

Thirty-one sign the Victorian Bar Roll

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Thirty-one new barristers signed the Victorian Bar Roll last week at a ceremony in the Supreme Court Library after completion of the Bar Readers Course. These readers take the total number of barristers on the Bar Roll in Victoria from 1875 to 1906.

The 11 women and 20 men range in age from 27 to 61 years and come from diverse employment backgrounds in the legal profession and beyond. This has included practising law in the Hague, London, Johannesburg and Texas, and work as a speech writer, university academic, television script writers and editor and functions manager.

An additional Reader, from Papua New Guinea, completed the course and signed the Bar's Roll of Overseas Counsel – continuing the Victorian Bar's strong tradition and commitment to contributing to the development of the profession in the South Pacific region.

“This group of Readers again demonstrates the broad appeal of the Bar in Victoria to people who are interested in pursuing a career in advocacy and the law,” said Victorian Bar Chairman Melanie Sloss S.C.

“And it shows that there is no one ‘formula’ for identifying those who wish to read for the Bar. While most of our newest barristers come directly from the practising legal profession and a third have served as Judicial Associates, there are others who come with valuable experience gained in the broader community, including from academia, television and events management.

“The Victorian Bar welcomes each of the Readers, and congratulates them on the successful completion of a very rigorous course which requires demonstrated technical legal competence as a precursor to the development of high level advocacy skills,” Ms Sloss said.

The Victorian Bar's Readers Course is actively supported by members of the Bar who teach in the course and serve as mentors, and by the judiciary, both State and Federal.

“High quality training and skills development is an essential part of maintaining the quality of advocacy at the Victorian Bar and in performing our very important role in the administration of justice in Victoria,” Ms Sloss concluded.

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