

Tess Vickery

Based in Sydney, Australia
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Admissions:

11 October 2013 Supreme Court of New South Wales
High Court of Australia

Education:

2008 – 2012

Macquarie University
Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours
GPA - 3.8/4.0 (Distinction Average)

- Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Law (2013)
- Macquarie Law Journal Student Essay Prize (2013)
- High Distinction in Animal Law and Advanced Legal Research Project (2012)
- Winner, ALPSA Essay Competition judged by High Court Justice Virginia Bell AC (2012)
- Executive Member of Macquarie Law Society Equity Working Group (2012)
- Golden Key International Honour Society (2009 – 2012)
- Macquarie University Merit Scholar (2008 – 2012)

2011

Oxford Brookes University
Six-month exchange to study human rights and discrimination law

2007

Manly Selective Campus High School

- University Admissions Index (**UAI**) score of 98.95/100
- Made the State Distinguished Achievers List and All Rounders List for academic achievement

Publications:

"Where the Wild Things Are (Or Should Be): Rawls' Contractarian Theory of Justice and Non-Human Animal Rights" (2013) 11 *Macquarie Law Journal* 23

Employment History:

March 2016
to present

Maurice Blackburn Lawyers
Solicitor, Class Actions

Maurice Blackburn Lawyers is Australia's leading social justice and class actions law firm, having obtained more than AU\$2.5 billion in class actions settlements for Australian citizens since 1998.

Highlights and Achievements

- Responsible for developing and launching Maurice Blackburn's first 'Animal Law' project in 2017 which involved:
 - successfully drafting and pitching a proposal to the Board on the benefits of law firms becoming involved in the emerging field of Animal Law;
 - formalising a relationship with the Animal Law Institute (an emerging legal centre focusing exclusively on strategic Animal Law litigation) to provide pro bono casework and marketing assistance; and
 - commencing the firm's first animal law case against a negligent breeder who supplied "pure bred" puppies which were in fact cross-breeds and suffering from a range of medical conditions.

- Acting on behalf of 100,000 affected consumers in the Australian class action against Volkswagen in relation to the 2015 'dieselgate' scandal whereby the company admitted it had cheated emissions testing and caused harmful NOx pollution well above legal limits. I have been involved in all aspects of preparation for the trial commencing in March 2018, including consideration of complex legal issues, regular Court attendances, drafting affidavits and submissions and supervising a large team of paralegals in the day-to-day management of the case.

**February 2013
to January 2016**

**McCabes Lawyers
Lawyer, Litigation and Dispute Resolution**

McCabes Lawyers is a mid-tier commercial law firm located in Sydney, Australia. As part of the litigation team, I acted in relation to a wide range of complex commercial matters including contractual disputes, intellectual property, and competition and consumer law. Throughout my time at McCabes I was an active member of the pro bono committee, including drafting the firm's first pro bono policy, coordinating solicitors at the firm to volunteer at a local legal centre and acting in relation to a range of minor pro bono matters.

**August 2011
to November 2012**

**Maurice Blackburn
Paralegal, Class Actions**

During University, I worked part-time at Maurice Blackburn on a large shareholder class action against a woodchip company with a poor environmental record in relation to alleged breaches of their continuous disclosure obligations. I attended weekly strategy meetings, conducted legal research, drafted court documents and undertook an extensive review of discovered materials.

Volunteer / Pro Bono Roles:

**October 2013
to present**

**Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC)
Casual Volunteer Lawyer**

For the past five years, I have attended ICLC advice nights on a rotational basis, providing pro bono advice to socio-economically disadvantaged clients on a variety of civil and general law issues such as fines, credit and debt, minor traffic matters, contractual disputes, consumer complaints and strata disputes.

**February 2016
to March 2016**

**Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)
Volunteer Lawyer**

In this short-term full-time volunteer position, my caseload consisted of intentional torts cases against the New South Wales Police for false imprisonment, assault and battery. I also assisted the Homeless Persons Legal Service at PIAC by undertaking minor criminal court appearances.

**June 2015
to January 2016**

**Redfern Legal Centre
Casual Volunteer Lawyer**

I provided pro bono assistance to international students on a broad range of issues, including housing problems, fines, debt, traffic matters, employment, discrimination, and complaints about their educational institutions.

**November 2011
to February 2012**

**Women's Legal Service
Volunteer Paralegal**

In this short-term role, I undertook extensive legal research in relation to a mass civil action against the Department of Community Services for abuse suffered by Aboriginal girls in a group home in the 1970s.