

CURRICULUM VITAE

WALTER SOFRONOFF KC

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Qualifications

Barrister, Supreme Court of Queensland (Admitted 1977)
King's Counsel (Appointed 1988)
Barrister and Solicitor, New Zealand (Admitted 2010)

Fellow of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators, Grade 1 Arbitrator (Elected 2011)
Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law (Elected 2015)

Bachelor of Laws (Hons), University of Queensland (1976)
Bachelor of Arts, University of Queensland (1974)

Previous Appointments

Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Justice of the Court of Appeal of Queensland and President of the Court of Appeal (2017-2022). The Court of Appeal hears and determine appeals from the Supreme Court and all other lower courts. The President administers the Court of Appeal.

Member of the panel of the International Court of Appeal of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (elected 2022). The Court hears appeals by participants in international motorsport events, such as Formula 1 Grand Prix, from decisions of stewards.

Member of the Anti-Doping Commission of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (appointed 2021)The FIA is the governing body of international motorsport and the Anti-Doping Commission, headquartered in Paris, is the adjudicative tribunal that determines cases involving allegations of the taking of banned performance enhancing drugs by participants in motorsport events.

Acting Justice of the Court of Appeal of Western Australia (2019) – Appointment made at the invitation of the Western Australian Government as part of the judicial exchange scheme inaugurated by the Presidents of the Courts of Appeal of Queensland and Western Australia.

Review of the State parole system (2016) – Appointment made by the Queensland Government requiring an investigation and report on the state of the system with recommendations for its improvement.¹ The investigation team many interviews with serving prisoners, paroled prisoners,

¹ See Report dated November 2016: <https://cabinet.qld.gov.au/documents/2017/Feb/ParoleBill/Attachments/Report.pdf>

parole officers, lawyers involved in the operations of the system and heads of other States' parole systems as well as visits to parole offices in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Commissioner of Inquiry into flooding at Grantham in Queensland (2015). The 2011 flooding of large parts of south-east Queensland resulted in 11 deaths in Grantham and the total destruction of the small town. The Commission was established to address concerns about the direct and indirect causes of these deaths. The Commission delivered its report to the Queensland Government in 2015.²

Solicitor-General of Queensland (2005-2014) – The most senior legal adviser to the Executive Government with responsibility for advising the Executive on a “whole of government basis” and appearing as advocate for the State in the most important litigation in which it is engaged.

Chairman V8 Supercars National Court of Appeal (2008-2017). This body sits to determine disputes arising from V8 Supercar race events.³

Royal Australia Navy Reserve, Lieutenant-Commander (2003-2014) – Court martial work, review of commissions of inquiry and written advice to command.

Member University of Queensland Law School Advisory Board (2014-2017)

President of the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal of Queensland (2001-2005)

President of the Bar Association of Queensland (1994-1996)

Vice-President of the Bar Association of Queensland (1992-1994)

Overview of Experience

As a barrister, practised in criminal law, commercial law, constitutional law and administrative law. Work involved advising, appearing in judge only trials and other hearings, civil and criminal jury trials, civil and criminal appeals and mediations, expert appraisals, commissions of inquiry (as counsel and as commissioner) and arbitrations (as counsel and as arbitrator). Appearances in the Supreme Courts of the States, Federal Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of Northern Territory as well as over 50 appearances in the High Court of Australia in the last 15 years of practice. In 2010, briefed by New Zealand Judicial Commission to conduct a disciplinary prosecution of a Justice of the New Zealand Supreme Court.

Practice involved being briefed by private firms as well as by State and Commonwealth governments to advise and to lead litigation. Cases involved issues arising at trial level and at appellate level in spheres of constitutional law,⁴ corporations law,⁵ discrimination law,⁶ resources law,⁷ industrial law,⁸

² Report dated October 2015: <https://www.granthaminquiry.qld.gov.au/assets/grantham-floods-report-october-2015.pdf>

³ Eg: appeal by Walkinshaw Performance Team in 2009: <https://au.motorsport.com/v8supercars/news/v8-supercar-court-of-appeal-hearing/2942384/>

⁴ Eg: *Williams v The Commonwealth* (2012) 248 CLR 156 (scope of executive power)

⁵ *Public Trustee v Fortress Corporation* (2010) 241 CLR 286

⁶ *Lyons v Queensland* (2016) 259 CLR 518

⁷ *Duncan v New South Wales* (2015) 255 CLR 388

⁸ *Public Service Association of South Australia v Industrial Relations Commission* (2012) 249 CLR 398

sentencing law,⁹ public law,¹⁰ arbitration law,¹¹ family law,¹² native title law,¹³ judicial review,¹⁴ personal injuries,¹⁵ bankruptcy,¹⁶ criminal law¹⁷ as well as many other areas.

As Vice-President and President of the Bar Association of Queensland, was the person responsible for professional ethics for barristers in Queensland. Developed protocols for appointment of Queen's Counsel and for establishment of statutory disciplinary system. Several decades experience acting in disciplinary proceedings concerning lawyers,¹⁸ medical practitioners,¹⁹ dentists,²⁰ police²¹ and others. As a judge, now hears appeals concerning ethical breaches by professionals and writes judgments declaring the law relating to ethical professional practices.²² Author of professional papers concerning the ethical discharge of professional responsibilities by barristers as well as the proper exercise of powers of Attorney-General.²³

As President of Bar Association, President of Anti-Discrimination Tribunal, Solicitor-General, Commissioner of Inquiry and President of the Queensland Court of Appeal has gained experience, and acquired experience in, cooperative dealings with government and professional bodies.

⁹ *Crump v New South Wales* (2012) 247 CLR 1

¹⁰ *Foster v Minister for Customs and Justice* (2000) 200 CLR 442;

¹¹ *TCL Air Conditioner (Zhongshan) Co Ltd v Judges of Federal Court of Australia*. (2013) 251 CLR 533

¹² *RCB v The Hon Justice Forrest* (2012) 247 CLR 304

¹³ *Wik Peoples v Queensland* (1996) 187 CLR 1

¹⁴ *Wotton v Queensland* (2012) 246 CLR 1

¹⁵ *WorkCover v Amaca Ltd* (2010) 241 CLR 420

¹⁶ *Foots v Southern Cross Mine Management* (2007) 2345 CLR 52

¹⁷ Eg: *R v Baden-Clay* (2016) 258 CLR 308 (Circumstantial evidence); See eg: *R v Keenan* (2009) 236 CLR 397 (law of complicity); *Patel v The Queen* (2012) 247 CLR 531 (criminal medical negligence).

¹⁸ See eg *Attorney-General v Legal Services Commissioner* [2018] QCA 66;

<https://www.queenslandjudgments.com.au/case/id/306658?mview=%22sofronoff%22|disciplinary|&u=>

¹⁹ See eg *Medical Board v DAP* [2008] QCA 44;

<https://www.queenslandjudgments.com.au/case/id/63112?mview=%22sofronoff%22|disciplinary|&u=>

²⁰ *Dental Board of Queensland v B* [2004] 1 Qd R 254:

<https://www.queenslandjudgments.com.au/case/id/506466?mview=%22sofronoff%22|disciplinary|&u=>

²¹ *Aldrich v Ross* [2001] 2 Qd R 235;

<https://www.queenslandjudgments.com.au/case/id/505040?mview=%22sofronoff%22|disciplinary|&u=>

²² See eg *Legal Services Commissioner v McQuaid* [2019] 1 Qd R 499 (lawyer);

<https://www.queenslandjudgments.com.au/caselaw-search/query?hits=&sort=&case-type=&requestSource=advancedSearch&queryStringSearchText=disciplinary&queryStringCaseName=&queryStringCitation=&multiSelectJudges%5B%5D=Sofronoff&dateSelectionType=all&dateSelection=equal&dateString=&dateStart=&dateEnd=&yearSelection=equal&yearString=&yearStart=&yearEnd=&queryStringCatchwords=&sortResultsBy=best>; *Lee v Crime and Corruption Commission* [2020] QCA 201 (Police);

<https://www.queenslandjudgments.com.au/case/id/345546?mview=disciplinary|&u=>; *Chibanda v Chief Executive Queensland Health* [2020] QCA 144 (medical practitioner);

<https://www.queenslandjudgments.com.au/case/id/344853?mview=disciplinary|&u=>

²³ *The Province of an Independent Legal Profession*, paper presented to the Australian Academy of Law, 18 June 2015; *The Constitutional Significance of the Australian Bar*, 2019 Maurice Byers Lecture, (2019) 48 Aust Bar Rev 23; *The Roles of an Australian Attorney-General*, paper published in *The Crown*, ed. The Hon Justice M Hinton and Professor J M Williams, University of Adelaide Press 2018

Significant Publications

Interlocutory Injunctions having Final Effect (1987) 61 ALJ 341

Constitutional Writs (2007) 14 AJ Admin L 145

Deakin, Isaacs and the Supremacy of the Commonwealth, Quadrant (Sept 2008; included in *Justice According to Law*, A. Rahemtula, ed. (2006)

The Province of an Independent Legal Profession, paper presented to the Australian Academy of Law, 18 June 2015

The Influence of Hellenistic Philosophy on Christianity, Hellenic-Australian Lawyers Association Oration 2018, Supreme Court of Queensland

The Roles of an Australian Attorney-General, paper published in *The Crown*, ed. The Hon Justice M Hinton and Professor J M Williams, University of Adelaide Press 2018

The Constitutional Significance of the Australian Bar, 2019 Maurice Byers Lecture, (2019) 48 Aust Bar Rev 23