

FELICITY NAGORCKA

Year of call – 2015

DIRECT CONTACT DETAILS:

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AREAS OF PRACTICE

Constitutional Law | Administrative Law | Human Rights | Native Title

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Laws (Hons 1), University of Melbourne
Bachelor of Arts, University of Melbourne
Master of Laws (Hons 1), University of Cambridge

CAREER HISTORY

Felicity's practice primarily includes constitutional law, administrative law, human rights and native title. She regularly appears in the Supreme Court of Queensland and the Federal Court of Australia. Felicity has also appeared in the High Court of Australia approximately 30 times (unled on one occasion).

Prior to commencing at the private bar in 2025, Felicity spent nearly a decade working as an employed barrister at Crown Law, including as Crown Counsel. At Crown Law, Felicity worked closely with several Queensland Solicitors-General, providing advice on the State's most significant matters and appearing as counsel.

Felicity holds an LLM (Hons 1) from the University of Cambridge and was an Associate to the Hon Justice Hayne AC of the High Court of Australia in 2006. Since 2019 she has been the convener of the Queensland Chapter of the Australian Association of Constitutional Law. In 2025, Felicity was recognised in Doyle's Guide as a leading administrative and public law barrister in Queensland.

HIGGINSCHAMBERS

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SELECTED SIGNIFICANT CASES

Smith v Queensland Corrective Services, Queensland Court of Appeal, reserved (unled)

Stella v Griffith University [2025] QCA 140 (unled)

EAC v Magistrates Court of Queensland [2025] QSC 240 (unled)

Karrabin Estate Pty Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue [2025] QSC 263 (led Jonathan Horton KC)

G Global 120E T2 Pty Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue [2025] HCA 39 (led by Gim Del Villar KC SG, with Jaamae Hafeez-Baig and Kent Blore)

New South Wales v Wojciechowska [2025] HCA 27 (led by Gim Del Villar KC, with Kent Blore)

Ishiyama v Aitkin; Hunt v Gerrard [2025] QCA 126 (led by Damien O'Brien KC)

Charlie v State of Queensland [2025] FCAFC 55 (led by Gim Del Villar KC SG and Marc McKechnie)

Cherry v State of Queensland [2025] HCA 14 (led by Gim Del Villar KC SG, with Gabriel Perry)

Queensland v Stradford; Commonwealth v Stradford; Vasta v Stradford [2025] HCA 3 (led by Gim Del Villar KC SG, Jonathan Horton KC and Daniel Favell)

Bay v Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency [2024] QSC 315 (unled)

Pearson v Commonwealth; JZQQ v Minister for Immigration; Tapiki v Minister for Immigration [2024] HCA 46 (leading Kent Blore)

Johnston v Carroll; Witthahn v Wakefield; Sutton v Carroll [2024] QSC 2; (2024) 329 IR 365 (led by Nitra Kidson KC, with Kent Blore)

Lendlease Building Pty Ltd v BCS Airport Systems Pty Ltd [2024] QSC 164 (led by Gim Del Villar KCSG)

Vanderstock v Victoria [2023] HCA 30; (2023) 98 ALJR 208 (led by Gim Del Villar KC SG, with Sarah Spottiswood)

Wallace v Tunnock [2023] QSC 122 (leading Kent Blore)

Knowles v Commonwealth [2022] FCA 741 (unled)

Sica v Attorney-General (Qld) [2021] QSC 309; 9 QR 543 (unled at hearing)

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TRKJ v Director of Public Prosecutions (Qld) [2021] QSC 297; 9 QR 472 (leading Kent Blore)

Palmer v Western Australia [2021] HCA 5; (2021) 272 CLR 505 (led by Sandy Thompson KC SG, with Kent Blore)

Owen-D'Arcy v Queensland Corrective Services [2021] QSC 273; (2020) 9 QR 250 (leading Kent Blore)

Holzinger v Attorney-General (Qld) [2020] QCA 165; (2020) 5 QR 543 (led by Sandy Thompson KC SG)

Spence v Queensland [2019] HCA 15; (2019) 268 CLR 355 (led by Peter Dunning KC SG, Stephen Keim SC and Gim Del Villar, for the State)

RECENT PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- ‘Constitutional Law Speed Dating: 4 cases and forty minutes’, paper presented as part of a panel to the Australian Association of Constitutional Law on *G Global 120E T2 Pty Ltd v Commissioner of State Revenue* [2025] HCA 39 (Brisbane, 20 November 2025).
- ‘Judicial Immunity: Reflections after the Stradford Decision’, paper presented at the UQLS Annual Sir Harry Gibbs Fundraising Gala, 12 September 2025.
- ‘*Vanderstock v Victoria: Free trade and federalism*’ (2024) 35 *Public Law Review* 13 (with Sarah Spottiswood). This paper won the Saunders Prize for Excellence in Scholarship in Constitutional Law for 2025.
- ‘Securing individual autonomy through the rule of law’, panel discussion at the Australian Bar Association National Conference, chaired by Gordon J of the High Court of Australia (Gold Coast, 22 September 2023).
- ‘The importance of purpose in statutory interpretation’, paper presented for the Bar Association of Queensland, with Gim Del Villar KC SG (Brisbane, 5 September 2023).
- ‘Human rights and trust in a time of COVID-19: lockdowns, prison conditions and mandates’, paper presented at the Australian Institute of Administrative Law National Conference, with Kent Blore (Adelaide, 28 July 2023); published in (2024) 110 AIAL Forum 21.
- ‘The role of human rights legislation in promoting access to justice’, panel discussion at the National Access to Justice Conference and Pro Bono Conference, chaired by Stephen Keim SC (Brisbane, 22 June 2023).
- ‘*The Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld): Three tricky questions for administrative lawyers*’, paper presented to the Australian Institute of Administrative Law (online 26 October 2021); published in (2022) 104 AIAL Forum 82.

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