of Victoria. In this role, she gained considerable experience in the criminal division, assisting in trials, pleas, appeals from the Magistrates' Court and supervision order applications.

Rachel is reading with Julie Condon and her senior mentor is Patrick Tehan QC.



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AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Criminal Law
- VOCAT

NAOMI LENGA LLB (Hons), BA

Naomi is available to accept briefs in the areas of commercial law, corporations law, insolvency, common law and criminal law.

Naomi has extensive experience as a Costs Lawyer having worked for Ariel Weingart, where she gained broad litigation experience in matters concerning professional practice and procedure, professional conduct, ethics and mediation.

She began her legal career as a solicitor at Clayton Utz. Naomi gained experience in a broad range of commercial matters and disputes including mergers and

acquisitions, directors' duties, corporate governance, insolvency, insurance and medical negligence.

Immediately prior to coming to the Bar, Naomi spent a number of years as a Teaching Associate at Monash University Law School, teaching Corporations Law and Legal Reasoning and Statutory Interpretation in the undergraduate and Juris Doctor postgraduate programs.

Naomi is reading with Dean Guidolin. Her senior mentors are Gerard Dalton QC and Jeremy Ruskin QC.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Commercial
- Common Law/Personal Injury
- Criminal Law
- Inquests/Inquiries



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JACK O'CONNOR LLB (Hons), BA

Jack accepts briefs in public and administrative law, criminal law (particularly criminal appeals), and commercial law. He has experience working in government, in a commercial law firm, and as an Associate at the Court of Appeal.

Before coming to the Bar, Jack worked in Criminal Law Policy at the Department of Justice & Regulation. His role included developing legislation and drafting regulations, primarily in the areas of sentencing and confiscation law. He also advised on questions of statutory interpretation, legal issues raised in petitions for mercy, applications under prisoner transfer legislation, requests for access to information, and statements of compatibility under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Prior to joining Criminal Law Policy, Jack was Associate to the Hon Justice Weinberg of the Court of Appeal. During his time at the Court, Jack assisted His Honour on criminal and civil appeals, and on matters in the Trial Division.

Jack graduated from The University of Melbourne with First Class Honours in Law in 2010. While at university, he was an Assistant Editor on the *Melbourne University Law Review*. He completed his supervised legal training at Thomsons Lawyers (now Thomson Geer).

Outside his work at the Bar, Jack has been engaged as a contributing author to Bourke's *Criminal Law Victoria* in the areas of human rights law and lotteries.

Jack is reading with Theo Alexander and his senior mentor is Paul Holdenson QC.



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AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Public/Administrative Law
- Civil Appeals
- Commercial
- Commissions/inquiries
- Criminal Law (Appellate)

GARY TAYLOR LLB, B.Ec

Gary Taylor has been a solicitor since 1996, practising in all fields of Personal Injury Law - WorkCover, TAC, Public Liability, Medical Negligence, Superannuation and Whistleblower Claims. He has a special interest in Whistleblower and Protected Disclosure Claims having represented the Whistleblower in the UN-Oil-for-Food Royal Commission in 2008 and establishing law in this novel area: *Owens v University of Melbourne* [2008] VSC 174. He has also represented and advised Doctors and other professionals in disputes with insurers, the MPB, AHPRA, WorkCover, TAC and other regulatory bodies.

During his practice Gary was an Accredited LIV Specialist in Personal Injury. He was a Partner at Maurice Blackburn from 2001 to 2004 having setup and established the firm's practice in Geelong before becoming a Partner

at Clark Toop and Taylor Compensation Lawyers from 2004 to 2015, in which he managed the Geelong office.

Gary has run matters in almost all Victorian Judicial Courts - Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, County Court and Magistrates' Court as well as the AAT.

Many of Gary's cases are referred to on the Judicial College of Victoria Website, particularly on the application and interpretation of the definition of "serious injury" as defined by the ACA or TAA. (eg. *Acir v Frosster* [2009] VSC 174, 454, 539) and in the compensation arena (eg. *Department of Education v Unsworth* [2010] VSCA 77).

Gary Taylor offers sound judgement, practical advice and a healthy endeavour to "add value" to the outcomes sought. He is reading with Matthew Walsh and his Senior Mentor is Dyson Hore-Lacy SC.



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AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Common Law/Personal Injury
- Compensation Law
- Commissions of Inquiry/Disciplinary Proceedings

GARETH REDENBACH LLB, LLM, CTA

Before joining the Bar, Gareth was in-house counsel for the Macquarie Group based in New York responsible for managing transfer pricing and international tax matters across the Americas region. Gareth was previously a Senior Associate at Minter Ellison focussed on tax controversy and began his career in the international tax department of PwC working directly for their head of international tax. Gareth has significant experience in general law and regulatory matters for the financial services, public-private partnership and energy industries and has assisted with the settlement of commercial matters related to equitable and proprietary rights.

Given his experience as in-house counsel, Gareth understands that legal advice and actions need to be appropriately adapted to the relevant commercial context and drivers to be valuable to clients. Gareth is uniquely positioned to assist both Australian outbound investors and US inbound investors given his familiarity with the commercial, regulatory and tax drivers of particular investments and divestments.

Gareth has particularly detailed technical knowledge of transfer pricing rules and methods (including global profit splits), entity and instrument hybrids / financing (e.g. debt/equity rules and TOFA), international tax treaties, the capital / revenue distinction and Taxable Australian Real Property issues. Gareth has also worked on major investment and divestments for Chinese, UK and European inbound and outbound investors, including enforcement and administrative matters. Gareth is the former Chair of the Corporate Section and Executive Committee member of the US Committee of Banking Institutions on Taxation, has taught and continues to guest lecture at the University of Melbourne on tax (undergraduate and postgraduate). Gareth also regularly participates and speaks at TIA, OECD, IFA and other conferences.

Gareth accepts briefs in taxation, equity and general commercial matters, as well as plea based matters in all Courts.



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AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Tax/Revenue
- Equity
- Commercial