

'Feedback from the Bench' Moot for Women Barristers

7 SEPTEMBER 2019

WBA is very pleased to announce the 2019 'Feedback from the Bench' moot for women barristers.

This follows on a successful program since 2016, which developed from a concern about the small number of women barristers appearing in appeals, especially with respect to the presentation of oral argument.

The moot will be held on **Saturday 7 September 2019** between 9:30 am and 5 pm in the Court of Appeal. Places for eight advocates are available.

The moot problem this year is an application for leave to appeal from VCAT by the Office of the Premier. A media company sought access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic) ('the FOI Act') to the electronic private diary of the Chief of Staff to the Premier. VCAT determined that the diary fell within the definition of 'an official document of a Minister' and so access could be sought under the FOI Act. The Office of the Premier now seeks leave to appeal claiming that the diary falls outside of the FOI Act with the consequence that there is no right of access. The application for leave to appeal is to be heard at the same time as the appeal.

The problem is based on *Office of the Premier v Herald and Weekly Times Pty Ltd* (2013) 38 VR 364. This will be of assistance in preparing for the moot but is not to be relied upon as an authority. A copy of the problem, the relevant legislation and the case are attached.

Judges of the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and the Federal Court, coordinated by Justice Pamela Tate, will preside over four moots, each involving a single advocate for the applicant and a single advocate for the respondent.

Expressions of interest

If you would like to participate, please send an expression of interest to Georgia Berlic at gberlic.vicbar.com.au. Please include your name, how long you have been at the Bar, areas of specialisation, any Court of Appeal experience, and your reasons for applying.

Expressions of interest are due by 5 pm **10 July 2019**.

Goal

The goal of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for female barristers to

gain advocacy experience in the Court of Appeal.

Requirements

Expressions of interest are sought from all women barristers who are members of WBA, regardless of how long they have been at the Bar. Applicants should have an interest in Court of Appeal advocacy, as that is the focus of the moot.

No Cost

There is no cost to participate.

Dress - No robing

There is no robing.

Time requirements

Each moot will run for approximately 1.5 hours. Each advocate will speak for 35 minutes, including responding to questions from the Bench, with 15 minutes feedback at the end of the moot. Participants will only be required to be present for the moot in which they are participating. There will be flexibility as to when participants are required throughout the day.

Participants will be required to prepare a Written Case of no more than 6 pages long which will be due one week before the moot (**Friday 30 August**). Participants will also be required to devote some time to the preparation of oral submissions.
