

Before coming to the Bar, Rachel Walsh was a solicitor in an international commercial firm for 20 years (including 12 as a partner). She is briefed regularly in the areas of:

- **Public law**

Including judicial review (in the Federal Court, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal), merits review (in the AAT and VCAT - including FOI and professional licensing) and statutory interpretation. **Doyles Guide** lists Rachel as a leading Victorian Administrative, Public Law & Judicial Review Law barrister, having been identified by clients and peers for her expertise and ability in Administrative Law, Public Law, Freedom of Information & Judicial Review matters.

- **Inquiries, coronial inquests and investigations**

Including public or private examinations conducted under coercive powers, royal commissions, anti-corruption inquiries and coronial inquests involving a wide range of sectors including education, prisons, policing, public infrastructure, public policy, vehicle safety, building safety, health, technology, manufacturing, mining & resources and industrial safety.

- **Disciplinary, criminal and quasi-criminal matters**

Including civil penalty litigation, regulatory enforcement, Local Government Misconduct hearings and appeals, Occupational Health & Safety prosecutions, disciplinary decision-making and appeals, public and private sector governance, and clubs & associations.

- **Civil claims**

Including privacy, discrimination, tort and contract.

- **Civil procedure**

Including subpoenas, jurisdiction and costs.

The following are examples of cases in which Rachel has appeared:

JUDICIAL REVIEW AND APPEALS

Owners Corporation Plan No RP 015268 & Ors v Yarra City Council (2025, Supreme Court of Victoria – defending Council resolution declaring a highway – judgment pending) led by Nick Wood SC

Ceravolo v Maribyrnong City Council (2025, Supreme Court of Victoria – successful defence of Council resolution to close a road to traffic – final orders made, written judgment pending)

Myers v Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (No 2) [2025] VSC 344

Abamed v Victoria University [2025] VSCA 66

Abamed v Victoria University [2024] VSC 604

Lew v Harvey & Anor [2023] VSC 477

Tobias Tucker v Commissioner of State Revenue [2023] VSCA 125 (with Claire Harris KC)

Tobias Tucker v Commissioner of State Revenue [2022] VSC 265 (with Claire Harris KC)

Dr Manu Chopra v Department of Education and Training [2021] VSCA 36

Dr Manu Chopra v Department of Education and Training [2019] VSC 488

Ritson v Director of Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate & Anor [2016] FCCA 2923

Hird v Chief Executive of the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority [2014] FCA 1090 (with Peter Hanks KC and Nick Harrington)

MERITS REVIEW (including FOI and licensing)

Wellington v Surf Coast SC [2022] VCAT 942

Manu Chopra v Department of Education and Training [2022] VCAT 688

Quick v Transport Accident Commission [2022] VCAT 622

Gary Morgan v Australian Building and Construction Commissioner [2020] AATA 651

Rachel is also briefed regularly to advise and assist clients in making FOI requests or decisions, and in dealing with reviews by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner.

COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY/ROYAL COMMISSIONS

COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine Inquiry

Before coming to the Bar, Rachel was instructed in the *Montara Oil Spill Commission of Inquiry* and the *Queensland Health Payroll System Commission of Inquiry*.

Rachel is also briefed regularly to advise interested parties and prepare witnesses called to public inquiries and Parliamentary inquiries.

INTEGRITY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION INQUIRIES*

Operation Sardon

Operation Ord

Operation Dunham

Operation Lansdowne

Integrity investigations of public officials in various Australian jurisdictions

***Only public inquiries and examinations are listed here due to confidentiality restrictions**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROCEEDINGS

Owners Corporation Plan No RP 015268 & Ors v Yarra City Council (2025, Supreme Court of Victoria – defending Council resolution declaring a highway – judgment pending) led by Nick Wood SC

Ceravolo v Maribyrnong City Council (Dec 2025, Supreme Court of Victoria – successful defence of Council resolution to close a road to traffic – final orders made, written judgment pending)

Lew v Harvey & Anor [2023] VSC 477

In the matter of an application by Cr Niki Batagol concerning Cr Alexander Lew 17.1.22 (internal arbitration).

In the matter of an application by Cr Kate Hely concerning Cr Alexander Lew 15.7.22 (councillor conduct panel).

Various confidential councillor conduct proceedings under the *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*.

CORONIAL INQUESTS

Deaths of Brown, Kemp, Wiki & Winwood (on-going, Tasmanian Coroners Court, Hobart)

Death of Mladen Jovanovski (prisons, suicide)

Death of Nicholas Canning (workplace health and safety, electrocution, finding without inquest)

Death of Robert Love [2020] VicCorC 26782 (drugs/addiction/sufficiency of police investigation)

Death of Roban Grindrod [2018] VicCorC 24156 (epilepsy, home emergency alert systems)

Before to coming to the Bar, Rachel was the solicitor assisting the State Coroner in the *Inquest into the Death of Tyler Cassidy* [2011] VicCorC 192 (police shooting of a minor) and was also instructed in inquests involving police chases, GPS systems, suicide involving public infrastructure, traffic accidents, level crossing fatalities and fire.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Department of Education v Team Holiday Pty Ltd (Childcare services, Plea, 2024)

Director of Public Prosecutions v Peter Stoitse Transport [2022] VCC 870 (Vehicle safety, Plea)

PRIVACY

Harrison v Victorian Building Authority [2017] VCAT 108

Quick v Transport Accident Commission [2022] VCAT 622

Rachel is also briefed regularly to advise clients in relation to privacy complaints made to the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner.

CIVIL PENALTIES

Commissioner for the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission v Irabina Autism Services (in liquidation) & Ors (Federal Court, ongoing).

Australian Building and Construction Commission v Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and Ors (Bendigo Theatre Case) [2018] FCA 122

Australian Building and Construction Commission v Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and Ors (Brooker Highway Case) [2018] FCA 1081

Australian Building and Construction Commissioner v SWAT Building Pty Ltd (in Liq) & Anor [2020] FCCA 1360

CIVIL PROCEDURE

Summary judgment: *Sayed v Salvation Army Housing* [2023] FCA 526

Stay of proceedings: *Darafsheb v Candoo Australia Pty Ltd* [2020] FCCA 2686

Chapter III jurisdiction: *Parish v Transport Accident Commission* [2021] VCAT 604

Jurisdiction and referral of question of law: *Chopra v Department of Education and Training* [2019] VSCA 298

Discovery: *Owners Corporation Plan No RP 015268 & Ors v Yarra City Council* [2023] VSC 318

Subpoena: *Australian Workers' Union v Registered Organisations Commissioner* [2017] FCA 1554

McKenzie Friend-style applications:

Myers v Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal [2024] VSC 412

Myers v Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal [2024] VSCA 206

Costs:

Myers v Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (No 2) [2024] VSCA 277

Dr Manu Chopra v Department of Education and Training (No 2) [2021] VSCA 112

Tucker v Commissioner of State Revenue (No 2) [2020] VCAT 273

Chopra v Department of Education and Training (No 2) [2019] VSC 598

Ritson v Director of Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate & Anor (No 2) [2016] FCCA 3466

(involving costs under s 570 of the *Fair Work Act 2009*)