



VICTORIAN BAR

# ENGAGING WITH BARRISTERS



# STRATEGIC | COST EFFECTIVE | COMMERCIAL

## NAVIGATING LEGAL SERVICES IN TODAY'S MARKET

At the Victorian Bar, we recognise that the need to support and supplement in-house legal teams has never been greater. So why brief a barrister instead of, or in conjunction with, another legal resource?

Seeking strategic advice from a barrister early in a matter – regardless of whether it might ultimately become litigious – can have extraordinary benefits.

Barristers provide cost-effective specialist advice; in many cases, for a fraction of the cost of a firm of solicitors, you can brief an experienced barrister with deep subject matter expertise. And briefing early ensures the right strategy is set, and the right decisions are taken, well before you reach a courtroom door – and can help to ensure that you never reach it at all.

Barristers are genuinely independent and can provide an objective perspective on legal strategy and the likely trajectory of a matter, greatly improving the likelihood of an early resolution, saving costs and management resources.

Barristers are available and responsive, highly skilled and agile. Barristers are cost-effective subject matter experts. Barristers are your trusted advisors.

## BARRISTER MYTH-BUSTING

### ***Barristers only do litigation and court-based work.***

Barristers will add exceptional value to any matter whether it is providing strategic advice at the early stages of an issue, presenting to the Board on a particular area of risk, or turning around a quick advice on a particular point of law. Of course barristers are experts in litigation and are always available to advise on litigation strategy, draft witness statements or pleadings and provide advocacy services in all Australian courts and tribunals.

### ***Barristers have a 'mystique' and it is hard to build a relationship.***

Even though barristers are experts in their chosen area, they come from all walks of life, are nimble, responsive and commercial. They will quickly get to know your business and provide strategic and where needed, urgent advice; the foundation of a close, trusted advisor relationship.

### ***Barristers are expensive.***

Barristers have minimal overheads, which means their fee structures compare very favourably to other legal resources. Fees for a junior commercial barrister can start at around \$2,500 capped at 10 hours per day, which can always be negotiated.

And remember, junior barristers have significant experience, making them extremely good value enhanced by low overheads and efficient practices.

### ***Barristers are invisible and inaccessible.***

The Victorian Bar is working hard to promote our barrister services and to simplify the process of finding the right barrister for your matter. We are launching a program of cultural change, supported by technological enhancements, to make engaging a barrister a smooth and seamless transaction so that the right barrister for your matter is easy to find and quick to engage.

## SECONDMENTS

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Secondments can be a useful way to build a strong, long lasting relationship with a barrister, and a cost-efficient solution to a short-term employment need. Many barristers are keen to undertake client secondments, which can range from general advisory work and 'gap-filling' on your in-house legal team, to large discovery or due diligence projects.

## WHO CAN BRIEF A BARRISTER?

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Barristers can be instructed by lawyers from firms, corporations, government agencies and businesses from Australia and internationally. As in-house counsel or a government solicitor, you can brief a barrister directly without going through a law firm. Direct briefing in the right matters provides the opportunity to increase the speed and efficiency with which in-house matters are resolved.

## FINDING THE RIGHT BARRISTER



Visit [www.vicbar.com.au](http://www.vicbar.com.au), go to "FIND A BARRISTER", click "ADVANCED SEARCH" and complete the applicable search categories to bring up a list of suitable barristers.

Then just pick up the phone and call. If that barrister is unavailable or not quite the right fit, they will be more than happy to recommend colleagues who would be best for the matter.

Alternatively, contact one of the barrister's clerks who will discuss your needs and recommend a suitable barrister. A full list of clerks can be found on our website under "Barristers Clerks".