

# NEW MEMBERS

June 2014

# FOLEY'S LIST

With Foley's List, it is always about service, knowledge, and expertise - across all areas of the law. The tradition continues as we welcome new barristers Fiona Knowles, Brenton Devanny, Amelia Beech, James Westmore, Philip Teo, Gordon Chisholm, Amanda Burnnard and Max Hume.

Please contact our experienced clerking team by calling (613) 9225 7777 or emailing [foleys@foleys.com.au](mailto:foleys@foleys.com.au) to brief a Foley's List barrister.

John Kelly CEO Foley's List

## FIONA KNOWLES BA (Hons), LLB (Hons), LLM

Fiona Knowles' practice covers civil and public law, in particular in the area of workplace relations. Fiona recently worked as a principal lawyer for the Fair Work Ombudsman and at the Department of Justice after over 10 years in private practice. In doing so, Fiona has advised a wide variety of clients, such as government departments, corporations, associations and individuals.

Having this broad experience means that Fiona can provide insight on matters from a unique range of perspectives. Her work has involved cases spanning multiple jurisdictions and forums.

She has extensive experience in providing strategic advice, alternative dispute resolution and litigation, in particular representing clients in statutory

and common law claims, including:

- Fair Work Act
- employment
- discrimination
- administrative law
- misleading and deceptive conduct
- directors' duties

She is known for her work in anti-discrimination law and workplace rights matters and has acted as the instructing solicitor on some landmark cases in these areas.

Fiona is an accredited specialist in workplace relations and sits on the Law Institute of Victoria's Workplace Relations Specialisation Advisory Committee. She was also elected to the LIV's Council from 2010-2013 after being Chair of its Workplace Relations Section for the preceding three years.



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### AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Administrative Law (Judicial Review)
- Administrative Law (Merits Review)
- Discrimination
- Employment Law
- Equal Opportunity
- Human Rights
- Industrial Relations
- Licensing and Disciplinary Tribunals
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Freedom of Information

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# BRENTON DEVANNY

LLM, LLB (Hons), BCom, GradDip

Brenton Devanny practises in commercial litigation, with a focus on insolvency, banking and finance, commercial arbitration and corporations law.

Before coming to the Bar, Brenton worked as a solicitor:

- at Russell Kennedy in the Dispute Resolution department;
- in the Part IVC team of the Legal Services Branch of the Australian Taxation Office; and
- at Forbes Dowling Lawyers.

As a solicitor, Brenton had a diverse practice. He specialised in insolvency working both for and against insolvency practitioners in administrations, receiverships, liquidations and bankruptcies. This included unfair preference, uncommercial transaction and unreasonable director-related transaction litigation. As well as applications by liquidators for various

Court orders. He developed a niche practice dealing with disputes over Creditor's Statutory Demands (both on the creditor and debtor sides).

Brenton also has a very broad range of experience in commercial litigation, particularly in contract, property and trust disputes. Brenton also has some more exotic experience in undue influence litigation, Personal Property Securities Act disputes and estate litigation.

Brenton holds a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne as well as a Bachelor of Laws (with Honours) and a Bachelor of Commerce from La Trobe University. Brenton is the first graduate from La Trobe University's Bendigo campus to join the Victorian Bar. Brenton received the Bendigo Bank Prize and the Blake Dawson Waldron Prize at La Trobe University.

Brenton is reading with Peter Fary.



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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation
- Banking and Finance
- Bankruptcy/Insolvency
- Building and Construction
- Commercial Law
- Corporations and Securities
- Equity/Trusts
- Insurance
- Property Law
- Residential/Retail Tenancies
- Taxation
- Trade Practices
- Appeals/Appellate
- Mediation
  - Alternative Dispute Resolution/Mediation
  - Banking and Finance
  - Bankruptcy/Insolvency
  - Commercial Law
  - Corporations and Securities
  - Equity/Trusts

# JAMES WESTMORE LLB (Hons), BA

James comes to the bar with significant experience in criminal law, evidence law and advocacy.

At the bar, he intends to apply these skills to develop a broad practice.

Prior to coming to the bar, James was employed at Galbally O'Bryan Lawyers as a solicitor before taking on a role as solicitor-advocate in his last two years at the firm.

As a solicitor-advocate, James developed a strong advocacy practice in a range of matters and jurisdictions, appearing most regularly in the Magistrates' Court in pleas, breach proceedings and contested bail applications.

As a solicitor, James had carriage of a wide range of criminal and quasi-criminal

matters including ASIC prosecutions, complex murder trials, sex offence trials, appeals and professional disciplinary proceedings.

In addition to his experience in criminal law and advocacy, James has a very sound knowledge of uniform evidence law.

Prior to his admission to practice, James completed his studies at Melbourne University, graduating in Law with honours and in Arts before completing articles under the guidance of Paul Galbally and Peter Ward at Galbally & O'Bryan Lawyers.

James is reading with Trevor Wraight. His senior mentor is Neil Clelland QC.



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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Administrative Law (Judicial Review)
- Administrative Law (Merits Review)
- Criminal Law
- Criminal Law (Appellate)
- Defamation, Media & Entertainment
- Inquests
- Intervention Orders
- Licensing and Disciplinary Tribunals
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Personal Injuries
- Professional Negligence
- Torts
- Traffic Law

# PHILIP TEO LLB, BA, GDLP

Philip Teo has a broad practice with a focus on criminal, children's court and family law proceedings.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Philip was Associate to His Honour Judge Gamble in the Criminal Jurisdiction of the County Court of Victoria. He worked predominantly in criminal trials and pleas and provided research support in the areas of sentencing, evidence, criminal procedure and jury directions. He also served in reserve associate roles in personal injury trials and serious injury applications in the Damages and Compensation List of the Civil Jurisdiction.

He has experience in numerous circuit courts in regional Victoria, including

participating in the County Koori Court pilot at the Latrobe Valley Law Courts.

Philip is a firm believer in access to justice and is a participant in the Bar's Pro Bono Scheme and Duty Barristers' Scheme. He has also had various involvements with community legal centres including the Monash Oakleigh Legal Service and Family Law Assistance Program since 2008.

Philip is a member of the Criminal Bar Association, Family Law Bar Association, and Children's Court Bar Association.

Philip is reading with Daniel Gurvich. His senior mentor is Christopher Beale QC.



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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Children's Court
- Criminal Law
- Criminal Law (Appellate)
- Family Law/De Facto
- Inquests
- Intervention Orders
- Mental Health
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Personal Injuries
- Traffic Law
- Transport Accident Commission
- Workcover
- VOCAT



# GORDON CHISHOLM BA (Hons), LLB

Gordon's primary interest is criminal law, procedure and evidence law. He is available to be briefed in:

- Criminal trials;
- Committal proceedings;
- Plea hearings;
- Summary contested hearings;
- IBAC hearings;
- Professional Negligence;
- Transport Accident Commission;
- WorkCover/Comcare and
- VOCAT hearings.

His forensic skills make him adept in representing clients before quasi-criminal, disciplinary or professional tribunals and can also add value to common law proceedings.

Immediately prior to coming to the bar Gordon worked for a number of years as a solicitor advocate at Slades & Parsons Solicitors, practising exclusively in

criminal defence work. Before that he was Associate to Her Honour Judge Lewitan of the County Court. Her Honour sat in the criminal and commercial jurisdictions of the Court as well as in common law damages claims including serious injury applications. Gordon's role saw him gain familiarity with the rules and procedures in all these areas.

Gordon obtained a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne. His honours thesis in Arts looked at language abilities in chimpanzees. In his undergraduate law thesis Gordon looked at the use of moral rights in design law. His interest in writing also saw him co-write a 50 year history of Moomba for the Melbourne City Council.

He is reading with Ben Ihle. His senior mentor is Peter Chadwick QC.



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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Criminal Law (Appellate)
- Criminal Law
- Inquests
- Licensing and Disciplinary Tribunals
- Professional Negligence
- VOCAT
- Transport Accident Commission
- WorkCover/Comcare
- Torts

# AMANDA BURNNARD LLB (Hons), BA

Amanda accepts briefs in all areas of criminal law as well as in quasi-criminal and regulatory matters.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Amanda was a solicitor advocate with Robert Stary Lawyers. She had a wide practice including serious assault, dishonesty, driving, drug and sexual offence matters across both the summary and indictable jurisdictions. Amanda appeared regularly in the Magistrates' and County Courts, and gained experience in bail applications, plea hearings, contested hearings and appeals. She also prepared a number of matters for trial and instructed during those trials.

Amanda commenced her legal career at the Office of Public Prosecutions,

where in addition to the above areas she gained experience in proceeds of crime matters.

Amanda has also volunteered with the Western Suburbs Legal Service as both a student and legal practitioner.

Amanda holds a Bachelor of Laws (with Honours) and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne. During her law degree, Amanda received the Sir Charles Lowe Prize for being the highest-ranked student in Legal Ethics and Professional Conduct.

Amanda is reading with Carolene Gwynn. Her senior mentor is George Georgiou SC.



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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Children's Court
- Confiscation/Proceeds of Crime
- Criminal Law/Intervention/Compensation
- Inquests
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Traffic Law
- Criminal Law
- Intervention Orders
- VOCAT

# AMELIA BEECH BA/LLB, LLM (current)

Amelia has appeared as an advocate in a broad range of criminal defence matters across both Victoria and the Northern Territory, having worked as a solicitor advocate in private practice and at Victoria Legal Aid and as a barrister and solicitor at the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission.

In these roles, she has had the carriage of complex criminal defence matters including terrorism, drug offences, sexual offences, murder, violence, property offences and white collar crime, in both state and commonwealth proceedings.

Amelia has appeared as an advocate in the Magistrates' and County Court, including bail applications, pleas, committals, appeals and contested hearings and breaches as well as applications for Supervision Orders made pursuant to the Serious Sex Offender (Detention and Supervision) Act. She also appeared as junior counsel in a complex rape trial in the County Court.

Amelia began her career as an articled clerk and then associate with Robert Stary Lawyers. During that time she appeared extensively as an advocate in the Magistrates' and County Courts in both suburban and regional locations. In these courts, she gained experience in a broad range of hearings.

In 2011, Amelia transitioned from private practice to the Sexual Offences Team of Victoria Legal Aid in the capacity of Deputy Managing Lawyer and, later, Managing Lawyer of the Sexual

Offences Sub-Program, working almost exclusively on sexual offence matters. She presented papers on Restorative Justice in Sexual Offence Cases, Defending Historical Sexual Offence Cases and Practical Aspects of Defending Applications made under the Serious Sex Offenders (Supervision and Detention) Act. She also worked on the Sexual Offence List Users Group of the County and Magistrates' Courts as well as consulting regularly with the Department of Justice in relation to proposed law reform in the area of sexual offences.

In the twelve months prior to joining the Victoria Bar, Amelia was a barrister and solicitor with the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission in Alice Springs. As a fused jurisdiction, Amelia appeared as counsel in a broad range of matters, including large numbers of contested hearings in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction as well as pleas, breaches and, notably, a successful appeal against conviction in the Supreme Court.

Amelia's broad range of criminal law experience as both a solicitor advocate and barrister, combined with her specialised experience in sexual offence and indigenous matters, highlight her passion in providing high quality legal representation to marginalised members of the community.

Amelia is currently reading with Julian McMahon and is supported by Senior Mentor George Georgiou SC.



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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Administrative (Judicial Review) Law
- Children's' Court
- Criminal Law
- Human Rights
- Intervention Orders

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## MAX HUME LLB

Max Hume is a barrister with extensive experience practising as a solicitor in criminal law, having previously worked at the Office of Public Prosecutions and Victoria Legal Aid. He will maintain a broad practice, but he has particular expertise in Criminal Appeals and Proceeds of Crime Litigation.

Max's appellate experience began with working at the Office of Public Prosecutions Appeals Directorate for 18 months. He then moved to Victoria Legal Aid's Appeals and Strategy Team (Criminal Law Melbourne), and worked there for approximately two years.

During his time at these organizations, he had carriage of myriad appeals against conviction and sentence, as well as occasional crown appeal, judicial review and High Court matters. During this time he also prepared and filed written submissions, and made appearances in the Court of Appeal. His appearances

as a solicitor advocate in the Court of Appeal include:

- Frost v R [2012] VSCA 282
- Raimondi v R [2013] VSCA 194 (junior to John McLoughlin)
- Driscoll v R [2013] VSCA 366 (written submissions and leave hearing)

Max began his career as a solicitor working in the Proceeds of Crime Directorate of the Office of Public Prosecutions. There he worked for approximately one year in complex state proceeds of crime matters, and made appearances in the County Court and Supreme Court practice courts.

Whilst at the Office of Public Prosecutions and Victoria Legal Aid, Max also appeared in various summary criminal matters, including duty lawyer bail applications, pleas and County Court appeals. Max has also junioried in a fraud trial whilst at Victoria Legal Aid.



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