

Howells' List

Barristers

Barrister Profile

Natalie Sheridan-Smith

LL. B., GDLP, Syd

Chambers:

Floor : Room :

Admitted: 05/04/2002

Signed Bar Roll: 20/11/2008

Admitted to Practice: Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory, Australian Capital Territory

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QUALIFICATIONS

LL. B., GDLP, Syd

BAR PRACTICE

PROFILE

Natalie was employed for five years as a solicitor advocate with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions beginning in North Queensland and progressing rapidly within two years to Senior Legal Officer in the Northern Territory office.

Natalie obtained extensive advocacy experience from the time of her admission to practice in the prosecution of Commonwealth summary and indictable offences including bail applications, pleas, contested hearings, interstate extradition applications, committals, appeals and legal arguments at all court levels including the Magistrates' Court (QLD, NT), District Court (QLD) and Supreme Court (NT).



Areas of Practice:

- [Criminal Law](#)
 - [Victims of Crime](#)
 - [General Criminal Law](#)
 - [Intervention and "Stalking" Orders](#)
 - [Confiscation of Assets](#)
- [Planning, Local Government and Environment](#)
 - [Planning Disputes](#)
- [Family Law](#)
 - [Property Disputes](#)
- [Administrative and Public Law](#)
 - [Freedom of Information](#)
 - [Administrative Law \(Judicial Review\)](#)
 - [Administrative Law \(Merits Review\)](#)

Natalie then spent six months on secondment to Police Prosecutions (NT). During this time she appeared daily in the Magistrates' Court to prosecute summary contested hearings, complex bail applications, contested intervention orders and other complex legal arguments.

Natalie then moved to Melbourne in 2006 and accepted a position as a Senior Associate with a city-based specialist criminal law firm. She appeared daily as a solicitor advocate on behalf of defendants in relation to:

- * bail applications, pleas, contest mentions, committal mentions, contested intervention order applications, contested hearings and other proceedings in the Magistrates' Courts;
- * pleas, appeals and directions hearings in the County Court; and
- * directions hearings and applications in the Supreme Court

On the basis of her extensive prosecution experience, Natalie then established and managed the Prosecutions Unit within the Legal Services Branch of the Department of Sustainability and Environment. Predominantly Natalie provided policy and legal advice to government and appeared to prosecute environmental regulatory crime including:

- * offences relating to exotic and native wildlife;
- * fire offences;
- * land clearing;
- * civil disturbances; and
- * civil enforcement proceedings in relation to crown land.

Natalie is also a Specialist Legal Officer with the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve providing advice to defence members and superior officers and representing defence members in relation to criminal and disciplinary proceedings, administrative law, international humanitarian law, drafting of wills etc.

In 2011 Natalie will undertake a mentoring, teaching and assessment role in relation to law graduates completing the Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice at the Leo Cussen Institute.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION/AWARDS:

2010 - Nominated for 4th Women Lawyers

Achievement Awards (Victoria) – nominated for Mentoring

2009-2010 - Participant in the Victorian Bar Duty Barrister Scheme

2000 - Director's Excellence Awards (ODPP (NSW)) for contribution and dedication to the Guideline Judgments Team which involved researching and preparing statistics, schedules and submissions for presentation to the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal to establish a structured sentencing regime.

2000 - Director's Excellence Awards (ODPP(NSW)) for contribution and dedication as a member of the Research Unit who established a new legal research database for the organisation.

MENTIONABLE/PROMINENT CASES:

2010 - Successfully conducted a pre-trial voir dire concerning unreliable admissions made by an accused in relation to a serious armed robbery resulting in the Prosecution withdrawing all charges.

2009 - Appeared before the Municipal Electoral Tribunal to successfully establish impropriety on the part of a local council and candidate in the local council election in 2008 which ultimately resulted in legislative changes to introduce penalties for such impropriety.

2007 - Appeared for a Japanese student, Takuya Muto, in one of the first and widely reported 'up-skirting' incidents at a Melbourne back-packers hostel and the Australian Open.

2005 - Represented the fourth traditional law wife of Galurrway Yunupingu in contested intervention order proceedings in Nhulunbuy (Gove) in the Northern Territory

2003 - Prosecuted an American tourist for breaching the confines of the Yongala Wreck off Townsville (QLD) contrary to the Historic Shipwrecks Act which was of particular interest to the international SCUBA diving industry