



Michael Pagsanjan

Principal

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Listed as a Federal Court approved native title mediator, Michael Pagsanjan is the Principal at MPS Law. Michael currently assists with native title compensation negotiations, native title claim prosecution and registered native title body corporates. Michael also acts for native title representative bodies and service providers in funding application processes, internal reviews, community facilitations and mediations, and other court applications. Michael also provides general mediation services as a nationally accredited mediator. In addition, Michael is a specialist in cross sector partnering and governance and is a director at Nexus Arts.

Areas of expertise

- Mediation, alternative dispute resolution and commercial negotiations
- Native title compensation
- Negotiation and implementation of mining, petroleum and access agreements
- Administrative law and judicial review
- Cross sector partnering and community development
- Governance and risk

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice (Hons), Flinders University (2009)
- Bachelor of International Studies, Flinders University (2009)
- Nationally Accredited Mediator (2017)
- Certificate in Cross-Sector Partnering, CQ University (2018)
- Graduate, Company Directors Course, Australian Institute of Company Directors (2018)

Admission details

- Admitted as a solicitor and barrister of the Supreme Court of South Australia, 9 June 2009
- Admitted as a practitioner and barrister of the High Court and Federal Courts

Recent Awards

- 2019 InDaily 40 under 40 Award
- 2018 Young Lawyer of the Year (Law Society of South Australia)
- Listed in Doyles Guide to leading native title lawyers (2016)

Previous experience

2010 – April 2016 Senior Legal Officer
South Australian Native Title Services Ltd
Adelaide, SA

Michael represented Traditional Owners in the prosecution and negotiation of native title claims. Michael also negotiated and drafted native title, land access, mining, petroleum and cultural heritage agreements. In addition, Michael advised not-for-profit corporations on governance and strategic development, and, assisted Traditional Owners and commercial companies in dispute resolution and community development. Michael also appeared in the Federal Court as required.

Four of Michael's key achievements were:

- 1) The negotiation of the first successful native title compensation consent determination;*
- 2) The preparation and lodgement of an additional native title compensation claim;*
- 3) Two native title determination consent determinations; and,*
- 4) The ongoing management of contracts between Petroleum and Mining companies and Traditional Owners.*

2006 – 2010 Solicitor (previously law clerk)
DLA Piper
Adelaide, SA

Following a clerkship while studying at University, Michael was immediately appointed as a Solicitor with DLA Piper upon admission to the Supreme Court. Michael was a Solicitor with the Government and Administrative Law team based in the Adelaide office. During this time, Michael supervised a team of Law Clerks and delivered high volume workflow solutions to clients. Michael regularly advised various Government clients on issues of procedural fairness and judicial review, primarily in Immigration and Refugee law.

Recent professional development

- Company Directors Course, Australian Institute of Company Directors, August 2018.
- 'Partnering Essentials', Dixon Partnering Solutions, Adelaide, March 2018.
- Presenter, National Native Title Conference (AIATSIS and NLC), 'Pressure points and leverage in negotiating a just native title settlement', Darwin, June 2016.
- Presenter, Native Title Law and Practice (Aurora Project), Brisbane, December 2015
- Presenter, National Native Title Conference, Port Douglas, June 2015.

Directorships and Memberships

- Director, Nexus Arts.
- Member, Federal Court list of Approved Native Title Mediators
- Member, Law Council of Australia
- Member, Law Society of South Australia
- Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Member, Commercial Law Association
- Member, Australian Institute of Administrative Law
- Member, Australian Mediation Association