



## Law Institute of Victoria



Print Bookmark

Home > News & Publications > LIJ (Law Institute Journal) > Archived Issues > LIJ November 2012 > Find a female barrister here



**Property & Valuation Expert Witness Professionals**

*Our staff are API Expert Witness Accredited*

[Visit our website](#)

Australia's Property Advisors

### Archived Issues

#### Briefs

Like 0 Tweet 1 0 1

#### Find a female barrister here

Cite as: November 2012 86 (11) LIJ, p.16.

Solicitors and others looking for a female barrister now have online access to a complete list of women barristers practising in every Australian state and territory.

The list of 487 female barristers, including Victoria's 24 female QCs and SCs, is accessed via the Australian Women Lawyers (AWL) website's Find a Female Barrister page.

The webpage links to directories of all female barristers practising at the Bar in each Australian state and territory.

AWL president Kate Ashmor said: "With this list, we have raised awareness of women at the Bar but we have also provided a practical step – a one stop shop. If you want a female barrister, this is where you go."

Launched on 4 September, the list was established in response to the Law Council of Australia's (LCA) Equitable Briefing Policy, which encourages active briefing of female counsel.

LCA research shows that male barristers get far more work than female barristers. Women appear in statistically the same proportions as they exist at the Bar, but on average, male barristers appear for significantly longer periods of time than female barristers – 3.8 hours for males compared to 2.8 hours for females. Also, when compared to other entities such as government agencies, private law firms are far more likely to brief male barristers.

Ms Ashmor said "government gets it" but among commercial law firms, "there might be a lingering perception that women lack the required aggression or court-room style in order to successfully represent a client.

"It's an outdated perception. There is no standing there Perry Mason style anymore . . . it's a myth. It doesn't accord with modern reality. We need attitudinal change.

"We hope for a day when it is not necessary to single out barristers because of their gender, when this is not an issue any more because equality and diversity are the norm and embraced."

For now, though, Ms Ashmor urges greater briefing of women barristers, particularly by women solicitors.

"Women help each other. Women experience adversity because of their gender. We have all been through it. We are here to help each other. Remember that, and in this small way, help," she said.

The Victorian Bar Association website also has a list of practising Indigenous barristers. For further information visit: [www.australianwomenlawyers.com.au/resources](http://www.australianwomenlawyers.com.au/resources) and [www.vicbar.com.au/barrister-directory/indigenous-barristers](http://www.vicbar.com.au/barrister-directory/indigenous-barristers).

Law Institute of Victoria 470 Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 3000 PO Box 263 Melbourne VIC 3001 DX 350 Melbourne Tel: +61 3 9607 9311 Fax +61 3 9602 5270

© Copyright Law Institute of Victoria Limited 1998 - 2012. ACN 075 475 731, ABN 32 075 475 731