



## Expressions Of Interest – New Course Director Commencing 2023

The NSW Bar Association is seeking expressions of interest for the role of Bar Practice Course Director. The Course Director functions under the authority of the Council of the NSW Bar Association and works with the Professional Standards and Support Department and the Education Committee of the Association.

The Course Director is a key component of the management and operation of the Bar Practice Course and the educational program leading to the successful completion of the Course.

The NSW Bar Practice Course is the entry point to our profession and forms the basis of Readers' first year of practice, and indeed for the whole of their careers at the Bar. It gives Readers an opportunity that they will have only once in their professional careers: senior members of the profession dedicating their time over a period of one month to teach, share knowledge and experience, and act as peers and mentors in the pursuit of professional excellence. Each course is a tour de force, and includes the involvement of 200 barristers and members of the judiciary.

This is a voluntary position that requires a significant contribution of time and application to upholding the standards of the bar. Traditionally the Bar Practice Course Director takes on the position for several years. The Course Director is an *ex officio* member of the Education Committee.

### **Course Director Roles and Responsibilities**

- Under the above supervision, the Course Director:
- Supervises the Course, including schedule development.
- Supports and monitors the Readers' progress throughout the Course
- Attends Court for the evening sessions conducted throughout the Course.
- Determines, with the Education Committee and other pertinent stakeholders, the objectives and content for the Course.
- Assesses the quality of teaching provided and assists the Professional Standards and Support team in identifying resources.
- Oversees the Course materials and briefs.
- Attends the Final Mock Trial and liaises with the judicial officers as to the performance of the Readers
- Assesses, with the Director, Professional Standards and Support, satisfactory completion of the Course by Readers.
- Reviews and responds to the end-of-course feedback.
- Engages in continuous quality improvement.
- Reports to the Education Committee about the management and operation of the Course.

## Appointment and Selection

Applicants for the Course Directors role must:

- Have continuously held a New South Wales barristers' practising certificate or a practising certificate of another Australian jurisdiction for not less than seven years
- Be a full-time practising New South Wales barrister.
- Express a genuine and long term interest in the Bar Practice Course.
- Have or establish a familiarity with the [Bar Practice Course policies and procedures](#).
- Have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in legal education and/ or mentorship.

A pre-selected panel will review the completed expression of interest. The panel will include the Director, Professional Standards and Support, the Course Director, Gillian Mahony, and a representative from the Education Committee. The panel may elect to interview the candidate.

To apply, please complete the [‘expression of interest form.’](#)  
(<https://forms.gle/6trCcZ3hCcvpFS4K9>)

## Acknowledgement of Gillian Mahonys Work

The NSW Bar Association would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Bar Practice Course Director, Gillian Mahony, 8 Wentworth Chambers. During her time as Course Director, Gillian has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the education and inculcation of the newest members. Each reader who has passed through the course during her tenure owes her a great debt of gratitude. Indeed, each member of the bar owes a similar debt for her tireless work. The Bar is very fortunate to have had someone of Gillian's calibre and work ethic guiding the course. It is because of her leadership over the past eight years that we are able to uphold the highest standards of advocacy and ethical behaviour, for which the NSW Bar is rightly known.

Gillian will remain Course Director until June 2023 to assist with the induction of a new Course Director during the May 2023 Bar Practice Course.

## Closing Date

Expressions of Interest will remain open until Monday, 5 December 2022