



Curriculum Vitae

*Admitted to the Legal
Profession – July 2004*

*Called to the Brisbane
Private Bar – March 2011*

MELINDA ZERNER **Barrister-at Law**

Jeddart Chambers
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Summary

Melinda has a practice in coronial inquests, personal injuries; professional negligence, particularly medical negligence; prison investigations/inspections; and commissions of inquiry. She has acted for a wide variety of clients including the State of Queensland and large Insurers. Melinda has appeared in 40 medical and non-medical coronial inquests since being at the Bar either as Counsel Assisting the Coroner (including the State Coroner) or for parties granted leave to appear at inquests. Melinda has appeared in the Court of Appeal, Supreme and District Courts in various civil matters. In her personal injuries practice she regularly appears for parties in compulsory settlement conferences and mediations, and has a high level understanding of alternative dispute resolution. Melinda's previous 17-year nursing career as a clinician, educator and manager is invaluable to her current work at the Bar.

Qualifications

Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice – Queensland University of Technology; **Juris Doctor** – University of Queensland; **Graduate Diploma in Vocational Education and Training** – University of Southern Queensland; **Bachelor of Nursing** – Griffith University, Gold Coast; **Post Registration Certificate in Aged Care** – Princess Alexandra Hospital/Queensland University of Technology; **Certificate in General Nursing** – Ipswich General Hospital

High Profile Inquests/Commissions of Inquiry

2019 Inquest into Queensland's worst maritime incident, the sinking of the FV Dianne [death of 6 persons] (Counsel for the owner of the FV Dianne and the deceased skipper)

2018 Inquest into the triple fatality skydiving incident at Mission Beach (Counsel Assisting)

2017 Joint Inquest into the death of four persons who died as a result of an overdose from prescription medications – drugs of dependency (Counsel for Dr Seton)

2016/2017 Inquest into the death of Hamid Khazaei [refugee from Manus Island Detention Centre] (Junior Counsel to Mr Geoff Diehm QC acting for International Health and Medical Services)

2016 Commission of Inquiry into the Closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre (Junior Counsel to Dr Kerri Mellifont QC acting for Metro South Hospital and Health Service)

2015 Inquest into the death of Ruby Chen [child who died as a result of an air embolus from an intravenous line] (Counsel for the Queensland Ambulance Service)

2014 Inquest into the Slacks Creek House Fire [death of 11 family members] (Counsel for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services)

2012 Inquest into the deaths of Matthew Fuller, Rueben Barnes and Mitchell Sweeney [Commonwealth Government insulation scheme] (Junior Counsel to Mr Ralph Devlin QC, Counsel Assisting the State Coroner)

Employment History

February 2011 to Current
Barrister, Jeddart Chambers

October 2008 – January 2011
Senior Legal Advisor, Department of Community Safety (formerly the Department of Emergency Services)

July 2004 – October 2008
Solicitor/Associate, Thynne and Macartney Solicitors (Professional Indemnity Practice Group)

July 2001 – February 2004
Clinical Nurse - Part-time (worked 40hrs/fortnight whilst studying law full time) – St. Andrew's War Memorial Hospital

March 2000 – June 2001
Nursing Unit Manager/Clinical Nurse Consultant – Medical Unit, St. Andrew's War Memorial Hospital

January 1997 – November 1999
Coordinator of Clinical Education, The Wesley Hospital Centre for Education and Training

March 1990 – January 1997
Various positions as a Registered and Clinical Nurse

Professional Achievements

Recommended Junior Counsel in Doyles Guide in the category of 'Leading Insurance & Personal Injury Barristers – Queensland 2016'

Awarded a Department of Community Safety Australia Day Medallion for the provision of exceptional legal services to the Department of Community Safety

Awarded the Wesley Hospital Johnson and Johnson Bursary (\$5,000.00 to attend the International Nurses Conference in London)

Awarded the Catherine Evans Memorial Prize from the Ipswich Hospital on graduation (based on nursing ability, leadership, personality and educational qualities)

Professional Associations

Queensland Bar Association (Member of the Pro Bono Committee and Barrister assisting members of the Professional Legal Conduct Committee)

Medico Legal Society of Queensland (Committee Member)

Asia Pacific Coroners' Society

Australian Lawyers Alliance

Australian Professional Indemnity Group (Qld) [2004 – 2008, Secretary 2006 – 2008]

Member of Hemmant's List