

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Alister Abadee

Mr Abadee has been a litigator for over 23 years, including 18 years as a barrister. He has specialised in professional liability, co-authoring a leading text on the subject, and has worked extensively in commercial litigation.

He has most frequently appeared in the Supreme Court, but also in the High Court, Court of Appeal, Federal Court and District Court. He recently represented consumers in a class action against a travel company after flooding in Europe disrupted their holiday.

Mr Abadee has also served as a Navy Reservist for nearly two decades and was awarded the Australian Defence Medal. Through his service as a Defence Force lawyer, he gained experience in quasi-criminal law and acted as prosecuting officer and as defending officer in Defence Force disciplinary trials and courts-martial. Mr Abadee performed the role of Counsel Representing in the Board of Inquiry into the fatal Sea King helicopter crash on the Indonesian island of Nias in 2005.

Judge Susanne Cole

Judge Cole has served as a Judge of South Australia's District Court and Environment Resources and Development (ERD) Court since 2002.

For the past eight years, she has been Senior Judge of the ERD Court which has an extensive jurisdiction in relation to administrative systems that regulate town planning, environmental licensing, aspects of mining, water allocation and native vegetation management.

She was the Deputy President of the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal from 2014 to 2017 and the Deputy President of the Equal Opportunity Tribunal of South Australia from 2002 until 2017, when it ceased to exist.

Earlier in her career, Judge Cole was an associate at a South Australian law firm and worked for the Crown Solicitor's Office in that state.

Sharon Harris

Ms Harris has prosecuted hundreds of complex criminal proceedings, including the Supreme Court trials of Ron Medich who was jailed for a minimum of 30 years for the murder of Michael McGurk, and as junior counsel in the matter of Roger Dean who received 11 life sentences for the Quakers Hill nursing home fire.

Ms Harris was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW in 1993, and after two years as a solicitor at a criminal law firm, joined the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) in 1996 and was appointed as a crown prosecutor in 2014.

She has prosecuted a vast number of jury trials in the District Court since 2006 including matters relating to manslaughter, drug trafficking, sexual assault, dangerous driving causing death and serious fraud cases.

Ms Harris has also been part of the specialist Child Sexual Offence Evidence Pilot Program in the Downing Centre District Court, prosecuting child sexual offence trials.

Judge Justin Smith SC

Judge Smith's legal career has spanned more than a quarter of a century, including 17 years as a barrister and three years on the bench of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

As a judge, he has heard and determined around 300 cases per year on a range of matters including bankruptcy, administrative law, employment law, migration, trade practices, intellectual property and admiralty.

He has run trials which have predominantly relied on electronic court files and has been a member of the Judicial Steering Committee of the Federal Courts' Digital Court.

Prior to being appointed to the Federal Circuit Court, Judge Smith practised as a barrister and was appointed as a Senior Counsel in 2014. While his primary areas of practice were administrative and migration law, he also has experience in criminal law and other aspects of civil law. He appeared on many occasions in appeals before the Full Court of the Federal Court and the High Court.

Graham Turnbull SC

Mr Turnbull began his legal career as a solicitor in Raymond Terrace in 1984 and spent four years at Legal Aid NSW in Sydney before going to the Special Casework Division of the Crown Prosecution Service in London. He has practiced exclusively at the private bar since 1990 – initially in London and in NSW from 1994. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2007.

Mr Turnbull has prosecuted and defended serious criminal charges in trials throughout NSW as well as in other states and territories. He has also appeared in matters before the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Mental Health Review Tribunal, the Coroner's Court and the Children's Court.

He contributed to research into courtroom technology as a member of the international Court of the Future Network.