Sophie Callan SC

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Qualifications/Appointments

1996 – 2002	Bachelor Arts/Bachelor Laws (First Class Honours in Law) Australian National University
July 2006	Admitted to practice as Lawyer of the Supreme Court of New South Wales
May 2007	Admitted to practice as a Barrister by the New South Wales Bar Association
Sept 2020	Appointed Senior Counsel for the State of New South Wales
June 2011 Feb 2021	Appointed as Reserve Legal Officer, RAAF (current rank: WGCDR) Appointed Judge Advocate and Defence Force Magistrate
June 2024	Appointed by Minister for Defence to conduct statutory review of Part IIIAAA of *Defence Act 1903* (Cth). Report to Federal Parliament furnished 20 December 2024.[1]

Professional Experience

Criminal Law and civil penalty	Advising and appearing in contested criminal trials, sentence hearings, appeals and special leave applications to the High Court,[2] in respect of a range of offences including: • corruption and misconduct in public office;[3] • murder;[4] • environmental offences eg water theft, water pollution,[5] land clearing;[6] • drug importation offences;[7] • white collar offences eg breach of directors' duties[8] and tax fraud;[9] • terrorism offences;[10] • foreign bribery; • cartel offences;[11] • work health and safety offences; • investigations/prosecutions arising from Banking Royal Commission.[12]

[1] See https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Tabled_Documents/12318
[2] See eg from appellate decisions of *Hurt v R; Delzotto v R* [2022] NSWCCA 117; *Dib v R* [2023] NSWCCA 243; *To v R* [2021] NSWCCA 242.
[3] See eg *R v Macdonald; R v Edward Obeid; R v Moses Obeid* (No 17) [2021] NSWSC 858; *Lee v R* [2020] NSWCCA 307; *Eakin v R* [2020] NSWCCA 294; *R v Darren Greenfield and Michael Greenfield* (Flannery DCJ, 21 Nov 2025).
[4] See eg *R v Rolfe* [2021] HCA 38.
[5] See *Environment Protection Authority v Cleanaway Equipment Services Pty Ltd* [2022] NSWLEC 40.
[6] See Secretary, *Department of Planning, Industry and Environment v Auen Grain Pty Ltd; Greentree; Merrywinebone Pty Ltd; Harris (No 7)* [2022] NSWLEC 153.
[7] See eg *La Rocca v R* [2021] NSWCCA 116; *ZZ v R* [2019] NSWCCA 286; *Ge v R* [2019] NSWCCA 41; *Ching v R* [2018] NSWCCA 101.
[8] See eg *R v Sigalla* [2017] NSWSC 52; *R v Falconer* [2018] NSWSC 1765.
[9] See *eg R v Agius; R v Castagna (No 8)* [2018] NSWSC 2040.
[10] See eg *R v El Matari* [2021] NSWSC 1260; *R v Hraichie (No 1)* [2019] NSWSC 319; *R v Hraichie (No 2)* [2019] NSWSC 765; *R v Hraichie (No 3)* [2019] NSWSC 973.
[11] See eg *Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions v Citigroup Global Markets Australia Pty Limited (No 1 – Indictment)* [2021] FCA 757; *Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions v Citigroup Global Markets Australia Pty Limited (No 5 – Indictment)* [2021] FCA 1345.
[12] See eg *Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Allianz Australia Insurance Limited* [2021] FCA 1062.

Class Actions	Appearing and advising in significant class action disputes, namely: • *Retallack v Cadia Holdings Pty Ltd* - Senior Counsel for the defendant (Cadia Holdings Pty Ltd) in this class action alleging nuisance arising from activities of gold mine. Listed for 8 week trial in 2028. • *Doyle's Farm Produce Pty Ltd and ors v Murray-Darling Basin Authority* – Senior Counsel for the defendant in this class action alleging negligent water management. 8 week trial in 2025, judgment delivered in favour of the defendant;[13] • *Haswell and ors v Commonwealth of Australia* – Senior Counsel for the defendant in this class action alleging negligent handling of PFAS on multiple Department of Defence sites. Claim resolved in May 2023.[14]
Inquests/Inquiries	Appearing and advising in numerous inquests and inquiries, including: • Senior Counsel for the State of NSW in the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion, arising after the terror attack at Bondi Beach on 14 Dec 2025; • Senior Counsel for NSW Commissioner of Police in the Inquest into the Westfield Bondi Junction attack;[15] • Senior Counsel assisting the Inquiry into the convictions of Kathleen Megan Folbigg;[16] • Senior Counsel for NSW Commissioner of Police in the Inquest into the Deaths of Curtis Cheng and Farhad Jabar; • Senior Counsel for the State of New South Wales in the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide;[17] • Senior Counsel for an interested party in the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability;[18] • Junior Counsel Assisting in the Inquest into the Deaths arising from the Lindt Café Siege on 14-15 Dec 2014; • Counsel for NSW Department of Housing in the Inquest into the Quakers Hill Nursing Home fire; • Counsel assisting and counsel for various witnesses and government departments in private examinations and public hearings conducted by the Independent Commission Against Corruption, including counsel assisting for private examinations in Operation Rosnay, and counsel appearing for Ms Gladys Berejiklian in Operation Keppel.
Defence Force discipline	Appearing in and presiding over General Court Martial and DFM hearings (15 in total, to date) Appearing in appeals from trials conducted under DFDA, as follows: • *Li v Chief of Army* (2013) 303 ALR 397; [2013] HCA 49 (junior counsel for Chief of Army in Federal Court and High Court); • *Jones v Chief of Navy* [2012] FCAFC 125 (junior counsel for Chief of Navy); and • *Rowley v Chief of Army* [2017] FCA 1119 (junior counsel for Chief of Army).

[13] Murray Darling Basin Authority Class Action (nsw.gov.au); *Doyle's Farm Produce Pty Ltd atf Claredale Family Trust v Murray-Darling Basin Authority* [2026] NSWSC 1036

[14] *Haswell v Commonwealth of Australia (No 3)* [2023] FCA 1093.

[15] https://coroners.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/dcj/ctsd/coronerscourt/documents/bondi-junction-inquest/findings/Inquest_into_the_deaths_at_Westfield_Bondi_Junction_Summary.pdf

[16] Report of the 2022 Inquiry into the convictions of Kathleen Megan Folbigg (nsw.gov.au).

[17] Interim Report | Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

[18] Final Report | Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Professional Positions	
	• Councillor, Bar Council (November 2010 – November 2011; November 2012 – November 2018; November 2019 – March 2023); • Chair, New Barristers Committee (June 2011 – June 2013); • Member, Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar Association of New South Wales (2010 – March 2023); • Chair (December 2021 – date) and Councillor, New South Wales Council of Law Reporting (2010 – Dec 2021).

Previous Employment	
November 2006 – April 2007	**New South Wales Crown Solicitor's Office, Sydney** Solicitor, Criminal Law Group. Main cases: • Inquest into the death of the Balibo Five (Glebe Coroners Court); • Administrative law challenges to decisions of Parole Authority; and • Application under the Crimes (High Risk Offenders) Act.
June 2004 – June 2006	**Federal Court of Australia, Sydney** Associate to the Honourable Justice Peter Jacobson
January – June 2003, January – June 2004	**Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria** **Geneva, Switzerland** Advisor to Chief of Operations
May 2001 – December 2002, June 1999 – September 2000	**Australian Government Solicitor, Canberra** Paralegal, Government Law Group and General Litigation Group