**Abbie Roodenburg**

BSc (Hon), LLB

Barrister 0409 022 271

roodenburg@vicbar.com.au

# PROFILE

Abbie Roodenburg is a highly experienced lawyer who commenced her career at Sharrock Pitman Legal over 20 years ago. In her initial years, Abbie practiced as a litigation lawyer in a wide variety of jurisdictions. She appeared and instructed in complex commercial litigation matters, disciplinary proceedings, domestic building disputes and regulatory matters. Abbie moved to the Office of Public Prosecutions in 2005 and developed an extensive knowledge of criminal law and procedure and the law of evidence. She became a specialist in the running of complex sexual offence cases and higher court appeals.

Abbie has a regulatory and administrative law practice that is well grounded in her strong criminal law background. Abbie also has a Bachelor of Science (Honours) majoring in Environmental Science and has previously worked in environmental consulting. Given this additional scientific experience, Abbie is often briefed in matters with highly technical and/or scientific evidence.

She appears in disciplinary and regulatory proceedings and often appears on behalf of the Secretary of the Department of Justice and Community Safety in matters under the *Serious Offenders Act* and other quasi-criminal matters. She is experienced in running proceedings under the occupational health and safety regime, *Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried) Act* and the *Sex Offenders Registration Act*.

Abbie conducts trials in the County Court and Supreme Court and appeals in the Court of Appeal for both prosecution and defence clients. Abbie holds an Indictable Crime Certificate (ICC) and, in 2019, was selected to take part in Victoria Legal Aid's Trial Counsel Development Program.  She is also on the VLA Criminal Trial Preferred Barrister List.

Abbie has a strong community focus which permeates her work and her private life. She has been a volunteer at the Environment Defenders Office and the Environment Protection Authority. She has volunteered as a youth leader for various organisations and was President of the Committee of Management at her local kindergarten in 2017. She is involved with Women In Crime and has been a mentor for junior lawyers since 2020. These experiences bring a wealth of knowledge and depth of understanding that assists in her work as a barrister in all types of cases.

# AREAS OF PRACTICE

* Criminal law
* Public law
* Administrative law
* Inquests, Inquiries, Tribunals and Commissions
* Environment and planning law

# RECENT CASES

* *DPP v DW* [2023] VSC 24 – junior to P Holdenson KC for the Secretary, DOJCS (amicus curiae)
* *Vinaccia v The King* [2023] HCASL 44 – junior to Snr Crown Prosecutor Chris Boyce KC
* *Jesse Vinaccia v The Queen* [2022] VSCA 107 – junior to Snr Crown Prosecutor Chris Boyce QC (appeal against conviction involving highly technical medical evidence in relation to abusive head trauma in infants and including cross-examination of expert witnesses)
* *Wasif v The Queen* [2022] VSCA 182 – sentence appeal for the respondent
* *Ralph v The Queen* [2022] VSCA 185 – sentence appeal for the respondent
* *Charles (a pseudonym) v The Queen* [2022] VSCA 166 – junior to Theo Kassimatis QC for the applicant, conviction and sentence appeal (conviction appeal upheld, retrial ordered)
* *DPP v Smith* [2022] VSCA 4 – Crown appeal against sentence for the applicant
* *DPP v Patterson* [2022] VCC – appearing on behalf of the prosecution (trial on charges of arson, criminal damage and burglary)
* *DPP v Charles (a pseudonym)* [2021] VCC1282– junior to Ian Hill QC (historical sexual offences) for the accused
* *DPP v Bradley (a pseudonym)* [2021] VCC, unreported – appearing on behalf of the Secretary to the Department of Justice and Community Safety (objecting to the cross-examination of Intermediaries involved in the Intermediary Pilot Program).
* *The Queen v Adam Margolis* [2021] VSC 341 – junior to Snr Crown Prosecutor Mark Gibson QC (murder trial)
* *Secretary DOJCS v B.R* [2020] VCC 2095 – review supervision order, *Serious Offenders’ Act*
* *DPP v Hazelwood Power Corporation Pty Ltd* [2020] VSCA 278 – junior to Sally Flynn QC (Worksafe prosecution following the Hazelwood Mine fire)
* *DPP v Polat (a pseudonym)* [2020] VSCA 174 – junior to Snr Crown Prosecutor Diana Piekusis
* *McKenchie v Magistrates’ Court & Anor* [2020] VSC 358 – judicial review
* *DPP v MacArthur* [2019] VSCA 71 – junior to DPP Kerri Judd QC
* *The Queen v Murat Davsanoglu* [2019] VSC 332 – junior to Diana Piekusis QC (murder trial)
* *Ali v Allan (Victoria Police)* [2018] VSC 515 – Judicial review

# Abbie Roodenburg

# EDUCATION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2017 | **Signed Victorian Bar Roll** – 4 May 2017 |
| 2004 | **Admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor** – 23 February 2004 Supreme Court of Victoria & High Court of Australia |
| 2002 | **Bachelor of Laws**Monash University, Clayton |
| 2000 | **Bachelor of Science (Honours)**Monash University |
| 2000 | **Certificate III in Change Management** |
| 1996 | Greensteps Program, Monash University**Victorian Certificate of Education** |
|  | Yarra Valley Anglican School |

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

**February 2017 – present**

**Victorian Bar**

Barrister

# February 2005 – February 2017 Office of Public Prosecutions

Positions held while at the Office of Public Prosecutions included Sexual Offences Principal Solicitor (2011 – 2017), Sexual Offences Acting Legal Prosecution Specialist (2014), Higher Court Appeals Senior Solicitor (2008 – 2010), Sexual Offences Solicitor (2006 – 2008), General Prosecutions Solicitor (2005 – 2006).

*Key skills:*

* Regular appearance work in the Magistrates’ Court, County Court, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal.
* Ability to manage and run complex cases and trials.
* Proven ability to manage a high file load, to complete work in an efficient and effective manner and to sensitively & appropriately deal with stakeholders.
* Significant experience in mentoring junior solicitors.
* Confident presenter of training sessions both internally to OPP solicitors and to external stakeholders such as Victoria Police members.
* Providing succinct, accurate and timely legal advice to OPP solicitors in a variety of sections and to Victoria Police and other government agencies.

# December 2002 – February 2005 Sharrock Pitman Legal

*Litigation Lawyer* – 10 December 2003 to 6 February 2005

*Articled Clerk* – 8 December 2002 to 10 December 2003

* Regular appearance work at mediations, in VCAT proceedings, in summary pleas and civil proceedings at the Magistrates’ Court and criminal hearings in the County Court.
* Maintained a high file load and consistently exceeded set budgets by significant margins.
* Key areas of legal work included commercial litigation, disciplinary proceedings, family law disputes, domestic building disputes and criminal law.

# June 2001 – December 2002 Earth Systems

*Research & Technical Assistant*

* Research, coordination and production of the World Environment Map and the Water Map of Australia.
* Research and production of the TumenNET Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Interactive Mapping System and the Tumen River Strategic Action Program

**November 2000 – June 2001 Alexandra & Associates** *Junior Environmental Consultant*

* Producing competitive tenders, organising and facilitating consultations with relevant stakeholders and writing accurate and timely reports for clients.
* Projects included a forestry values project, development of an environmental management system for vineyards and research and investigation into organic certification of orchards.

# VOLUNTEER ROLES AND EXPERIENCE

# November 2021 – Present

# Criminal Bar Association

# *Member of Committee*

# Provides representation to members of the Criminal Bar and advocates within courts and government on matters relevant to the criminal law.

# April 2020 – Present

# Women in Crime

# *Mentor*

# Mentor to junior female solicitor and barristers practising in criminal law.

# July 2004 – July 2005

# Environment Defenders Office

# *Volunteer Solicitor*

# Providing legal advice to telephone inquiries in relation to environment and planning law matters, ie. objections to permit applications, enforcement of planning permit condition, appeals of planning permit decisions and matters of local pollution.

# July 2002 – December 2002 Springvale-Monash Legal Service

*Professional Practice Program of Monash University*

# July 1999 – December 1999

# Environment Protection Authority

# *Research Assistant*

# Researching matters relating to current environmental issues and changes to relevant environment-related legislation.

# TRAINING AND PRESENTATIONS

*February 2021: Serious Offenders: The making and breaking of Supervision Orders*

Green’s List CLE program – a presentation to members of the Victorian Bar, solicitors and government agencies on the operation of the *Serious Offenders Act* 2018.

*October 2018: Raising the Bar, Victorian Women Lawyers Networking Breakfast*

Abbie appeared on a panel to discuss how to make the transition to the Bar - including topics such as how to pass the Bar exam, the Bar Readers’ course and how to choose a clerk.

*August 2017: Navigating the ever-changing landscape of sexual offence: a 2017 update*

Green’s List CLE program – a presentation to members of the Victorian Bar, solicitors and government agencies on recent amendments to sexual offences legislation.

*2016, 2013 & 2012: Victoria Police VARE Training*

An interactive training session for Detectives about how to conduct VARE interviews and the legal and evidentiary issues involved in utilising VAREs at trial.

*2016: Victoria Legal Aid Panel – Prosecuting Sex Offences in the Summary Jurisdiction*

Abbie appeared on a panel with Magistrate Wallington, a VLA public defender and VLA solicitor to answer questions about how matters are prosecuted in the summary jurisdiction.

*2015: Victoria Police Prosecutors Conference - Sexual Offences Update*

This presentation and training session provided details of the amendments to sexual offences legislation from 1 July 2015 to approximately 150 police prosecutors from Victoria.

*2014: Family Violence Training*

Prosecuting Family Violence Matters, an OPP Solicitor’s perspective - This presentation outlined the Prosecutor’s role to allied health workers, social workers and counselors working with victims of family violence.

*2012 -2013: Victoria Police VARE Training*

An interactive training session for Detectives about how to conduct VARE interviews and the legal and evidentiary issues involved in utilising VAREs at trial.

*2011 – 2013: Caulfield Grammar School Years 10/11 Human Development Program*

An interactive presentation aimed to inform students of their legal rights and responsibilities using real case examples, particularly in relation to age relevant sexual offences and driving offences.

# *2012 – 2016: Internal Office of Public Prosecutions training sessions*

Topics included uncharged acts, grooming legislation, historical sex offences, mental impairment prosecutions*,* drafting indictments and hearsay.

# PUBLICATIONS

D Mercer, A Underwood (now Roodenburg), *Australian Timber Plantations: national vision, local response.* Land Use Policy (2002) 19(20):107-222.

A Roodenburg, *Weird Wild and Wonderful: Marine Mammals*, 2015, Blake Education A Roodenburg, *Weird Wild and Wonderful: Fish*, 2015, Blake Education

A Roodenburg, *Weird Wild and Wonderful: Jellyfish,* 2016, Blake Education

The three above titles are non-fiction books written for primary school children and are used to develop their reading skills.

# COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

**November 2021 – Present**

**Ashburton Baptist Community Service Inc**

*President (2022-2023), Board member (2021-2022)*

Part of the committee of management of this not-for-profit entity that engages in charitable works in the local Ashburton community and surrounds. Projects include managing asylum seeker housing and programs, dementia daycare for the elderly, programs for youth at risk and community care projects.

**November 2019 – November 2021**

**Ashburton Basketball Club**

*Secretary*

Part of the executive committee for this community basketball club in the Waverley District Basketball Association.

**December 2016 to December 2017**

**Rowen Street Kindergarten, Glen Iris**

*President of Committee of Management*

Rowen Street Kindergarten is run by a committee of management made up of volunteer parents. As President, I was responsible for overseeing all aspects of the kindergarten including staffing, accreditation and registration.

**February 2010 to December 2016**

**Ashburton Baptist Church**

*Playgroup Leader*

Running a playgroup program once a week for children from 0 to 4 years.

**February 2013 to December 2015**

**Rowen Street Kindergarten**

*Member of Committee of Management*

Environment and Sustainability Officer (2013, 2015) Capital Grants Officer (2014)

# 1997 – 2003

**Scripture Union Victoria**

*Theos Youth Outreach Coffee Shop (Mallacoota) Director of Mallacoota Theos 2002/2003*

This role involved traveling to Mallacoota in Gippsland, Victoria for two weeks over summer and organising activities for young people aged between 15 and 25 years. It also involved running a team of 25 volunteers and organising activities that promoted cooperation, teamwork and leadership.

# REFEREES

Available upon request.