



NSW Women Lawyers
Achievement Awards 2019
Gala Presentation Dinner

*Friday 23 August 2019
Dockside, Cockle Bay Wharf
Darling Harbour*

Proudly supported by



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION



Justice



Australian Government



Workplace
Gender Equality
Agency



Dear Members and Guests

The NSW Women Lawyers Achievement Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of outstanding women lawyers, mentors and firms that have achieved excellence in their area of practice and helped create opportunities for women in the law.

We are grateful for the support of the Law Society of NSW, the NSW Bar Association, the Department of Justice, the Association of Corporate Counsel, Australia and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency for the Awards this year. We also extend our special thanks to each of the Award Prize Sponsors and affiliated supporting organisations for their generous contributions.

In 2019, WLANSW will present awards in the following categories:

- > **Change Champion of the Year**, sponsored by Thomson Reuters
- > **Outstanding Law Firm of the Year**, sponsored by Law Society of NSW
- > **Woman Lawyer of the Year**, sponsored by Gilbert + Tobin
- > **Barrister of the Year**, sponsored by the NSW Bar Association
- > **Private Practice Lawyer of the Year**, sponsored by Genesis Offices
- > **Corporate Counsel of the Year**, sponsored by Bartier Perry
- > **Rising Star of the Year**, sponsored by Herbert Smiths Freehills
- > **Community Lawyer of the Year**, sponsored by Colin Biggers & Paisley
- > **Mentor of the Year**, sponsored by College of Law
- > **Government Lawyer of the Year**
- > **Regional Lawyer of the Year**, sponsored by Catherine Henry Lawyers
- > **Legal Academic of the Year**

In their respective award category, each Candidate was required to meet at least four of the following criteria:

- > The achievement of a high level of professional skill, recognition and/or excellence in her chosen field;
- > An outstanding contribution to the advancement of women within the legal profession through leadership and example;
- > Encouragement of and influence on other women to pursue a legal career;
- > Commitment to the support, encouragement and promotion of other women lawyers including mentoring of women within their own firm, company or institution or within the legal profession generally;
- > Advocacy and support for the establishment of flexible work practices and innovative diversity programs, and/or for the removal of barriers to entry or promotion and/or role modelling the effective balancing of family and work commitments;
- > Participation in a professional or community organisation, especially those involving women; and
- > Advocacy and/or support for the legal rights of all women including the exposure and eradication of all forms of discrimination against women.

A Life Achievement Award will also be presented and Life Membership honours announced.

Thank you for joining us to celebrate our 9th NSW Women Lawyers Achievement Awards, since the inaugural awards dinner in 1995.

Kind regards



Larissa Andelman
President

Guest Speaker

**Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM,
President of the Australian Human Rights Commission**



Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM FRSA FACLM (Hon) FAAL TEP commenced a seven-year term as President of the Australian Human Rights Commission on 30 July 2017. Prior to joining the Commission, Rosalind was President of the Australian Law Reform Commission (2009–2017) and Commissioner (2007–2009), where she led a number of significant law reform inquiries. She has lectured and published extensively, principally in the fields of equity, trusts, property, inheritance, legal history and increasingly in public policy. From Dec 1999 to Feb 2007 she was Dean of Macquarie Law school. In 2011 she was recognised as one of the 40 'inspirational alumni' of UNSW, where she gained her PhD in legal history and in 2013, she was made an Honorary Life Member of the Women Lawyers' Association of New South Wales. In 2014 she was acknowledged for her contributions to public policy as one of Australia's '100 Women of Influence' in the Australian Financial Review and Westpac awards; and for her 'outstanding contribution to the legal profession' was awarded the Australian Women Lawyer's award. In 2015 she was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for 'significant service to the law as an academic, to legal reform and education, to professional development, and to the arts'; in 2018, UNSW conferred on her an honorary LLD; and, in the same year she was appointed as Patron of The Lawyers Orchestra Inc.

WLANSW Patron

The Honourable Jane Mathews AO



Jane Mathews was the first woman judge in NSW. She has sat (for seven years each) on the District Court of NSW, the Supreme Court of NSW and the Federal Court of Australia. Until last year she was an Acting Judge on the Supreme Court of NSW. Amongst her numerous other activities, she has been President of the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Deputy President of the National Native Titles Tribunal, President of the Arts Law Centre of Australia, and Deputy Chancellor of the University of NSW. Jane has always had a strong interest in women and the law. She was the founder of the Australian Association of Women Judges, and was the President of the International Association of Women Judges between 2004 and 2006. She is Patron of the Women Lawyers Association of NSW. She holds an honorary LLD from Sydney and Wollongong Universities. In 2005 she was made an Officer of the Order of Australia.



Award Category Sponsors & Finalists

Change Champion of the Year sponsored by Thomson Reuters



AWARD FINALISTS

Melanie Cairns, *Alinea Chambers*
Michelle Dixon, *Maddocks*
Danielle Kelly, *Herbert Smith Freehills*
Melissa Marshall, *Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia*
A/Prof Trish Mundy, *School of Law, Uni of Wollongong*

Barrister of the Year Sponsored by NSW Bar Association



AWARD FINALISTS

Melanie Cairns, *Alinea Chambers*
Sera Mirzabegian, *10th Floor Wentworth Chambers*
Diana Tang, *New Chambers*
Vanessa Whittaker SC, *11 Wentworth Chambers*

Private Practice Lawyer of the Year sponsored by Genesis Offices



AWARD FINALISTS

Rebecca Dunn, *Gilbert + Tobin*
Lorri Field, *PDC Lawyers & Planners*
Suzie Leask, *Australian Business Lawyers & Advisors*
Karena Nicholls, *Kells Lawyers*
Catherine Wilkinson, *Sparke Helmore Lawyers*
Pauline Wright, *PJ Donnellan & Co*
Amy Zhang, *Harmers Workplace Lawyers*

Corporate Counsel of the Year sponsored by Bartier Perry



AWARD FINALISTS

Rachel Besley, *Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu*
Carynne Howitt, *Lion Nathan*
Natalie Kalouche, *Local Government Super*
Yen Hui Tie, *AMP Capital Investors Limited*

Government Lawyer of the Year

AWARD FINALISTS

Juliana Crofts, *Legal Aid NSW, Port Macquarie Office*
Emma Curran, *Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions*
Elizabeth Espinosa, *Liverpool Council*
Julie O'Brien, *Australian Human Rights Commission*

Community Lawyer of the Year sponsored by Colin Biggers & Paisley



AWARD FINALISTS

Terri Janke, *Terri Janke and Company*
Melissa Jozwiak, *Macarthur Legal Centre*
Hilary Kincaid, *Inner City Legal Centre*
Melissa Marshall, *Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia*
Kim Richardson, *Hunter Community Legal Centre*
Liz Snell, *Women's Legal Service NSW*
Jacqueline Svenson, *University of Newcastle Legal Centre*

Regional Lawyer of the Year sponsored by Catherine Henry Lawyers



AWARD FINALISTS

Natalee Davis, *Kells Lawyers*
Lorri Field, *PDC Lawyers & Planners*
Jenny Finlay-Jones, *Moray & Agnew*
Jessica Koot, *Access Law Group*
Suzie Leask, *Australian Business Lawyers & Advisors*
Michelle Meares, *Watts McCray*
Susan Moran, *SWS Lawyers*
Karena Nicholls, *Kells Lawyers*
Kim Richardson, *Hunter Community Legal Centre*
Catherine Wilkinson, *Sparke Helmore Lawyers*
Pauline Wright, *PJ Donnellan & Co*

Award Category Sponsors & Finalists

Legal Academic of the Year

AWARD FINALISTS

Justine Nolan, *UNSW Law, Faculty of Law*
A/Prof Nola Ries, *Faculty of Law, UTS*
Prof Nan Seuffert, *Uni of Wollongong, Legal Intersections Research Centre*
Prof Tania Sourdin, *Newcastle Law School, Uni of Newcastle*
Liesel Spencer, *Western Sydney University*

Mentor of the Year Sponsored by the College of Law



AWARD FINALISTS

Alicia Albury, *Maddocks*
Anita Cade, *Ashurst*
Andrew Frankland, *Bartier Perry*
Jennifer Harris, *Clayton Utz*
Melissa Jozwiak, *Macarthur Legal Centre*
Katie Malyon, *Administrative Appeals Tribunal*
Susan Moran, *SWS Lawyers*
Karena Nicholls, *Kells Lawyers*
Kristy Perdriau, *Div eX*
Kim Richardson, *Hunter Community Legal Centre*
Rachel Scanlon, *Rachel Scanlon Consulting Pty Limited*

Rising Star of the Year Sponsored by Herbert Smith Freehills



AWARD FINALISTS

Anna Belgiorio-Nettis, *Gilbert + Tobin*
Claire Bourke, *RMB Lawyers*
Milka Bundalo, *Macarthur Legal Centre*
Belinda Cao, *Bartier Perry*
Anna Colless, *Blueprint Law*
Natalee Davis, *Kells Lawyers*
Stephanie Flegg, *Bartier Perry*
Dannielle Ford, *Cheney Suthers Lawyers*
Mariam Hammoudy, *Refugee Advice Casework Service*
Jessica Koot, *Access Law Group*
Elysse Lloyd, *Ashurst*
Maiko Sentina, *Terri Janke and Company*
Natalie Wendon, *Maddocks*
Deborah White, *Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions NSW*

Outstanding Law Firm of the Year Sponsored by Law Society of NSW



AWARD FINALISTS

Ashurst
Coleman Greig Lawyers
Div eX
Gilbert + Tobin
Herbert Smith Freehills
Maddocks

Woman Lawyer of the Year Sponsored by Gilbert + Tobin



AWARD FINALISTS

Alicia Albury, *Maddocks*
Fay Calderone, *Hall & Wilcox*
Lea Constantine, *Ashurst*
Lorri Field, *PDC Lawyers & Planners*
Jessica Koot, *Access Law Group*
Suzie Leask, *Australian Business Lawyers & Advisors*
Melissa Marshall, *Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia*
A/Prof Trish Mundy, *School of Law, Uni of Wollongong*
Kristy Perdriau, *Div eX*
Catherine Wilkinson, *Sparke Helmore Lawyers*
Pauline Wright, *PJ Donnellan & Co*



Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Alicia Albury, Maddocks

Nominated for: Mentor of the Year; Woman Lawyer of the Year

Alicia Albury is a leading property lawyer, specialising in all aspects of commercial property transactions. She acts for a range of clients across the public and private sector.

Alicia is also a driving force in the continued efforts by Maddocks to create a truly diverse and inclusive workplace. Since joining Maddocks in 2014, Alicia has taken a leading role on a range of committees and groups, including the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Maddocks Women, Maddocks Pride and ASPIRE, our junior lawyer's networking initiative. She has also helped drive the take up of flexible working practices within her practice team.

Alicia is also a great supporter of her female colleagues, supporting them with both formal and informal mentoring.



Anna Belgiorno-Nettis, Gilbert + Tobin

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

Anna Belgiorno-Nettis is a lawyer in Gilbert + Tobin's competition and regulation group. Anna acts on transactional, advisory and regulatory competition matters, including some of the ACCC's most significant inquiries and authorisations. Anna is particularly enthusiastic about data, digital and media-related industries. She has worked in other global firms, and has contributed to thought leadership in national and international journals. Anna became most dedicated to advancing women in law after being elected President of Melbourne University's Law Student Society – the only woman President in 8 years. Since then she has helped increase firm event inclusivity, mentored women to pursue law, volunteered with disadvantaged education, undertaken extensive pro bono work on the Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces Inquiry, and championed workplace flexibility. Anna is driven to continue contributing to the movement around women in law. She is excited about the movement's potential to transform the profession for the better.



Rachel Besley, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Nominated for: Corporate Counsel of the Year

Rachel joined Deloitte in 2002 from DLA Piper where she practiced as a technology lawyer and became the firm's General Counsel, Legal Partner and Secretary to the Board in 2012. She leads the internal legal team of 25 corporate, commercial and dispute lawyers who advise the \$2.3 billion Australian practice on all professional legal matters. Rachel is a former Deloitte Businesswoman of the Year state winner and national finalist, and featured on the Legal500's GC Powerlists for 2016 and 2017.

Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Claire Bourke, RMB Lawyers

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

Claire is a Lawyer at RMB Lawyers in Wollongong where she has carriage of a large and varied personal injury practice, she is also the NSW Young Lawyers Regional Delegate for Wollongong. Prior to obtaining her formal qualifications, Claire worked in private practice for over 8 years whilst completing her studies part-time. Claire's invaluable pre-admission experience meant that she was able to find her place in the law early in her career and hit the ground running upon her admission. Claire has a particular interest in workers compensation and enjoys helping injured workers navigate their way through the complex and challenging scheme and regain some control over their lives. Claire thrives on being an advocate for women in her community, both colleagues and clients, and enjoys being able to make a positive, meaningful and lasting impact on their lives.



Milka Bundalo, Macarthur Legal Centre

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

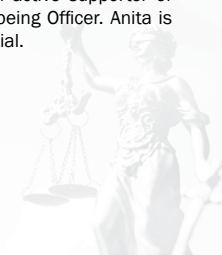
Milka is a generalist solicitor at Macarthur Legal Centre (MLC) and provides legal advice and assistance on Family Law, Domestic Violence, Wills and Estates, Credit and Debt, Consumer Law and Traffic Offences. Milka is actively involved within the community by attending outreach programs at Campbelltown, Claymore, Macquarie Fields and Narellan and provides on the spot legal advice to those that cannot attend the MLC office due to domestic violence, having a disability or not having access to public transport. Milka also attends the Campbelltown Hospital as part of a Health Justice Partnership to provide on the spot legal advice as well as draft legal documents for terminally ill patients. Milka is passionate about social justice and is an extremely dedicated young solicitor. Milka was also a finalist in the Lawyers Weekly 30 Under 30 2019 Awards.



Anita Cade, Ashurst

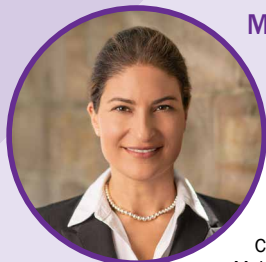
Nominated for: Mentor of the Year

Anita Cade is an influential mentor and role model in her position of Ashurst's Sydney Office Managing Partner. As a partner in the Intellectual Property and Media practice, Anita focuses on all areas of contentious and non-contentious IP and media law. She has been consistently recognised for her expertise in intellectual property and telecommunications law. She is an advocate for all and leads by example, utilising the firm's flexible working arrangements and encouraging others to do the same. She is a participant in our reverse mentoring program, gaining perspectives of women across the firm so that she can be better placed to support them in her leadership role. She is also an active supporter of the Sydney Women's Initiative for Mentoring network and is a Wellbeing Officer. Anita is passionate about inspiring other talented women meet their full potential.



Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Melanie Cairns, *Alinea Chambers*

Nominated for: Barrister of the Year; Change Champion of the Year

Melanie Cairns is a leading senior junior in commercial law at the NSW Bar. Her expertise includes equity & trusts, contract, corporations law, insurance, intellectual property, professional indemnity and real property. Melanie has appeared unled in cases in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and Federal Court. She has practiced law for 18 years, at the Bar for 11 years and before that she was a Senior Associate at Clayton Utz. Melanie is a member of the Bar Association's Diversity and Equality Committee and its Professional Conduct Committee, and a mentor to a number of junior female barristers and female lawyers. Melanie is a founding member of Alinea Chambers established in December 2018, being Sydney's first commercial barristers' chambers with equal gender representation. Melanie has a Master of Laws (Corporate & Commercial) and Bachelor of Arts/Laws from UNSW, where she has also lectured in undergraduate and postgraduate law.



Fay Calderone, *Hall & Wilcox*

Nominated for: Woman Lawyer of the Year

Fay has paved a path as a lawyer passionate about inclusion drawing on almost 20 years of experience acting for employers. She presents at major industry conferences, publishes articles and provides media commentary with a progressive approach to workplace issues including the elimination of workplace discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment encouraging employers to move "beyond compliance" to the creation of healthy, inclusive, respectful and flexible workplaces. Fay's influence extends to boardrooms and C-suites of multinationals and large Australian employers through her delivery of workshops on these issues. As Flexible Work Ambassador, Diversity, Inclusiveness and Wellbeing Committee member and custodian of the firm's "Agile Working" program, Fay advocates for the evolution to agile workplaces as the new "normal" to remove the structural barriers to pay equity and the progression of women in our profession. Fay is relentless in her pursuit to send the elevator back down and believes it is incumbent on leaders to champion the change necessary for the next generation to thrive.



Belinda Cao, *Bartier Perry*

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

Belinda Cao is an Associate in Bartier Perry's Private Client Services team, practising in the areas of estate planning and deceased estates. She focuses on servicing the needs of individuals, families, privately owned business entities and private investment structures. Her passion in this area of law sees her currently undertaking a Masters of Applied Law (Estate Planning and Wills & Estates) at the College of Law, while working full time.

Belinda is diligent, efficient, practical, enthusiastic and is always willing to mentor others at Bartier Perry. She has actively involved herself in various innovative programs which assist Bartier Perry's clients and staff by using technology to improve processes and systems. Belinda leads by example amongst her female colleagues, training peers to find solutions for clients in a timely and cost-effective manner. When working with clients in difficult circumstances, she provides a high level of technical excellence and emotional intelligence.

Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Anna Colless, *Blueprint Law*

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

Anna Colless is a media and entertainment lawyer, and a lover of both stage and screen. She is currently an associate at boutique law firm Blueprint Law, specialising in the development and exploitation of theatre and live events. She has worked on a range of domestic and international productions, from small-scale independent and not-for-profit works to traditional commercial musical theatre and arena spectaculars. Her recent credits include: Moulin Rouge! The Musical (Broadway), Muriel's Wedding The Musical (Australian tour), King Kong (Broadway), and Strictly Ballroom The Musical (West End). Anna is also proud to be Public Officer and Head of Governance of Women In Theatre And Screen (a community advocacy association dedicated to achieving gender parity on Australian stages and screens) and to support the Arts Law Centre of Australia through her role on the Hearts for Arts Law Committee.



Lea Constantine, *Ashurst*

Nominated for: Woman Lawyer of the Year

Lea Constantine is the global head of one of Ashurst's five divisions, Strategic Advisory, and sits on the firm's Executive Team. In 2017 she became the first female Office Managing Partner in the global Ashurst network, with her appointment as Sydney Office Managing Partner. Lea is a partner in the Employment practice, and is widely acknowledged as a leading figure in Australian work health and safety law. Lea's practice sees her advising a wide range of government and private sector clients in work health and safety law and employment law and she leads Ashurst's national safety team. She is a Diversity Advocate, a Committed to Change Partner and actively supports women from across the firm to progress their careers. Her trailblazing leadership, focus on building community, and engagement in the life of the firm has established her as one of Ashurst's most admired leaders.



Juliana Crofts, *Legal Aid NSW, Port Macquarie Office*

Nominated for: Government Lawyer of the Year

Juliana Crofts is Solicitor-in-Charge of Legal Aid NSW's Port Macquarie office where she leads an office of 21 people and is responsible for providing legal aid services to disadvantaged men and women across the Mid-North Coast. She has over 17 years' experience as a criminal solicitor in city and country NSW. She appears in Local and District Courts across the state in defence of her clients.

Juliana believes she should give back to the legal community, and frequently co-ordinates and runs legal education sessions for school students, other solicitors and community members to increase people's access to legal knowledge and justice.

Juliana is a strong supporter of women in the workplace, and has mentored many junior women solicitors. She coordinates Legal Aid NSW's Criminal Law Division Women's Mentoring Scheme. In 2017 she was Highly Commended in the Law Society of NSW's Michele Crowther PSM Excellence in Government Legal Service Award.



Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Emma Curran,
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Nominated for: Government Lawyer of the Year

Emma Curran commenced with the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) in 2003 and in January 2018 she was appointed as a Solicitor Advocate. Emma is an experienced criminal lawyer with a commitment to supporting vulnerable victims, many of whom are women, and achieving justice for the community. Through her drive for excellence as a passionate advocate and management of a complex criminal trial practice, Emma is a role-model to all female lawyers within the office and is generous with her time in ensuring their growth and development. She has facilitated workshops, assisted with training junior lawyers and acts as a mentor to many. As a mother to two young children, Emma understands the pressures of balancing work and family. Her positive approach, ability to persevere through difficult matters, and strong interpersonal skills makes her an inspiration to other women within the legal profession through both leadership and example.



Natalee Davis, Kells Lawyers

Nominated for: Regional Lawyer of the Year; Rising Star of the Year

Natalee Davis is a personal injury lawyer at Kells Wollongong. She grew up in Wollongong and is ingrained in her community. Natalee acts for clients who have suffered physical or psychological injury due to an accident, sexual abuse, or injuries arising from negligence generally.

Natalee is passionate about empowering young women in law, including women in administrative roles. She is a mentor to law students and engages closely with alumni organisations.

Natalee has a proven commitment to the rule of law. She is a volunteer lawyer at Illawarra Legal Centre. She provides regular pro-bono assistance and is actively involved with community networks.

Natalee is a certified yoga teacher providing classes for underprivileged young women. She spent time volunteering at an elephant sanctuary in Thailand and in rural India to empower underprivileged women obtain employment. Natalee's work in both the profession and the community is guided by her empathy and drive.



Michelle Dixon, Maddocks

Nominated for: Change Champion of the Year

Michelle Dixon is a partner and the CEO of Maddocks.

Michelle has long led the public debate on diversity and inclusion in the law. She does this through the initiatives she has championed at Maddocks and by advocating publicly at conferences and through the media.

Since Michelle's appointment as CEO, female representation at partner level has risen at Maddocks from 26% in 2013 to 38% in 2019. In 2019, Maddocks received its 15th consecutive Employer of Choice for Equal Opportunity from the Workplace Gender Equality Agency and in 2018 its first Bronze award for LGBTI inclusion from the Australian Workplace Equality Index.

Michelle is also an ambassador for the WGEA 'In Your Hands' initiative, and a director of Global Sisters Limited, a not-for-profit providing end to end business development support to women whose circumstances prevent them from accessing mainstream employment.

Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Rebecca Dunn, Gilbert + Tobin

Nominated for: Private Practice of the Year

Rebecca Dunn is a Partner in Gilbert + Tobin's Intellectual Property group. She is an IP and technology litigator whose practice covers copyright, trade mark and consumer law, and she has a strong interest in disputes involving technology and the media. Over the course of her career, Rebecca has worked on some of the highest profile intellectual property cases in Australia, including the major leading copyright cases Roadshow Films Pty Ltd v iiNet Ltd, Cooper v Universal Music Australia Pty Ltd and IceTV Pty v Nine Network Australia Pty Ltd.

In 2013-2014, Rebecca took a leave of absence to undertake academic research, completing a Masters of Research through Macquarie University, investigating issues relating to media, democracy and the law. She is currently pursuing a PhD in a similar area and teaches a postgraduate course in Social Media, Law and Ethics at Macquarie University.

Rebecca is part of Gilbert + Tobin's Diversity Council and is particularly invested in issues relating to mental health and gender representation in senior leadership.



Elizabeth Espinosa, Liverpool Council

Nominated for: Government Lawyer of the Year

Elizabeth Espinosa took up the role as the President of the Law Society of NSW on 1 January 2019.

Elizabeth is the first graduate from the University of Wollongong to hold this position and the first member of her family to practise as a lawyer. Elizabeth is a strong supporter of professional integrity, the rule of law, natural justice principles, education and diversity and inclusion.

In her current and previous role as General Counsel in a local government authority, Elizabeth is a crucial part of the executive team and a lead decision maker in numerous complex matters. She has often been involved in the interplay of various Commonwealth and State legislation and corporate governance and probity principles, including responding to investigations by the NSW Ombudsman and the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Elizabeth has taken a year's leave of absence from her role at Liverpool City Council where she manages and supervises three divisions – legal, governance and procurement.

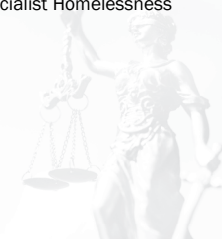


Lorri Field, PDC Lawyers & Planners

Nominated for: Private Practice Lawyer of the Year; Regional Lawyer of the Year; Woman Lawyer of the Year

Lorri is an Accredited Specialist in Commercial Litigation and has practised in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven since 2008. Her firm, PDC Lawyers and Planners, is a multidisciplinary practice combining the delivery of legal and town planning services. Lorri has a commitment to excellence and innovation in the law. She is striving to create a high-performing workplace that shifts the focus away from the usual 6 minute unit to the goal of maximising value for both clients and employees.

Lorri is known for her unique warm and competent leadership style and actively seeks opportunities to positively engage with those around her. She has a strong community focus and is on the boards of SAHSSI, a not for profit Specialist Homelessness Service, and Squash Illawarra.



Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Jenny Finlay-Jones, Moray & Agnew

Nominated for: Regional Lawyer of the Year

Jenny Finlay-Jones is the senior female partner at Moray & Agnew Newcastle specialising in commercial litigation. She has practised and lectured in law for over three decades in Sydney and Newcastle. Early in her career at Barker Gosling Jenny championed part-time work for women lawyers. At the University of Newcastle Law School she was Assistant Dean, Director of the 'distinctive' Professional Program and supervised law students working on client matters at the University's Legal Centre. Jenny developed and ran academic, clinical and mentoring programs, teaching and guiding hundreds of law graduates.

She continues to actively encourage and mentor many women in law, supporting flexible work practices as a partner at Moray & Agnew Newcastle, while running complex litigation cases. Jenny has three children and in her 'spare time' manages aspects of the family physiotherapy practice.



Stephanie Flegg, Bartier Perry

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

Stephanie Flegg is an Associate in the Private Clients team at Bartier Perry. She provides taxation, superannuation, estate planning, business succession and wealth protection services to high net worth individuals and corporations. Stephanie studied a Bachelor of Business & Commerce and a Bachelor of Law at Western Sydney University. To develop her technical expertise and her ability to better service her clients, she completed a Masters of Taxation at Sydney University two years after being admitted as a lawyer. Stephanie is also a member of Bartier Perry's innovation committee which is dedicated to improving work practices by finding efficient and innovative ways of working and engaging with clients. Often presenting to her expanding network and attending networking and industry events, Stephanie is active in her field of law and is a great example of leadership in her team. She thrives on bringing women together to enhance their professional development."



Dannielle Ford, Cheney Suthers Lawyers

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

Dannielle Ford started working with Cheney & Wilson Solicitors (as it then was) in November 2009 as a legal secretary. She worked and studied full time undertaking a Bachelor of Criminology/Bachelor of Laws at the University of New England. Following admission on 4 July 2014, Dannielle was employed by the same firm as a solicitor. In 2015, the firm had a restructure with the firm re-branded as Cheney Suthers Lawyers. At 28 years of age and with just shy of 5 years post admission experience, Dannielle became one of three female directors at Orange's first ever all female partnered law firm, Cheney Suthers Lawyers, where she started her career as a legal secretary. The firm is continuing to thrive and Dannielle and her partners, Alice Byrnes and Kirsty Evans, are kept on their toes with work and home life having 5 children under 3 years of age between them.

Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Andrew Frankland, Bartier Perry

Nominated for: Mentor of the Year

Andrew Frankland is a Partner in the Private Client Services team and a Director on the Board of Bartier Perry. With over 30 years' experience, he advises clients on estate and succession planning, tax, superannuation and wealth protection. He is a Fellow of the Taxation Institute, a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners and is on the Editorial Board of the Retirement and Estate Planning Bulletin. Andrew champions the success of others, including many women, and has inspired a culture of change and progression, supporting gender diversity and the advancement of women. He provides guidance to and supports women across the firm, and has actively sponsored the implementation of pathways for career advancement and flexible working policies over the years at Bartier Perry. He has a diverse network and introduces women in the firm to others in his network. Equally, he encourages equitable briefing of female counsel.



Mariam Hammoudy, Refugee Advice Casework Service

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

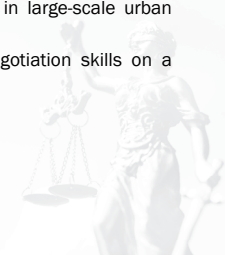
Mariam Hammoudy started her career as a solicitor at the Refugee Advice & casework service (Aust) Inc (RACS), a specialist refugee legal centre in New South Wales. For the past three years Mariam worked at RACS providing free, specialist legal assistance to people seeking asylum and refugees seeking to reunite with their families. Mariam has dedicated herself to achieving positive outcomes for her clients giving them a second chance at life. Mariam works hard protecting and advocating for human rights for people seeking asylum. Mariam is passionate about using her chosen field of law and legal skills to assist disadvantaged and vulnerable clients. Mariam is currently working under the Humanitarian team at Playfair Visa and Migration Services as part of her commitment to the improvement of human rights and, in particular, to the provision of legal services to people seeking asylum.



Jennifer Harris, Clayton Utz

Nominated for: Mentor of the Year

Jennifer Harris is a highly regarded Special Counsel in the Clayton Utz Sydney Real Estate team. Jennifer has established an excellent reputation as a mentor and in 2016 and 2018 she was recognised for her efforts and awarded Mentor of the Year at the Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Awards. Jennifer has devoted a large part of her career to mentoring other lawyers on juggling priorities, coping skills and resilience to help them build the skills they need for sustainable careers. Jennifer is passionate about removing the stigma attached to the mental health challenges which lawyers are living with. In terms of her legal practice, Jennifer has particular expertise in large-scale urban renewal projects and local government procurement. Jennifer's other job as a mother of 10-year-old twins tests her negotiation skills on a daily basis.



Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Carynne Howitt, Lion Nathan

Nominated for: Corporate Counsel of the Year

Carynne Howitt is a highly experienced international tax lawyer currently practising within Group Tax at Lion Pty Ltd in Sydney. In this role, Carynne provides international tax advisory services to the broader Lion Global Markets business, as the company is building its global presence in new and emerging markets. Prior to joining Lion, Carynne worked in private practice for 15 years as a Senior Associate in the tax team at Clayton Utz and more recently, as a Director in the Global Tax team at PricewaterhouseCoopers. In these roles, Carynne specialised in corporate and international tax and transfer pricing and worked with a range of large multinational clients. As a mother of two young children, she is an important role model both within the legal profession and for her female colleagues, who embraces flexible working arrangements (and previously part-time working arrangements), and mentoring opportunities (actively undertaking both formal and informal coaching/mentoring roles throughout her career). Carynne is passionate about retaining talented female lawyers in the profession after having a family and seeks to lead by example in this regard.



Terri Janke, Terri Janke and Company

Nominated for: Community Lawyer of the Year

Terri Janke is a Wuthathi and Meriam woman and an internationally recognised authority on Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP), known for innovating pathways between the law and the cultural rights of Indigenous peoples and communities. As the owner and Solicitor Director of Terri Janke and Company, a law firm based in Sydney, she has dedicated her life and work to empowering Indigenous peoples to assert their ICIP rights and prosper in their business and creative endeavours. She is an influential advocate for positive collaborations and engagement, having written leading ICIP protocols for various sectors including the arts, museums, archives, film and business. Terri is also a valued mentor and big inspiration to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous women lawyers, students and entrepreneurs. She has been the recipient of awards such as the NAIDOC Person of the Year (2011) and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Indigenous Legal Professional of the Year (2012).



Melissa Jozwiak, Macarthur Legal Centre

Nominated for: Community Lawyer of the Year; Mentor of the Year

Melissa is a highly experienced Senior Solicitor at Macarthur Legal Centre who has a strong sense of social justice. Melissa goes above and beyond to assist disadvantaged clients as she believes that access to justice should be a right, not a privilege.

Melissa holds a Master of Applied Law (Family Law) degree and is an Accredited Mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. Melissa has extensive experience in several areas of law including Family Law, Domestic and Family Violence, FDR, Victims of Crime, Wills and Estates, and Care and Protection.

Melissa has many roles within her Senior Solicitor position at MLC including establishing and managing MLC's Health Justice Partnership with Campbelltown Hospital, Camden Hospital and the Palliative Care Unit, Camden - which has recently been announced as a Finalist in the SWSLHD Quality Awards; supervising, training and mentoring MLC's Junior Solicitors along with managing MLC's Volunteer Student, PLT and Solicitor Programs; and, managing MLC's Community Legal Education program which includes the Award Winning Let's Talk Legal Library Series.

Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Natalie Kalouche, Local Government Super

Nominated for: Corporate Counsel of the Year

Head of Legal and Compliance, Local Government Super

Commencing her career in private practice, Natalie developed a keen interest in superannuation law, soon making the move in-house to an industry superannuation fund.

In her role as Head of Legal and Compliance, Natalie leads the in-house legal team, providing counsel on all legal, regulatory and governance related matters. She closely supports the Company Secretary and has guided the organisation through several years of significant change.

Natalie's efforts were recognised in 2016 when her team was a finalist in the Australasian Law Awards for Best in house legal team in financial services and again, in 2018 when she was awarded the Women in Super UNSW AGSM Scholarship.

Natalie was fortunate to have been supported by strong and successful women throughout her career and is a keen advocate for developing women lawyers. She encourages a true work life balance, encouraging her team to continually invest in themselves and their community.



Danielle Kelly, Herbert Smith Freehills

Nominated for: Change Champion of the Year

Danielle is the Global Head of Diversity & Inclusion at Herbert Smith Freehills. She leads a team which works closely with clients in relation to the role each of us can play to shift workplace culture and the legal profession to be more inclusive. Working with the firm's D&I Networks, she leverages opportunities to make more explicit the link between inclusive cultures and innovation. The firm's vision, as articulated in its Leading for Inclusion strategy, is to be the world's leading law firm for its diverse and inclusive culture, and the strategy recognises the pivotal role that mental health and wellbeing plays in high performing teams.

Formerly a lawyer herself, Danielle is passionate about creating the culture change necessary to leverage the benefits of diversity. Danielle is a member of the Law Society of NSW's Diversity & Inclusion Committee and is engaged in the Managing Partners' D&I Forum.



Hilary Kincaid, Inner City Legal Centre

Nominated for: Community Lawyer of the Year

Hilary Kincaid is the Principal Solicitor at the Inner City Legal Centre, and has been involved with the ICLC as a staff member and volunteer since 2004. Her current practice is broad but focusses on criminal defence, transgender people and sex workers. Prior to joining ICLC staff in 2013, she practiced in corporations law and building and construction litigation (and is a co-author of the LexisNexis text Voidable Transactions in Company Insolvency). Hilary acted for the applicant in the landmark case of *Re Kelvin* [2017] FamCAFC 258, which removed the mandatory requirement for a court application for trans children to access oestrogen or testosterone.



Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Jessica Koot, Access Law Group

Nominated for: Regional Lawyer of the Year; Rising Star of the Year; Woman Lawyer of the Year

Jessica's career in the legal industry began in 2003 as a receptionist, then onto assistance roles and progressed as a mature aged student to complete her Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Commerce degree in 2014. This was combined with full-time work and a first-time mum. She was admitted in 2015 and has been practicing Family Law since this time. Through hard work and dedication, she was promoted from a Solicitor to an Associate, then recently to a Senior Associate after recently completing the Legal Practice Management Course. Jessica is an active member of various networking groups within the Illawarra and has been the functions coordinator for the Wollongong Chapter of Women Lawyers Association since 2017. She is involved in the mentoring program with UOW and she is part of the Family Law Legal Aid panel. One of her best attributes is the ability to build meaningful relationships with her clients.



Suzie Leask, Australian Business Lawyers & Advisors

Nominated for: Private Practice Lawyer of the Year; Regional Lawyer of the Year; Woman Lawyer of the Year

Leading Australian Business Lawyers & Advisors' Corporate + Commercial Newcastle practice, Suzie is a trusted advisor to SMEs and corporates across the Hunter and NSW. Suzie is known for giving back to the community, holding a number of not-for-profit Board and Committee roles (including the WLANSW Newcastle Committee), mentoring women lawyers and being a role model and champion for flexible work practices. In 2019 Suzie was Facilitator for the WLANSW Newcastle Panel Event The First 100 Years Project: Where to Now? and launched the inaugural International Women's Day Moët Marquee corporate event at Newcastle Racecourse, raising funds for a local domestic violence charity. Suzie has been a Finalist for the Australian Law Awards Regional Lawyer of the Year Award (2018), Newcastle Business Club Awards - Young Business Leader (2018, 2019) and profiled by Hunter Headline as a Hunter Young Gun.



Elysse Lloyd, Ashurst

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

Elysse is a Lawyer in the Employment team at Ashurst, one of Australia's leading employment law teams. Elysse acts for both public and private sector employers across a range of industries in a variety of areas within the employment field. Elysse has a strong interest in industrial relations and has been involved in assisting clients with the enterprise bargaining process, enterprise bargaining strategy, employer obligations, and in disputes relating to the application and interpretation of enterprise agreements. Elysse has recently completed a secondment to the University of Sydney's Office of General Counsel, working in the Workplace Relations, Discrimination and Administrative Law team for a period of approximately 14 months in total.

In addition to her practice, Elysse is also actively engaged in promoting diversity and women within the legal profession through her involvement in the Sydney Women's Initiative for Mentoring (SWIM) in the Sydney office of Ashurst.

Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Katie Malyon, Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Nominated for: Mentor of the Year

Katie has more than 30 years experience in law. Currently a Member of the AAT, Katie was formerly an Executive Director of Ernst & Young. This follows successful establishment of her own multi-award winning law firm that was recognised in the BRW's Fast 100 in 2010. Katie was a finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Award NSW in 2012. After initially working as a teacher in Brisbane and Jakarta, she commenced her legal career with Clayton Utz and was a Partner with Australian Business Lawyers. Katie focused on passing the baton to the next generation of lawyers when running her own firm. Since then, she has participated in formal mentoring programs facilitated by the AAT, NSW Law Society through its Women's Mentoring Program and the Young Lawyers Mentoring Program as well as the UNSW HSF Women's Mentoring Program. In addition, she has informal arrangements with a number of mentees. Katie is regularly invited to speak on the topic of the benefits of mentoring and how she inspires, challenges and empowers her mentees.



Melissa Marshall, Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia

Nominated for: Change Champion of the Year; Community Lawyer of the Year; Woman Lawyer of the Year

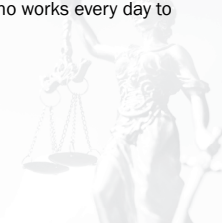
Melissa is the Legal and Policy Officer at Rape & Domestic Violence Services Australia and is responsible for the legal work of the community-based organisation, including the preparation of law reform and policy submissions; and advocating for those who have experienced sexual, domestic and family violence. Melissa holds a unique leading role in driving the women's health and community sector to have an active voice in law reform and policy change. Melissa has also previously held many professional and voluntary community positions and is currently a Committee Member of the Women's Legal Service NSW Foundation and Board Director at Marrickville Legal Centre. She has a strong ethos and is passionate that anyone experiencing disadvantage, particularly women should have access to justice and quality legal services from a trauma-informed perspective. Through her community roles, she hopes to continue to advocate and lobby for women's rights and gender equality.



Michelle Meares, Watts McCray

Nominated for: Regional Lawyer of the Year

Michelle Meares is an Associate at Watts McCray Lawyers in their Central Coast office. Michelle is a dedicated advocate for families in the regional area to assist them to resolve family law issues. Michelle is involved in community groups and not for profit organisations and contributes her legal knowledge and technical expertise to assist those groups to serve women in the community. Michelle organises events for young lawyers, mentors and supervises junior lawyers. Michelle works with government and media to ensure equity of access to legal services and health services for women in regional areas. Michelle put in place programs and systems in organisations where she has volunteered to provide improved services to women in the community and legal profession. Michelle believes in the principles of justice and the rule of law and is the kind of lawyer who works every day to make them a reality for her community.



Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Sera Mirzabegian, 10th Floor Wentworth Chambers

Nominated for: Barrister of the Year

Sera Mirzabegian is a barrister who practises in commercial, regulatory, class action and human rights litigation. She was admitted to the bar in 2006, and was awarded the Blashki award for the highest aggregate marks in the bar exams. She has been recognised by Doyle's Guide as one of the 'Leading Commercial Litigation and Dispute Resolution Junior Counsel' in Australia for a number of years and was awarded the 'Lawyer of the Year' award by Best Lawyers in 2019 for class actions. She is currently a Councillor of the NSW Bar Association. In February 2019, Sera co-founded WomenVote, a non-partisan women's lobby group. During the 2019 federal election, WomenVote successfully raised the profile of women's issues including the representation of women in politics, women's workforce participation and violence against women, through an effective media campaign and development of an election scorecard. She is lucky to be inspired and supported by the leading women at the bar and in major law firms who work tirelessly for gender equality in their workplaces and beyond.



Susan Moran, SWS Lawyers

Nominated for: Mentor of the Year; Regional Lawyer of the Year

Susan is a highly respected specialised commercial litigation lawyer with over twenty years' experience covering a diverse and challenging range of disputes. Since being admitted to practice in 1997 she has attracted a range of sophisticated and complex legal work, regularly running matters in the NSW Supreme Court and NSW Court of Appeal, and currently awaiting a special leave application to the High Court. Susan holds a Master of Laws from the University of NSW and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Newcastle. Her committed approach to working in the Newcastle-Hunter region has included serving as the regional board member of Playgroup NSW for 4 years, being a regular key presenter on the UON Law School Professional Skills Panel, and a mentor to law students through her firm's Summer Clerkship Program. Susan is a strong advocate for recruiting, developing and retaining female lawyers, regularly providing guidance and mentoring.



A/Prof Trish Mundy, School of Law, Uni of Wollongong

Nominated for: Change Champion of the Year; Woman Lawyer of the Year

Dr Trish Mundy is Associate Professor of Law and the Associate Dean Education in the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts at the University of Wollongong. She researches in areas of leadership and advancement of women within the legal profession and domestic and family violence. Trish also teaches and researches in rural, regional and remote law and lawyering and legal ethics and professional responsibilities. Prior to academia, she practiced for many years within the community legal sector principally in the areas of family law and violence against women and children. Trish has continued her commitment to gender equality and gender justice through her research and teaching and through her various appointments and community engagement activities, including as a founding and ongoing committee member of the Wollongong Chapter of the Women Lawyer's Association of New South Wales.

Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Karena Nicholls, Kells Lawyers

Nominated for: Private Practice Lawyer of the Year; Mentor of the Year; Regional Lawyer of the Year

Karena Nicholls is a Special Counsel at Kells Lawyers who has almost 20 years' experience in compensation law with a particular interest in medical negligence and personal injury claims. Her passion to help people has given her technical skills that are respected among her peers and is passionate about delivering positive results for her clients. Karena has a particular interest in supporting professional women and young lawyers coming through the ranks. At Kells', she supervises junior legal staff, administrative staff through to managing the firm's law cadet program. Karena mentors both within her firm and externally with the University of Wollongong as part of The Lucy Program. She is a Tutor at the University of Wollongong and encourages women to strive for a career in law. Karena is a mother of two daughters and places a strong emphasis on work/life balance by promoting flexible working arrangements and advocating for diversity and change within the profession.



Justine Nolan, UNSW Law, Faculty of Law

Nominated for: Legal Academic of the Year

Justine Nolan is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean at UNSW Law as well as a Visting Scholar at NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights. She has published widely on business and human rights and advises companies, NGOs and governments on these issues. Prior to joining UNSW in 2004, she was the Director of Business and Human Rights at the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now Human Rights First) in the US. She is a member of the Editorial Board of the Business and Human Rights Journal.



Julie O'Brien, Australian Human Rights Commission

Nominated for: Government Lawyer of the Year

Julie O'Brien is General Counsel at the Australian Human Rights Commission. As a human rights lawyer for 15 years, Julie has had conduct of and appeared in significant human rights cases on behalf of the Commission. She has engaged with Parliamentary Committees in their inquiries into key reforms to human rights and discrimination law. Julie has been a champion of flexible work practices and modelled effective balancing of work and family. She is the co-author of Federal Discrimination Law, a landmark publication for lawyers, businesses and individuals to understand the laws. Before commencing with the Commission, Julie worked in commercial litigation for five years both at Lloyd's of London in England and at Tress Cox Lawyers in Sydney.



Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Kristy Perdriau, *Div eX*

Nominated for: Mentor of the Year; Woman Lawyer of the Year

Master of Laws – Family Law, LLB, Grad Dip Leg Prac, BA (Mus), B Ed, Dip Fin, Cert Bus Man, RAAFSR (Legal)

CEO, Principal Lawyer, Divorce & Separation Strategist and Best Selling Author. Dubbed as 'Australia's Leading Divorce & Separation Strategist', Kristy Perdriau is a multi-award winning Lawyer and Strategist, bestselling author and the co-founder of DIV eX.

With a Master's degree in family law, Kristy has practiced in divorce and family law since 2001 and has assisted thousands of clients and celebrities in their family law and divorce matters with her personal philosophy of: "First secure victory, then fight if you must" at her core.

Kristy contributes immensely to the community, helping people in, or leaving domestic violence relationships, whilst supporting and encouraging couples who are able to save their relationships.



Kim Richardson, *Hunter Community Legal Centre*

Nominated for: Community Lawyer of the Year; Mentor of the Year; Regional Lawyer of the Year

Kim Richardson is a senior solicitor at the Hunter Community Legal Centre. The Hunter Community Legal Centre is based in Newcastle and provides free legal services to those with most need who live in the Hunter region. Kim was instrumental in establishing the AVO Duty Service operated by the Hunter Community Legal Centre at Newcastle Local Court as well as developing innovative ways of delivering Community Legal Education.

Kim regularly speaks at conferences on a variety of topics relating to the work of community legal centres. Kim seeks out possibilities to mentor the development of junior lawyers to help them achieve their goals.

Prior to commencing employment with the Hunter Community Legal Centre Kim worked in private practice for many years, including as a sole practitioner.



A/Prof Nola Ries, *Faculty of Law, UTS*

Nominated for: Legal Academic of the Year

Associate Professor Nola Ries, UTS Faculty of Law, is an expert in law, health and ageing and a member of the Faculty's Law|Health|Justice Research Centre. She makes significant contributions to research and education in the fields of Elder Law and Health Law.

Nola leads practice-relevant research on elder abuse, advance planning for incapacity, and the rights of people with dementia. She has a strong focus on community engagement and interprofessional collaboration to improve justice and health outcomes for older people, especially women experiencing age and gender-related vulnerabilities.

Nola is an enthusiastic teacher, in university and continuing professional education, and serves on committees for organisations such as the Australian Association of Gerontology and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Nola is qualified as a lawyer in Australia and Canada and recently completed a PhD in behavioural science. She is a prolific author with over 60 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Rachel Scanlon, *Rachel Scanlon Consulting Pty Limited*

Nominated for: Mentor of the Year

Rachel is an internationally experienced financial services leader, advocate for women in law, musician, runner, and mother of three. Rachel is an independent legal consultant currently at Goldman Sachs, and also affiliated with Peerpoint by Allen & Overy. Rachel has worked as a lawyer in Tokyo, London, New York, Moscow, Hong Kong and Dubai.

Last year, as Founder of "First 100 Years" celebrating the 2018 centenary of women lawyers in NSW, Rachel commissioned a portrait of Australia's first female Chief Justice, which was selected as a finalist in the prestigious Archibald Prize.

Passionate about women in leadership, Rachel is currently a Director and Company Secretary for International Women's Forum Australia. She has participated in formal mentoring via the Australian Corporate Counsel scheme, her school alumni mentoring programme, and is the EY Women Athletes Business Network, and in addition was a finalist for General Counsel of the Year (2016) in her role at Magellan Financial Group.



Maiko Sentina, *Terri Janke and Company*

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

Maiko Sentina is a solicitor at Terri Janke and Company, a leading Indigenous-owned Sydney law firm specialising in commercial law and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP). Maiko is grounded by her strong belief that being a lawyer is about helping people and community. In three years of legal practice, Maiko's passion and dedication has seen her become a deeply valued member of Terri Janke and Company and an inspiring mentor for young female lawyers, paralegals, interns and school students. In 2018, she co-authored the landmark discussion paper Indigenous Knowledge: Issues for protection and management, commissioned by IP Australia and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

She is accomplished in presenting on the law for government agencies and leading cultural institutions. Maiko also represents many businesses that are owned or led by Indigenous women. Her clients hold her in high regard for providing efficient and culturally appropriate legal services.



Prof Nan Seuffert, *Uni of Wollongong, Legal Intersections Research Centre*

Nominated for: Legal Academic of the Year

Professor Nan Seuffert is the Director of the Legal Intersections Research Centre at the School of Law at the University of Wollongong. Prior to academia, Nan practiced law in Boston at Foley, Hoag and Eliot. Nan teaches and researches in law, society and culture with a focus on gender and sexuality. With Dr Trish Mundy, she has recently completed an evaluation of the YWCA Domestic Violence Intervention Service in Nowra, funded by a National Australia Bank Community Impact Grant, and a pilot project on the advancement of women in law firms in partnership with the Women Lawyers Association of New South Wales. Her work is recognised internationally; for example, her book, titled Jurisprudence of National Identity, provided the theme for the US Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities Conference. Nan has recently visited at the Centre for the Study of Law and Society at the University of California at Berkeley, and next year will visit the Berkeley Center for Race and Gender.



Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Liz Snell, Women's Legal Service NSW

Nominated for: Community Lawyer of the Year

Liz Snell is the Law Reform and Policy Co-ordinator at Women's Legal Service NSW, a community legal centre providing specialist services to vulnerable and disadvantaged women. Liz has a background in human rights law, policy and education. Liz is passionate about challenging gender bias, identifying gaps in law and policy and working collaboratively on reforms to improve women's lives and their access to justice. Liz has actively participated in a number of committees, including NSW Young Lawyers Human Rights Committee and the National Committee of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights. Liz has been the convener of Community Legal Centres NSW Domestic Violence and Victims Compensation Subcommittee, Care and Protection Network and more recently the convener of Women's Legal Services Australia, the national network of community legal centres specialising in women's legal issues. Liz has advocated for women's rights at the United Nations in Geneva on behalf of Women's Legal Services Australia.



Prof Tania Sourdin, Newcastle Law School, University of Newcastle

Nominated for: Legal Academic of the Year

Professor Tania Sourdin PhD, LL.M, BA, LL.B. Professor Tania Sourdin is the Dean of the University of Newcastle Law School and has previously held a range of senior academic positions including the Foundation Chair and Director of the Australian Centre for Justice Innovation (ACJI) at Monash University in Australia. Over the past two decades, she has conducted a range of innovative justice projects that have included qualitative and quantitative research projects into aspects of the dispute resolution and justice system systems in 12 Courts and Tribunals and six external dispute resolution schemes within Australia. Other research has focussed more generally on justice innovation, ADR, technology, delay and systemic reforms and she is the author of more than 115 publications. In all of her past positions that have included academia, business, courts and tribunals she has promoted family friendly workplaces, equitable arrangements and happier innovative work. Her research and practical expertise has taken her to many overseas jurisdictions and has included many expert consultancies in the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific.



Liesel Spencer, Western Sydney University

Nominated for: Legal Academic of the Year

Liesel Spencer is Director of Research and Senior Lecturer in the School of Law at Western Sydney University. She is the proud mother of four sons and a role model to her students and colleagues striving to balance work, study and family responsibilities. Liesel has just submitted her PhD in public health law. She is a leader in gender equity initiatives in the workplace, and a mentor and support to junior women in the law school. Since joining the School in 2007 Liesel has specialised in teaching first year law, and provided career coaching to the diverse community of WSU law students, many of whom face significant barriers in seeking to enter the profession.

Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Jacqueline Svenson, University of Newcastle Legal Centre

Nominated for: Community Lawyer of the Year

Jacqui is a Clinical Teacher/Solicitor at the University of Newcastle Legal Centre (UNLC) in continuing practice since 2002. Jacqui's expertise is in unfair dismissal, discrimination and high profile public environmental interest cases in the Hunter region, in relation to which she also supervises 4th year law students completing their practical training at the University of Newcastle. Most recently she acted in cases for local communities protecting koala, squirrel glider and endangered species habitat; the successful refusal of development consent for a large late trading pokie-pub in a very disadvantaged area of Sydney; and the returning of the iconic King Edward Headland Reserve in Newcastle to public hands. She is founder and convener of Newcastle Climate Change Response and a mother of two. Her first commercially published work of fiction, *Direct Action*, a cli-fi novel about the misuse of terrorism laws for political ends, is being released through Lacuna in September 2019.



Diana Tang, New Chambers

Nominated for: Barrister of the Year

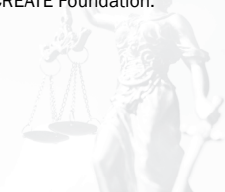
Diana Tang was admitted to the Bar in 2017. Prior to that Diana practised as a solicitor with Aboriginal legal aid in the Northern Territory addressing use of force in the police and corrections context, and as an advocate for Aboriginal persons with an intellectual disability. In an earlier life, she practised as a solicitor in construction litigation for a commercial firm in Sydney. At the Bar, Diana has a diverse common law, commercial law and public law practice and remains dedicated to pro bono work. Most notably, she has appeared with senior counsel in a number of matters in the Federal Court to obtain urgent mandatory injunctions for the transfer of refugee children from Nauru to Australia for immediate medical care. Diana is committed to diversity at the Bar and was a member of the Diversity and Equality Committee of the NSW Bar Association from 2018 to 2019.



Yen Hui Tie, AMP Capital Investors Limited

Nominated for: Corporate Counsel of the Year

AMP Capital is a global investment manager with a large Australian presence, managing over AUD\$187.2 billion on behalf of clients. Joining AMP Capital in 2005 as Senior Legal Counsel, Yen then joined the Global Leadership Team in 2015 reporting to AMP Capital's CEO and AMP's Group General Counsel. Yen leads a global team of 29 which supports AMP Capital's global operations. Before joining AMP Capital, Yen was a Senior Associate at Allens Arthur Robinson (now Allens Linklaters). Yen and her team advise on corporate governance; regulatory change; the establishment of new funds, fund operations and governance and fund restructures; capital raising, promotion and marketing of funds in Australia and internationally; joint ventures, alliances and partnerships; and mergers, acquisitions and divestments. Yen chaired the AMP Capital Inclusion & Diversity Council from 2016-2018 and currently chairs AMP Capital's CREATE committee which supports the CREATE Foundation.



Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Natalie Wendon, Maddocks

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

Natalie Wendon is a lawyer in our Dispute Resolution and Litigation team. Natalie has established herself as one of the firm's most talented young lawyers. She combines her skills as a litigator with the energy and empathy to assist colleagues and community organisations through a range of initiatives and programs.

Natalie helped establish the [Wo]Mentoring program at Maddocks which provides mentoring and guidance to women that are new to the firm or require advice. She is also a significant driving force for many of the firm's committees and groups, including Maddocks Women, the Innovation Action Group, and Maddocks Pride.



Deborah White, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions NSW

Nominated for: Rising Star of the Year

Deborah White is a solicitor in the Public Sector Prosecutions Unit of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions NSW. She specialises in the prosecution of corruption offences against high-profile public officers. She is a strong advocate of victims' rights and has extensive experience prosecuting domestic violence and sexual assault matters in metropolitan and regional NSW. She has been commended by her colleagues and victims for her compassionate approach and skilful advocacy. Deborah is completing a Master of Criminology at Sydney University where she received a scholarship for her academic excellence and commitment to the criminal justice system. Deborah volunteers as an English tutor at the Refugee Language Centre and is a Board Member of the Berrima Courthouse Trust. Deborah is an active alumna of North Sydney Girls High School and delivered the keynote address at last year's careers night encouraging young women to pursue a career in law.



Vanessa Whittaker SC, 11 Wentworth Chambers

Nominated for: Barrister of the Year

Vanessa Whittaker was admitted to the bar in 2005 and was appointed as senior counsel in 2018. She is a member of Eleven Wentworth Chambers. She has a broad commercial practice which includes corporations and insolvency law, insurance law, contract, equity, trusts, class actions, competition and professional negligence matters. Vanessa holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law with first class honours from Sydney University and a Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford University. She is a member of Bar Council and in 2019 co-founded WomenVote; a non-partisan group directed towards helping women advocate for change about issues that matter to them.

Finalists - Individuals

FINALIST DETAILS



Catherine Wilkinson, Sparke Helmore Lawyers

Nominated for: Private Practice Lawyer of the Year; Regional Lawyer of the Year; Woman Lawyer of the Year

Catherine joined Sparke Helmore in 1992 and now leads its award-winning national Workplace team from the firm's foundation office in Newcastle, as a proud Novocastrian.

Catherine advises businesses on issues relating to employment and safety in the workplace. She has an infallible understanding of the industries she works with, which allows her to anticipate and quickly come up with effective solutions for CEOs, Managing Directors, HR executives, safety professionals and in-house counsel. Her leadership style is intentionally transparent and approachable, mixed with light heartedness when appropriate and directness when needed.

Catherine is passionate about supporting junior lawyers and is particularly proud of the success her team has had welcoming and integrating new parents back into the workplace. Providing a flexible and accommodating work life is a key priority, which has paid dividends for Catherine, personally, and the Workplace team at Sparke Helmore.



Pauline Wright, PJ Donnellan & Co

Nominated for: Private Practice Lawyer of the Year; Regional Lawyer of the Year; Woman Lawyer of the Year

Pauline is President of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties, only the second woman to be elected to that role, and was President of the Law Society of NSW in 2017 after serving on the Council of the Law Society for many years. She was the long-term chair of the Criminal Law and Environmental Planning & Development committees. She is the Treasurer of the Law Council of Australia of which she has been a director since 2016 having sat on a number of key committees including Access to Justice and Equal Opportunity in the Law. She is a partner/principal of PJ Donnellan & Co Solicitors on the NSW Central Coast and is an accredited specialist in Environmental Planning & Development Law. She is a past Vice President of NSW Women Lawyers and Executive member of NSW Young Lawyers and continues to serve on Legal Aid's Human Rights and Monitoring committees.



Amy Zhang, Harmers Workplace Lawyers

Nominated for: Private Practice Lawyer of the Year

Amy Zhang is a multi-award-winning Senior Associate & Team Leader at Harmers Workplace Lawyers. Since 2015, Amy has been recognised as a finalist in over twenty prestigious national and international legal awards, and has won the Lawyers Weekly 30 under 30 Awards on three occasions. Amy works across all areas of workplace law, and has particular experience and interest in complex test-case litigation, and discrimination and harassment cases. Amy has advocated for the rights of working women by working on a number of significant cases regarding discrimination and/or harassment in the workplace and by providing training to employers. Amy is a regular commentator on workplace issues in the media and industry publications, regularly provides pro bono legal services, and coaches and is a keen mentor to students of non-English speaking background and female junior lawyers.



Finalists - Outstanding Law Firm Of the Year

FINALIST DETAILS



Ashurst

Ashurst is a leading international law firm with world class capability and a prestigious global client base, with offices spanning 26 countries. The firm's people are its greatest asset and the firm's goals - to be the best advisor for our clients and to offer our people an exceptional place to work - depends on, and is underpinned by, a diverse and inclusive organisation. In 2019 Ashurst has reached a milestone of 100 women in partnership, and the firm is on track to reach our FY22 target of 33% of the global partnership being female. We take a very active approach in ensuring that our workplace is a reflection of the world around us, and recruiting, retaining and promoting the best people from the widest possible talent pools is an essential business imperative to ensure Ashurst offers an elite and innovative service to our clients.



Coleman Greig

At Coleman Greig we are proud of our reputation as Greater Western Sydney's leading law firm with offices throughout the region. We offer CBD-style legal services and expertise, the personal approach of a boutique firm, and the spirit of community awareness.

Celebrating 90 years in 2018, we are a firm that has the advancement of women entrenched within our DNA. We believe in actions rather than words, and look to influence at all levels of our firm, community and profession in order to make a positive impact.

Our ongoing effort to advance women continues to strengthen our firm, and has produced our current gender equity results including strong female representation and support across our senior leadership positions. We also pride ourselves on flexible working arrangements and our White Ribbon accreditation.

Our goal is simple – equal representation of women at all levels of the firm.



Div eX

The DIV eX Lawyers and Strategists' philosophy is to start with the end in mind and build a legal strategy to get their clients there.

The founders studied strategy across a diverse range of fields in order to apply the lessons to Family Law.

DIV eX lawyers develop personal strategies, utilising their unique 'Separation Strategy Blueprint', as this is what makes the biggest difference in achieving a better result for their clients.

With face to face options, together with an online conferencing platform and innovative technology, DIV eX lawyers provide discreet and professional advice, no matter where their clients are located, or what environment they are in.

The DIV eX mantra is, "First secure victory, then fight if you must"

Finalists - Outstanding Law Firm Of the Year

FINALIST DETAILS



Gilbert + Tobin

Gilbert + Tobin is a leading corporate law firm, advising clients on their most significant corporate transactions, regulatory matters and disputes. We provide legal solutions for ASX 100 leading companies and government and public authorities around the world.

Our reputation as a leader in M&A, private equity, equity capital markets, competition and regulation and technology and digital, has been reinforced by our work leading commercial disputes in responding to Royal Commissions and regulatory investigations.

We use innovative technology to transform legal practice and have pioneered a leading pro bono practice, focussed on corporate citizenship. Our proud commitment to diversity and inclusion has always been an integral part of our culture and the way we do business. In 2019 we received a Workplace Gender Equality Agency citation for the fifth consecutive year.

Winners of 2019 Law Firm of the Year - Australasian Law Awards, and 2019 FT Most Innovative Law Firm (APAC).



Herbert Smith Freehills

Operating from 27 offices across Asia Pacific, EMEA and North America, Herbert Smith Freehills is at the heart of the new global business landscape providing premium quality, full-service legal advice. The firm provides many of the world's most important organisations with access to market-leading dispute resolution, projects and transactional legal advice, combined with expertise in a number of global industry sectors, including Banks, Consumer products, Energy, Financial buyers, Infrastructure & Transport, Mining, Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare, Real estate, TMT and Manufacturing & Industrials.



Maddocks

Maddocks is a proudly independent Australian law firm that works closely with corporations, businesses and governments throughout Australia and internationally. With 83 partners and 550 employees, we work collaboratively with our clients from our Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney offices.

We are recognised for the excellence of our work. Our lawyers are regularly ranked in global legal directories such as Chambers, Best Lawyers and Doyle's Guide as leaders in their field.

Our culture is based on a set of core values that are promoted and observed across the firm. These values are: Integrity; Stewardship; Collaboration and working together in promoting the interests of the firm; Commitment to doing things better through excellence, change and innovation; Respect for the value of the individual and diversity.

It is that final value that drives our commitment to true inclusion and diversity.

Life Achievement Award
To be announced on the evening

Life Membership Honours
Jane Needham SC & Judy Dean



NSW Women Lawyers
Achievement Awards 2019
Award Category Sponsors



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION



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