



MADELEINE BRIDGETT | BARRISTER | PDipLS, PDipLaw (Distinction), MSW (Distinction), BSW

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ADMISSIONS

2016	Barrister, Supreme Court of NSW
	Lawyer, Supreme Court of NSW
2011	Barrister, Bar of England and Wales

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Madeleine was admitted to the NSW Bar in 2016 and currently practices as a barrister in Sydney, Australia, specialising in human rights, public law, and commercial law. In 2021 Madeleine was appointed as Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. She comes to law as a second career and brings with her significant experience having worked in the health and social care sectors for many years as a clinical social worker. Madeleine has specific knowledge, skills and experience in the areas of mental health, drug and alcohol, sexual assault, domestic and family violence, child protection and sexual assault. She is trained in trauma-informed practice. Madeleine has published work in national and international journals and has presented at conferences globally. Publications and recent cases can be viewed [here](#).

Madeleine was initially called to the Bar of England and Wales in 2011. Following her admission, she spent a year working in Nigeria for the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales where she fearlessly advocated for the rights of children whilst actively promoting the rule of law. She trained NGO workers in legal case management and assisted lawyers in successfully prosecuting cases of child abuse, as well training UNICEF, the police, and the judiciary across Nigeria. Madeleine then travelled to Strasbourg to work for the European Court of Human Rights having been awarded the Peter Duffy Human Rights Scholarship in 2010 by The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. She was responsible for preparing draft reports and decisions on the admissibility of cases brought before the Court. In 2010 and 2009, respectively, she was awarded the Head of School Prize and the Oxford Press Prize for best postgraduate law student, and in 2010 she was awarded the Hardwick Entrance Scholarship by The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn.

EDUCATION

2021	AIFLAM Arbitration Accreditation (Qualified Arbitrator) , AIFLAM, NSW
2016	Bar Practice Course , NSW Bar
2010 - 2011	Bar Professional Training Course (Grade: Very Competent) City Law School, University of London (formerly Inns of Court Law School)
2008 - 2010	Postgraduate Diploma in Law/CPE (Grade: Distinction - ranked 1st consecutive years) University of Brighton, UK
1997	Mediation Award (Qualified Mediator) , UNIFAM, Sydney, Australia
1997 - 1999	Master of Social Work (Grade: Distinction) , UNSW, Australia
1989 -1992	Bachelor of Social Work , UNSW, Australia

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Scholarships:	Peter Duffy Human Rights Scholarship , The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, 2011 Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship , The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, 2011
Awards:	'Head of School Prize' for Best Second Year Postgraduate Law Student (highest marks) University of Brighton (2010) 'Oxford University Press Prize' for Best First Year Postgraduate Law Student (highest marks) University of Brighton (2009)

PRACTICE AREAS

Human Rights	International Law	Administrative Law
Coronial Inquests	Children and Family Law	Commissions of Inquiry and Tribunals
Corporations Law	Commercial Law	Equity and Trusts
Succession Law	Employment Law	Criminal Law

SELECTION OF CASES

Inquests and Commissions of Inquiry

Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide (Counsel Assisting)

Inquest into the death of Samih Zraika (Unled)

Inquest into the death of Melissa Standen (Unled)

Inquest into the death of Anthony Causey (Unled)

Inquest into the death of Heidi Cox (Unled)

International Law

Rojas v United States of America [2019] FCA 22 (Led by Dr Christopher Ward SC)

Arthur & Secretary, Department of Family & Community Services and Anor [2017] FamCAFC 111 (Led by Dr Christopher Ward SC)

Bates & Arthur And Anor [2017] FamCAFC 3 (Led by Dr Christopher Ward SC)

Dept of Family & Community Services & Arthur [2017] FAMCA 204 (Unled)

Administrative Law

GMZ18 v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs [2024] FedCFamC2G (Led by Dr Christopher Ward SC)

GZCK and Minister for Home Affairs (Migration) [2019] AATA 656 (5 April 2019) (Unled)

ACL17 v Minister for Immigration & Anor [2018] FCCA 3191 (21 December 2018) (Unled)

Commercial Law

Carmelo Adriano Mastronardo v Commonwealth Bank of Australia trading as BankWest [2017] NSWSC 1052 (Led by Robert Angyal, SC)

Heard McEwan Pty Ltd v G Zanetti Pty Ltd [2017] NSWCATAP 213 (Unled)

Equity and Succession Law

Riva NSW Pty Ltd v Key Nominees Pty Ltd [2016] NSWSC 1569 (Led by Richard Parsons)

The Estate of Colleen McCullough [2018] NSWSC 1126 (Led by Kim Morrissey)

Estate MPS, deceased [2017] NSWSC 482 (Led by Kim Morrissey)

Criminal Law

Jimenez v R [2017] NSWCCA 1 (Led by Sophie Callan SC)

R v Fang (No. 2) [2016] NSWSC 1784 (Amicus Curiae led by Paul Bolster)

PRO BONO PUBLICO

2018 - Present	Human Rights Committee, NSW Bar Association
2019 - Present	Co-Vice-Chair, Women Barristers Forum, NSW Bar Association
2018 - Present	Management Committee, HIV/AIDS Legal Centre Inc. (HALC)
2016 - Present	Australian Committee, International Coalition to End Transplant Abuse in China
2015 - 2018	Executive Management Committee, Australian Lawyers for Human Rights (ALHR)
2014 - 2016	National Centre for Children and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC)

SOCIAL WORK EMPLOYMENT

2014 - 2016 - Australia

Manager, Trapeze, The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network

2004 -2006 | 2009 - 2011 | 2012 - 2013 - United Kingdom

Senior Social Worker (Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol, Child Protection, HIV), Locum

2001 - 2004 - Australia

Consulting and Counselling Service, Sydney Australia (P/T)

1997 - 2004 - Australia

Anti-Violence (Sexual Assault) Project Officer and Consultant, SWOP, Sydney, Australia (P/T)

1999 - 2001 - Australia

Individual, Couple and Family Therapist, Relationships Australia, Australia (P/T)

1996 - 2001 - Australia

Social Worker and Consultant, Kirketon Road Centre (Drug and Alcohol), Sydney, Australia (P/T)

1995 - 1997 - United Kingdom

Social Worker, Mental Health and Vulnerable Adults Teams, Social Services, UK

1992 -1995 - Australia

Social Worker, Mental Health Acute Services and Community Mental Health Teams, Sydney, Australia