



McCARTHY MENTORING



NEW SOUTH WALES  
BAR ASSOCIATION

## 2016 NSW BAR ASSOCIATION MENTORING PROGRAM

### MENTEE Q&A – DANIELLE TUCKER

- 1. What did you hope to get out of the mentoring program?** I hoped the program would provide an opportunity to meet regularly with a member of the profession who was happy to take time out of a busy practice to discuss issues facing a junior barrister, and I hoped it would provide a forum to ask questions and discuss particular challenges in that context.
- 2. Has the mentoring relationship met your expectations so far?** Yes, it has been even more valuable and enriching than I had hoped.
- 3. What aspects have been most valuable to date?** The discipline of meeting regularly and thinking about the various discussion topics for each mentoring meeting has itself been a really valuable process. The opportunity to talk issues through and gain a different perspective on how to approach them has been incredibly helpful.
- 4. Was your mentor a good match?** Yes, a great match.
- 5. How has it helped your practice so far?** I have had the benefit of advice and assistance in navigating a range of different issues. My practice has been assisted by participating in the program in the sense that I have been equipped with new skills and different approaches to practice management, I have developed new professional contacts and I have gained further ideas about how to continue my professional development and grow my practice.
- 6. Is there a key learning you have applied?** On some occasions, I have been able to talk through a particular legal or strategic issue in a case that has helped me, and on other occasions we have discussed practice management issues and ideas, which I have been able to implement.
- 7. Would you recommend the NSW Bar Association Mentoring Program? Why?** It is a unique opportunity to meet regularly with a senior barrister and discuss issues about how to succeed at the Bar, to learn from his or her experience and to form a professional relationship that you may not otherwise have had the benefit of developing.
- 8. What is your advice to junior barristers considering getting a mentor?** Whether it is in the context of a formal program, or an informal arrangement, having professional mentors is invaluable and these relationships should be proactively fostered and maintained.
- 9. Anything else you wish to add?** Even though you can develop informal mentoring relationships, being part of a formal program does help you to continue meeting up regularly and the material produced by McCarthy Mentoring provided a very helpful focus to the meetings.

## **MENTOR Q&A – SOPHIE CALLAN**

1. **What do you enjoy most about being a mentor?** Getting to know an intelligent, capable and personable junior barrister – and realising I had something to contribute to her professional path
2. **How do you think you have assisted Danielle as her mentor?** As a sounding board, and with tips based on observation and experience
3. **Was it a good match?** yes
4. **What do you see as the benefits of the mentoring for Danielle?** A fresh/reassuring perspective on the range of challenges faced by junior barristers
5. **What do you see as the benefits of mentoring for the profession?** As sole practitioners the challenges and difficult experiences can be isolating and disconcerting – mentoring can help remind junior barristers that (more often than not) their experiences are common and their problems are shared
6. **What is your advice for future mentors?** Listen, don't necessarily try to provide advice or solutions so much as guide and sympathise
7. **Anything else you wish to add?** The structured approach to mentoring was tremendously helpful to get the ball rolling and to feel the mentoring sessions were productive.