

# ANNA E. CAPPELLANO

Year of call - 2008

## DIRECT CONTACT DETAILS:

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## PERSONAL ASSISTANT DETAILS:

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## AREAS OF PRACTICE

Criminal Law  
Appellate work  
Inquests  
Inquiries  
Sports Law

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Laws (Hons), University of Queensland  
Bachelor of Arts (Double Major in Political Science), University of Queensland

## CAREER HISTORY

Anna is passionate about social justice and providing fearless advocacy for people who find themselves confronting the criminal justice system.

Anna commenced her career as the Associate to Justice Holmes in the Supreme Court of Queensland (former Chief Justice for the State of Queensland). It was in this role that Anna first developed her passion for criminal law as Her Honour was then the Criminal List Manager in the Supreme Court.

After her time as an Associate, Anna was employed as an articled clerk at a busy criminal law firm in Brisbane. She was admitted as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of Queensland in early 2006 and worked as a solicitor in private practice before being called to the Bar in early 2008.

Anna has practiced at the private Bar in Queensland since 2008. She practices primarily in criminal law where she appears in trials and other hearings in the Supreme, District, Childrens and Magistrates Courts of Queensland, and in appeals in the Queensland Court of Appeal.

## HIGGINSCHAMBERS

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Anna also appears in regulatory matters, inquiries and inquests. In 2022, Anna was one of the Counsel Assisting the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence. The inquiry's report, "A Call for Change" was presented to the Queensland Government in November 2022. In 2024, Anna was one of the Counsel Assisting the Inquest in relation to the shooting deaths at Wieambilla on 12 December 2022. The findings of this Inquest were delivered by the State Coroner on 21 November 2025.

Anna is a Chair of the AFL Queensland Tribunal. She also represents AFL players before the National AFLW Tribunal.

Anna is a member of the Queensland Bar Association and is an active member of the Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee. Anna is also the Bar Association's representative on the following Committees:

- Expert Evidence Steering Committee chaired by His Honour Judge Byrne KC;
- Sexual Violence Case Management Pilot Steering Committee chaired by His Honour Chief Judge Devereaux SC;
- Sexual Violence Evaluation Advisory Group;
- Criminal Procedure Consultation Reference Group chaired by Mr Michael Shanahan AM;
- Queensland Law Reform Commission Evidence Law Review Consultation Committee chaired by President Kingham.

Anna is a Board Member of inCommunity, a not-for-profit organisation that provides a range of services to homeless, at risk and disadvantaged members of the community.

Outside of work, Anna loves AFL football. She is able to channel her passion for both law and football in her role as a Chair of the AFL Queensland Tribunal. She also regularly represents AFLW players in hearings before the National AFL Tribunal.

## SIGNIFICANT CASES

*R v Wal Wal* [2025] QSC 37

*R v Featherstone; Ex parte Director of Public Prosecutions (Qld)* [2024] QCA 197

*R v Tong (a pseudonym)* [2021] QCA 261

*R v Delander* [2019] QCA 69

*R v Hines* [2016] QCA 3

*R v Brackenrig* [2010] QCA 41

*R v Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions v Mare & Ors* [2009] Qld R 209

*R v Pollock* [2008] QCA 205

*R v Pollock* [2009] QCA 268

*R v Pollock* [2010] HCA 35

*R v Pollock* [2012] QCA 231

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## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

24 June 2025	Presenter, Women Lawyers Association of Queensland and the Bar Association of Queensland, Youth Justice Panel.
27 March 2025	Chair, Reasonable Cause Criminal Law CPD Conference
14 March 2025	Chair, Legalwise, Criminal Law Symposium
11 October 2024	Presenter, Queensland Law Society Family and Criminal Law Conference 2024, Community Safety and Youth Justice
10 May 2024	Presenter, Legalwise – New Updates on Youth Justice: Session 1, Strengthening Community Safety and Other Legislative Developments in the Youth Justice Space
17 November 2023	Presenter, Legalwise – Criminal Law: Evidence and Critical Updates, Major Amendments Affecting Sexual Offences: What do Trial Lawyers Need to Know
16 June 2023	Presenter, Prisoner’s Legal Service Seminar – Human Rights and the Criminal Justice System, The changing landscape of DFV law
25 March 2023	Chair and Presenter, Reasonable Cause Criminal Law CPD Conference, Sexual offences: recent and upcoming changes
17 March 2023	Presenter, Legalwise – Criminal Law Symposium 2023, Criminalising Coercive Control

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