

Natalie Sheridan-Smith

Qualifications	LL. B., GDLP (UTS)
Admission	05 April 2002
Signed Bar Roll	20 November 2008
Jurisdiction	Victoria, NSW, QLD, NT, ACT, SA, WA, HCA, Federal
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Areas of Practice	Criminal / Motor Traffic / Proceeds of Crime / VOCAT / Occupational Regulation / Family / Children's Court / Intervention Orders / Administrative / Government / Defamation / Human Rights and Discrimination / Professional Negligence / Environment / Coronial
Specialisation	Commonwealth indictable criminal law – including drug importations and drug trafficking; child exploitation offences; fraud; excise fraud. Environmental and regulatory compliance.
General profile	Natalie has a busy advocacy practice in a range of contested and complex indictable crime, summary crime, family and Children's Court Family Division matters.
Previous occupation	Since her admission in 2002 Natalie has undertaken a variety of defence and public prosecution roles with government agencies requiring daily appearances in court proceedings including: Department Sustainability and Environment (2007-2008) – Manager Compliance and Prosecutions Unit. 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.

Paul Vale Criminal Law (2006-2007) – Senior Associate and Solicitor Advocate. Natalie appeared on a daily basis in court for clients involved in contested bail applications, contests, committals and in complex pleas in the Magistrates' and County Courts.

NT Director of Public Prosecutions (2006) – Summary Prosecutions and Circuit Prosecutor

Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions QLD, NT (2000-2006) - Prosecution of Commonwealth summary and indictable offences in all jurisdictions.

NSW Director of Public Prosecutions (1997-2000) Research Officer

Royal Australian Air Force Reserve – Specialist Legal Reserve (2006 - ongoing) Natalie is involved in providing advice to defence members and superior officers and representing defence members in relation to criminal and disciplinary proceedings, administrative law, international humanitarian law.

Memberships and Associations

Howells' List Barristers Committee – Secretary

Children's Court Bar Association - Secretary

Previously:

VicBar Duty Barristers Committee Member

VicBar Continuing Professional Development Committee Member

Academic Position / Published Articles:

2011 – 2017 Leo Cussen Institute – Sessional instructor in advocacy, criminal law and procedure, civil law and procedure and a number of other areas of law.

Significant cases:

2015 – Successfully prosecuted the first drug importer approached via "spam" email: *Afford v The Queen* which was upheld on appeal to the High Court in **Smith v The Queen; The Queen v Afford** [2017] HCA 19 (10 May 2017)

2011 to 2015 – Successfully prosecuted numerous individuals involved in two large scale drug importation / trafficking syndicates: Operation Rattlesnake and Operation Ripsaw.

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.

2008 – Royal Commission into Black Saturday Bushfires – assisted key witnesses to draft statements and appear before the Royal Commission

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

Pro bono practice

VicBar Duty Barristers Scheme participant.

Natalie also accepts briefs from PILCH and other pro bono organisations in a wide variety of matters.

Professional awards

2010 - Women Lawyers Achievement Awards (Victoria) – Nominated for Mentoring

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