

Abbie Roodenburg

BSc (Hon), LLB

Barrister

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PROFILE

Abbie Roodenburg is a highly experienced lawyer who commenced her career at Sharrock Pitman Legal almost 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.

Since coming to the Bar, Abbie primarily appears as counsel in criminal and quasi-criminal matters, in all jurisdictions in the State of Victoria. She accepts both prosecution and defence briefs in criminal matters. She is regularly engaged 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 also 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*. In 2019, Abbie was selected to take part in the Victoria Legal Aid Trial Counsel Development Program and obtained her Indictable Crime Certificate (ICC).

Abbie's additional qualification of Bachelor of Science (Hons), majoring in Environmental Science, has resulted in her being briefed in highly technical scientific matters, achieving excellent results for clients. Further, Abbie has excellent forensic analytical skills. Abbie is a confident and experienced advocate across all jurisdictions.

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

- *Jesse Vinaccia v The Queen* [2022] VSCA – 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)
- *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] VCC, unreported – junior to Ian Hill QC (historical sexual offences)
- *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)
- *DPP v Hazelwood Power Corporation Pty Ltd* [2020] VSCA 278 – junior to Sally Flynn QC (Worksafe prosecution following the Hazelwood Mine fire)
- *DPP v Snow* [2020] VSCA 67 – junior counsel
- *DPP v Polat (a pseudonym)* [2020] VSCA 174 – junior to Snr Crown Prosecutor Diana Piekusis
- *Dennis Gill v The Queen* [2019] VSCA 92 – junior to Snr Crown Prosecutor Ray Gibson QC
- *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)
- *The Queen v David Grierson* [2018] VSC – junior to Peter Chadwick QC (murder trial)
- *Victoria Police v John Setka & Shaun Reardon* – junior to Ray Gibson QC (blackmail)
- *DPP v Dennis Gill* [2018] VCC – junior to Prosecutor Angela Moran (historical sexual offences)

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 Greensteps Program, Monash University
1996	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

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

- Interviewing clients, drawing correspondence, drafting court documents, negotiating settlements and appearing in summary pleas.
- Involvement in a Community Development Group and production of a research paper on the legal issues involved in cases of child abuse.

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 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)

March 2009 – December 2012

Ashburton Baptist Church

Grow Service Team

Organising the content of a multi-generational church service held on Thursday evenings addressing current social and theological issues.

1997 – 2007

Glen Waverley Anglican Church

Youth and Young Adults leader

This role involved organising activities and discussion forums for high school students and young adults, as well as organising and speaking at youth services addressing youth issues.

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.