

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Qualifications:

- Admitted to practice as a Barrister and Solicitor in the Supreme Court of Victoria on 7 April 1983 and subsequently in the High Court of Australia and the Supreme Courts of the Northern Territory and South Australia.
- 2002: Master of Laws completed at the University of Melbourne.

Additional Training:

- Basic Mediation training at Bond University, March 2010. Attended Bond University mediation assessment training on 11-12 June 2010 and will seek National Accreditation.
- *Responding to Conflict* Organisation - 5-day training in Conflict Management, conducted in Addis Ababa in 2001.
- International Dispute Resolution subject at University of Melbourne as part of Master of Laws coursework in 1996.

Professional Employment History:

- **April 2006 to date:** Resumed sole practice as a lawyer working particularly in the field of native title and with indigenous organisations, including as solicitor representing the Gunditjmara through extensive Federal Court mediation resulting in a Consent Determination settlement. This co-mediation by two Registrars was very successful and I would like to conduct co-mediation having seen how effective it can be. It can provide an opportunity for gender balance too, where this is considered to be important.

I appeared as junior counsel calling most of the women's evidence in the Torres Strait Islands regional sea claim with Robert Blowes S.C. and Tom Keely. I continue to work with the Gunditjmara and also work with the Gunai/Kurnai people in Gippsland, Victoria in their settlement negotiations

with the State. I am also junior counsel involved in the preparation of the Gangalidda and Garawa native title claim in western Queensland.

- **February 2004 to March 2006:** Principal Legal Officer at Native Title Services Victoria Ltd, job-sharing the position and working 3 days/wk. This involved working strategically, with the assistance of court mediation, to significantly improve native title outcomes in Victoria. The proposed Statewide Framework builds on the Gunditjmara settlement to enable a wider range of land justice outcomes in future.
- **February 2003 –February 2004:** Sole practitioner, and appeared as junior counsel with David Parsons S.C. in the native title claim over the township of Yulara in the NT.
- **2002:** Completed my Master of Laws and taught International Humanitarian Law at Deakin University.
- **July 1999 – Jan 2002:** I worked for Oxfam – Community Aid Abroad (Oxfam) as the Regional Representative for the Horn of Africa, living in Ethiopia, job-sharing the position with my husband. The Regional Representative was responsible for the management and accountability of the Oxfam development programs in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia. I was responsible for the program in north and south Sudan during the civil war and Oxfam became the lead agency in grassroots peace-building programs with all the other Oxfam organisations working there. I organised and attended five days training in conflict resolution and management run by two external experts for the UK based *Responding To Conflict* Organisation. In this region, additional strategies are needed as conflict can become violent.

Another aspect of my role was regional strategic planning with the 11 Oxfam organisations working there, which had diverse philosophies and practices, coming from 10 countries and speaking five languages. Living in the region and having good relationships with all of them gave me a unique opportunity to negotiate improved program development even by those with diverse approaches.

- **April 1995 to June 1999:** Sole practitioner in Alice Springs and Darwin primarily acting for Aboriginal groups and organisations in a range of matters including: working as a senior solicitor on the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act (HPA)* application seeking to prevent construction of the Hindmarsh Island bridge; for the Mirrar people opposing the Jabiluka uranium mine; in 1997 for the Central Land Council (CLC) I prepared, instructed and appeared before Justice Olney in the Alice Springs native title claim (Hayes) over Crown land in the town; I assisted CLC staff to develop culturally appropriate employment policies and assisted another Aboriginal organisation with resolving complaints of sexual harassment.

- **Dec 1991-April 1995:** I returned to work at the CLC as a Senior Legal Officer. Effective community consultation was essential in obtaining proper instructions from traditional Aboriginal landowners on a wide range of issues arising and in policy development work. As the only woman lawyer I consulted with and represented groups of Aboriginal women in various matters including obtaining a 20 year declaration from the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs under the *HPA* to protect Aboriginal women's sacred sites threatened by the proposed construction of a dam. As a senior staff member I played a substantial role in addressing gender issues and in improving processes for effectively consulting and representing traditional Aboriginal women.
- **Oct 1990-Dec 1991:** Travel overland through Africa.
- **April 1988-Sept 1990:** I worked as a Legal Officer for the CLC in Alice Springs and in Tennant Creek. In 1989 I was asked to go to Tennant Creek for a year to lead the successful settlement negotiations to resolve the Waramungu land claim made under the Land Rights Act. My work involved representing and consulting with traditional Aboriginal landowners in a range of forums including land claim hearings, negotiations with government ministers and officials in the settlement of complex land claims and on the protection of Aboriginal sacred sites, negotiations with pastoralists for community living areas, negotiations with mining companies and other developers.

I worked with communities on two former Aboriginal reserves on the outskirts of Alice Springs. The history of the reserves meant several Aboriginal groups were living together in the country of one group which resulted in tension and sometimes conflict. In my work on one former reserve, I conducted mediation between the 2 principal groups to explore ways of improving relationships and building a new community structure.

- **1987-8:** Three months work as a Conciliator of complaints made to the Victorian Equal Opportunity Office. Then eight months at the Victorian Accident Rehabilitation Council in the Policy, Planning and Review Unit.
- **1983- 1985:** Legal Officer and Acting Registrar of the Victorian Equal Opportunity Board. My primary function was to provide legal advice to the Board members and other staff, and information to the public about Victorian and Commonwealth discrimination legislation. Both Commonwealth and Victorian discrimination legislation used a conciliation complaints model that resolved most complaints with few being litigated.
- **1979-1983:** Four years of Articles of Clerkship at Coltmans and Ryan Carlisle Needham Thomas (RCNT), and then as an employee solicitor at

RCNT I acted and appeared for injured workers in compensation claims and gained experience in a broad range of general legal work.