
PHOEBE KNOWLES

Room 35.25 Ah Ket Chambers

E. phoebe.knowles@vicbar.com.au M. 0412 139 130
Green's List, 205 William Street, Melbourne Australia.

Profile: <https://www.vicbar.com.au/Web/Web/Account/Barrister-Profile.aspx?ID=24406>
Signed Bar Roll in May 2009

- Successful trial, appellate and advisory practice in public law and administrative law. Considerable Royal Commission practice over 2020-2024.

Administrative law

- Phoebe regularly appears in the Victorian Supreme Court and Civil and Administrative Tribunal on behalf of Victorian Government Departments on judicial review applications on a range of administrative law issues, generally on a direct brief and now always unled. Some of those cases are listed in this CV, for example *Oliviera v Secretary to the Department of Health* (Review and Regulation) [2023] VCAT 212 before her Honour Judge Marks.
 - Phoebe has a considerable written advice practice for the Victorian government on administrative law issues including drafting Charter certificates for Bills, advising on Executive decision making, legislative and regulatory drafting and other complex administrative law issues.
 - *Sayed v Salvation Army Housing* (No 2) [2023] FCA 1377, acting for respondent successfully seeking strike out of claim, leave to appeal from summary judgment decision below, [2023] FCA 526.
 - Appearing for the Department of Health in nine compensation proceedings in relation to COVID-19 directions, including
 - *Blewett v The Secretary, Department of Health* (Review and Regulation) [2024] VCAT 725
 - *Asif v The Secretary, Department of Health* (Review and Regulation) [2024] VCAT 719
 - *Thompson v The Secretary, Department of Health* (Costs) (Review and Regulation) [2024] VCAT 764
 - *Grujic v The Secretary Department of Health* (Review and Regulation) [2022] VCAT 1189
 - *Wentworth v Secretary, Department of Health* [2022] VCAT 1298,
 - *815 Truemans Cabin Hire Pty Ltd v The Secretary, Department of Health* (Review and Regulation) [2022] VCAT 1187
 - Numerous freedom of information applications for Victorian agencies, such as *Wooldridge v Department of Health and Human Services* [2016] VCAT 1599, *Knight v Department of Justice (General)* [2012] VCAT 369 (with Peter Morrissey SC)
 - Racial and disability discrimination cases, including for schools in
 - *Arora v Melton Christian College* (Human Rights) [2017] VCAT 1507
 - *AB v Ballarat Christian College* (Human Rights) [2013] VCAT 1790
 - Guardianship matters for the state, including *HYY (Guardianship)* [2022] VCAT 97 (for the Secretary, Department of Health)
 - *Durney v Victoria University* [2014] VSC 161; [2013] VSC 280. Judicial review of University expulsion decision.
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- *Haile-Michael v Konstantinidis & Ors*, 2013 (resolved). Federal Court racial discrimination case against Victoria and Police Chief Commissioner. Junior to Rapke QC for the applicants.
- *Ejueyisti v Deakin University* [\[2013\] FCA 1272](#); [\[2013\] FCCA 1034](#). Appeared alone. Judicial review of University expulsion decision.
- *Eatock v Andrew Bolt & News Ltd*, [\[2011\] FCA 1103](#) and [\[2011\] FCA 1180](#). Junior counsel to Merkel QC, Borenstein SC and Harris for the applicant in racial discrimination complaint. 10-day trial. Drafted all court documents, submissions & substantial witness statements.
- *Julian Knight v Corrections Victoria; Department of Justice* [\[2010\] VSC 338](#) and [\[2011\] VCAT 1708](#). Successfully defended freedom of information application.
- *Environment East Gippsland Inc v VicForests* [\[2010\] VSC 335](#) & [\[2010\] VSC 416](#). Junior counsel for the applicant to Mortimer SC and Niall SC successfully bringing environmental claim against state logging company for destruction of habitat.
- *Gunns Ltd v Burling & Ors* Victorian Supreme Court, 2009. Junior Counsel to Burnside QC for defendant against claim in tort for interference with contractual relations. Settled.
- *Islam v Minister for Immigration and Citizenship* [\[2009\] FCA 1526](#), Federal Court of Australia. Junior Counsel to then Peter Gray SC, for Minister defending judicial review application.
- *Alcock v Commonwealth of Australia* [\[2009\] FCA 1478](#) (constitutional law).
- *Boral v CFMEU* Supreme Court proceeding (junior counsel to Rachel Doyle SC and now her Honour Melinda Richards) in case alleging tort of intimidation.

Prior criminal practice in white-collar crime

- *Australian Securities and Investments Commission v Pennicott*, Victorian County Court jury trial, 2010. Junior counsel for the accused charged with fraud charges. Took 21 witnesses.
- *R v Zaydan* Victorian County Court jury trial, 2009. Junior counsel for the accused charged with fraud charges. Took 9 witnesses and drafted legal submissions excluding evidence.
- Contested criminal appeals, hearings, pleas, intervention orders and bail applications.

Read with Peter Gray QC (mentor) and Ron Merkel QC (senior mentor).

Committees

- Victorian Bar New Barristers' Standing Committee (elected representative) 2009-2014.
- Victorian Bar Indigenous Lawyers' Committee 2010 (Secretary), 2011, 2012.
- Liberty Victoria Board Member, 2010, 2011, 2012.

Minter Ellison, Lawyer, Melbourne Australia

Sept 2006 – Feb 2009

- Secondment to Human Rights Law Resource Centre Mar 2008 – Feb 2009
- Competition lawyer Oct 2007 – Mar 2008
- Articled Clerk (Oct 2006 – Oct 2007) in the Corporate Risk and Construction groups.

Trinity College, Residential Law Tutor, University of Melbourne, Mar 2007 – Nov 2008
Tutor in Contracts, Torts, Trusts, Dispute Resolution, International Law, Human Rights Law.

Special Court for Sierra Leone, Legal Assistant for Defence Trial Team, 2004

EDUCATION

Master of Laws (LLM) (Distinction), **London School of Economics**, United Kingdom 2005 – 2006

- British Chevening Scholar at London School of Economics 2005-6. LSE scholarship 2005-6. Rhodes Scholar finalist (1 of 3) in 2004.
- Gilbert Apollis Award for best oralist at the International Jean-Pictet Moot, 2006.

Bachelor of Law (Hons.) / Commerce, **University of Melbourne**, Australia, 1999 – 2005

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Diploma in Modern Languages (French) University of Melbourne, Australia, 1999 – 2003

Visiting Scholar, International Law & Philosophy, St. Catherine's, **University of Oxford**, 2003