
RACHEL VARSHNEY
Barrister at Law

Contact Details: Telephone: 07 3710 8255

E-mail: rachelvarshney@qldbar.asn.au

Website: rachelvarshney.com.au

Chambers: Level 16, Inns of Court, 107 North Quay, BRISBANE QLD 4000 | HEMMANTS LIST

YEAR OF CALL 2020

Rachel has a broad civil practice, working in building and construction law, body corporate law and general property law as well as in workers' compensation, personal injury and discrimination matters, acting for both state and private clients. Her experience prior to commencing practice at the private bar includes working in a small-medium boutique practice as a solicitor where her practice was focused on achieving outcomes for clients, seeking efficient and swift resolutions for parties in a broad array of practice areas.

Rachel holds an LLB (Hons) and Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from Queensland University of Technology. She has completed postgraduate training in NMAS mediation.

Prior to joining the field of Law, Rachel had an established career as a researcher in applied linguistics and French. She holds a PhD from the University of Queensland and diplôme de Docteur from the Université Paris III (Sorbonne Nouvelle), she also holds postgraduate degrees from the École Normale Supérieure in Lyon and the University of Dijon. She has a BA, majoring in Philosophy and linguistics, and an MA, majoring in French, from the University of Auckland.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Commercial, Building and Construction, Equity, Contract, Medical Negligence, Personal Injury, Professional Negligence, Professional Discipline, Property, WorkCover, Sexual Harassment and Industrial Relations.

SELECTED CASES

***Ibrahimi v Akhlaki* [2024] FedCFamC2G 1141**

November 2024, General Federal Law, Practice and Procedure

***Body Corporate for Kuranda Resort Accommodation v Cairns Tropical Resort Pty Ltd* [2024] QSC 121**

June 2024, Body Corporate, Practice and Procedure

***MWB Everton Park Pty Ltd as trustee for MWB Everton Park Unit Trust v Devon Building Co Pty Ltd* [2024] QCA 94**

May 2024 Appellate, Building and Construction

***Byrne v Palmer* [2024] QSC 46**

March 2024, Real Property, Easements

Devcon Building Co Pty Ltd v MWB Everton Park Pty Ltd atf MWB Everton Park Unit Trust; Devcon Building Co Pty Ltd v Zhongyuan Investments Pty Ltd [2023] QDC 184

October 2023, Building and Construction, Statutory payments

Medicrew Pty Ltd v Van Veenendaal & Anor [2023] QDC 129

July 2023, Torts, Interference with Contractual Relations

Edwards v Caravan & RV Central Pty Ltd [2022] NSWCATCD

January 2022, Appellate, Competition and Consumer Law

Dermark Pty Ltd v Queensland Food Corporation Pty Ltd & Anor

November 2021, Contract, Sale of Goods

Wesley v Marshall [2021] QDC 243

October 2021, Torts, Personal Injuries

Richardson v Wagner [2021] QDC 24

February 2021, Equity, Guarantees

EXPERIENCE

Some of Rachel's recent experience as counsel includes:

- Appearing (unled) in civil matters in the Magistrates Court, including trials and applications;
- Appearing (unled) in civil matters in the District Court, including trials and applications;
- Appearing (unled) in domestic violence matters including mentions and TPO hearings;
- Appearing (unled) in criminal sentencing matters in the District Court and Children's Court for the DPP;
- Appearing as a mediator and party advocate in mediations and conciliations;
- Appearing (unled) in commercial disputes in the District and Supreme Courts;
- Appearing (unled) in trials, interim hearings and mentions in the FCFCOA (Div 1 and Div 2);
- Advice work in personal injury, work cover and commercial matters;
- Pro bono work through Law Right and Women's Legal Service Queensland.

APPOINTMENTS

June 2024 – present	Vice President, Women Lawyers Association of Queensland
November 2023 – present	Vice President French Australian Lawyers Association
September 2023 – Present	Member, General Litigation Committee, Bar Association of Queensland
July 2022 – present	Advocacy Chair, Women Lawyers Association of Queensland
Feb 2021 – June 2022	Secretary, Alliance Francaise de Brisbane
June 2011 – June 2020	Director, Man in the Mirror Foundation

MEMBER

Bar Association of Queensland

Building Dispute Practitioners Association

French Australian Lawyers Association

Medico-Legal Society of Queensland

Women Lawyers Association of Queensland

CAREER

**2020 –Barrister, Queensland
Bar Association of Queensland
Level 16, Inns of Court**

**2016 –2020 Solicitor
Cranston McEachern Lawyers**

**2006-2012 Lecturer
Macquarie University**

EDUCATION

**Admission – Supreme Court of Queensland (8 February 2016)
Admission – High Court of Australia (17 May 2016)**

**2015 Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice
Queensland University of Technology – Faculty of Law**

**2013 –2015 Bachelor of Laws (Hons)
Queensland University of Technology – Faculty of Law**

**2001 – 2005 PhD (Dean’s List Commendation, 2005) – Applied Linguistics
University of Queensland, School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies**

2002 – 2005 **Diplôme de Docteur** (Mention très honorable avec les félicitations du jury à l'unanimité (summa cum laude)) – **Applied Linguistics**
Université de Paris III - Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France, Didactique des langues et des cultures
(Language Teaching and Learning)

Cotutelle PhD with the University of Queensland. The thesis was defended in front of panel of 6 experts (in French), including national and international academics, and was awarded the highest commendation both in Australia and in France.

2002-2003 **Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies - Sciences du Langage : Didactique des Langues et des Cultures** (Mention Très Bien/Honours I) (Language Teaching and Learning)
Ecole Normale Supérieure – Lettres et Sciences Humaines, Lyon, France
Research Masters

2002-2003 **Diplôme d'Université de Français Langue Etrangère** (Mention Bien/Honours II)
Université de Dijon, Dijon, France
Postgraduate diploma in teaching French as a foreign language.

1997 – 1999 **Master of Arts in French (Linguistics)** (Honours II)
University of Auckland, NZ – School of Languages

1994 – 1997 **Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy, French (Major) & Linguistics (Minor))**
University of Auckland, NZ – Faculty of Arts