

Michelle Meares

Barrister

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Curriculum Vitae

2023 Called to NSW Bar

2014 Solicitor of High Court of Australia NSW Supreme Court

Principal Areas of Practice

Equity & Trusts

Real Property

Commercial

Common Law – Personal Injury & Intentional Torts

Family Law

Succession Law

Consumer Protection & Trade Practices

Insurance

Education

2022 Australian Institute of Company Directors Course

2019 Australian Advocacy Institute Course

2014 Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice, Australian National University

2014 Bachelor of Laws (Hons 1), University of New England

Awards: First Class Honours; A Rose Memorial Prize - first in Corporations Law

2010 Master of Arts in Creative Writing, University of Technology

2003 Bachelor of Arts, University of Southern Queensland

1993 Bachelor of Economics, University of Sydney (Partially completed)

1992 Higher School Certificate, Pymble Ladies' College

Professional experience

2023 NSW Bar Association, Legal Aid Committee

2023 NSW Bar Association, Media Information Technology Committee

2023 Barrister 2 Selborne Chambers

2022-2023 President, NSW Regional Women Lawyers

2021- 2023 Meares Law, Terrigal: Principal Solicitor of Boutique Firm. Family Law, Property, Wills/Estates, Personal Injury

2022-2023 Council for NSW Law Reporting, Council Member

2021 – 2023 Law Society of New South Wales, Councillor

2020 – 2021 Brazel Moore Lawyers, Led Compensation and Family Law Practice Areas

2019-2023 NSW Law Society, Privacy & Data Law Committee, Ethics Committee, Family Law Committee

2019-2021 Secretary/Committee Member of digital rights organisation Electronic Frontiers Australia

2017-2021 Secretary/Committee Member, Central Coast Regional Law Society

2017 – 2020 Watts McCray Lawyers. Family law matters complex property and parenting

2014 Australian Law Reform Commission: Legal Internship on Inquiry into Serious Invasions of Privacy in the Digital Age

2011- 2014 Sydney Law School – University of Sydney (Centre for Health, Governance, Law & Ethics) Legal Research Assistant for Professor Cameron Stewart

2001-2013 Mercury Rising Media – Director. Web and application development, Content and Document Management Systems, Intranets, Information Architecture, User Interface Design, Social Media, Search Engine Optimisation, Content Creation

Recent experience

Led appearances

Agrigrain Pty Ltd v Rindfleish (NSWCA; judgment pending) – led by M Friedgut – Negligence claim for work related injury – issue of who was the employer of the injured worker – Limitation Issues

Proietti v Proietti (NSWCA) – led by L Chan – Appeared as Amicus Curiae - Vexatious Proceedings Order made

Rindfliesh v Agrigrain Pty Ltd (NSW DC) – led by M Friedgut - plaintiff injured while replacing a bearing in a grain auger – negligence claim

Diakovasili & Anor v Order of AHEPA NSW Incorporated (NSW SC) – led by M Friedgut - General law derivative action – Where two members of incorporated association seek declaration as to entitlement to commence derivative proceedings at general law.

Quader v Nguyen (NSW SC) – led by L Chan – right of appeal – who may exercise – where plaintiff sought leave to appeal against decision of NCAT Appeal Panel pursuant to s 83 of the Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013 (NSW) – where plaintiff was not a party to the NCAT proceedings

Unled appearances

Beckwith & Dass (No 2) (FCFCOA) – contested costs application – dispute as to costs following 6 day property/parenting trial

Qureshi & Abernathy (FCFOCA) – complex parenting matter – 5 day trial – risk issues – s68B injunctions

Finlay & Finlay (FCFCOA) – parenting matter – 2 day trial – unacceptable risk of harm – family violence

Cygnis & Cygnis (FCFCOA) – parenting matter – 3 day trial - Father has a range of mental health diagnoses, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Willard & Attic Group (NCAT) – building defects claim – Australian Consumer Law breach of consumer guarantees

Enforcement proceedings in relation to over \$350,000 of unpaid children's private school fees involving application to set aside property transfer for nil consideration.

Recent experience as a solicitor

Adams v Department of Family and Community Services (NCAT) – Section 29 Certificate CARE Act – Whether respondent has discharged onus in respect of schedule 1 GIPA Act – Care proceedings

Mulroney & Mulroney (FCFCOA) – parenting matter with 2 children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Hood & Weaver (FCFCOA Appeal) – parenting matter – allegations of abuse

Acting in relation to civil claims arising from historical abuse in care of Minister, various institutions and clubs.

Acting in strict tort claims for victims of child sexual abuse.

Acting in motor accident and workers compensation claims including Death Benefit Claims.

Acting in motor accident proceedings to seek leave out of time to proceed 12 years after accident.

Acting in family provision claims, breach of executor duties and challenges to testator capacity.

Acting in complex financial family law proceedings with bankrupt parties, judgment debtors and trustee in bankruptcy.

Acting in complex financial family law proceedings with complex company and trust structures for medical and other professionals.

Acting in complex financial family law proceedings with interim costs application and interim property adjustments to obtain funds to finance proceedings.

Acting in spousal maintenance claims.

Acting in contravention proceedings.

Publications and Presentations

NSW Bar Association BarNews – Cyberstalking & Technology Facilitated Abuse – Autumn 2024

NSW Property & Family Law Conference – Setting Aside Transactions to Defeat Claims in Family Law Proceedings March 2024

Lawyers Weekly – Women in Law Conference Melbourne November 2023

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NSW Regional Women Lawyers Conference Organiser/MC 24 March 2023

CLE by the Sea Organiser/MC 2018, 2020 – Speakers Justice Paul Le Gay Brereton, the Honourable David Collier, the Honourable Ian Coleman SC, the Honourable Giles Coakes.

NSW Bar Association Cybersecurity, Privacy and Technology Expert Panel Member Kate Morgan SC, John Morgan, Partner, Clyde & Co, Kate Richardson SC 2020

NSW Law Society Specialist Accreditation Conference 2017 Data Retention Panel; 2019 Panel on Cyberstalking technology facilitated abuse in family law; 2020 Vaccinations and Family Court with Professor Cameron Stewart; NSW Law Society Annual Conference 2022 Panel on Drug testing in family law.

IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Annual Colloquium Speaker New Zealand Speaker Oceans & Marine 2013

Childbirth and the Law Forum, Parramatta 2012