

# 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 over 15 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 later became a specialist in the running of complex sexual offence cases. 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*.

Abbie has excellent forensic analytical skills. She has successfully prepared and instructed in highly complex litigation matters and prosecutions. Abbie is a confident and experienced advocate across all jurisdictions. She has highly developed interpersonal skills and has valued the opportunity to be involved in the training and mentoring of others in government organisations and her workplace.

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 is currently President of the Committee of Management at her local kindergarten. These experiences bring a wealth of knowledge and depth of understanding that assists in her work as a barrister in all types of cases.

Since coming to the Bar, Abbie primarily appears as counsel in criminal and quasi-criminal matters, such as tribunal, regulatory and disciplinary proceedings, in all jurisdictions in the State of Victoria. She accepts both prosecution and defence briefs in criminal matters.

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

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

## **EDUCATION**

2017	<b>Signed Victorian Bar Roll</b> – 4 May 2017
2004	<b>Admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor</b> – 23 February 2004 Supreme Court of Victoria & High Court of Australia
2002	<b>Bachelor of Laws</b> Monash University, Clayton
2000	<b>Bachelor of Science (Honours)</b> Monash University
2000	<b>Certificate III in Change Management</b> Greensteps Program, Monash University
1996	<b>Victorian Certificate of Education</b> 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 interlocutory 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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **TRAINING AND PRESENTATIONS**

*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.

**Internal Office of Public Prosecutions training sessions:**

<i>February 2016:</i>	Uncharged acts (recorded presentation for OPP)
<i>December 2014:</i>	The new grooming legislation
<i>December 2014:</i>	Historical sex offences
<i>September 2012:</i>	Mental impairment prosecutions
<i>June 2012:</i>	Drafting indictments
<i>May 2012:</i>	Hearsay

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

2005 – 2016	OPP Continuing Legal Education Sessions (min 15 hours per year)
2008 – 2016	Specialist Sex Offences Unit internal training sessions
18 June 2015	Green's List <i>Urgent Update: Important Changes to Sexual Offences</i>
February 2015	The Use of Intermediaries or communication assistants to enhance the interaction between the justice system and adults (accused and victims) with cognitive and communication impairments, and children
2004	Commercial Litigation Conference, Lexis Nexis Young Lawyers Day and 2-day Master Class
2004	Building Castles in the Air Seminar
2004	Introduction to Planning and Environment Law

## PUBLICATIONS

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

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

**December 2016 to present**

**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 who have children at the kindergarten. As President, I am responsible for overseeing all aspects of the kindergarten including staffing, accreditation and registration. In addition, I liaise with kindergarten parents and children regularly as well as responding to any issues that arise throughout the year.

**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.

**INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES**

- Classical ballet 1983 – 2001
- Running and attending the gym
- Reading, cooking and travelling

**REFEREES**

Available upon request.