

Marion Buchanan: Barrister

ABN: 73690032830

[Murray Chambers](#)

259 Adelaide Terrace PERTH WA

Key Skills

- Legal practitioner: criminal, family, disability and mental impairment, administrative and judicial review.
- Extensive professional experience representing people with mental impairment in the criminal justice system and in administrative proceedings.
- Counsel: Family Court (WA) Federal Magistrates Court (TAS), Supreme, District & Magistrates Courts (WA), State Administrative Tribunal, Social Security Appeals Tribunal, Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board and Mental Health Tribunal
- Senior government adviser.
- Widely recognised as a collaborator with integrity and a commitment to fairness for all people.

Admission to Practice Law

- December 2001 Supreme Court of Western Australia.
- January 2002 High Court of Australia.
- May 2008 Supreme Court of Tasmania.

Year elected to the WA Bar Association

- 2023

Qualifications

- LLB 2000 (University of Western Australia).
- Graduate Certificate of Philosophy 2012 (Murdoch University).
- Master of Bioethics 2021 (Monash University).

Career History

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Hon. John Quigley, MLA, Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs

Principal Policy Advisor (2021 – September 2023)

- provision of advice to the Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs including in relation to:
 - reforms to Western Australia's mentally impaired accused laws.
 - analysis of comparative electoral systems; constitutional matters related to elections; and political finance reforms.
 - guardianship and administration reforms.
- adviser and drafting instructor for the:
 - *Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Bill 2021*; and
 - *Electoral Amendment (Finance and Other Matters) Bill 2023*.

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Hon. Roger Cook, MLA, Deputy Premier, Minister for Health and Mental Health

Principal Policy Advisor (2019 –2021)

Senior Policy Advisor (2018 –2019)

- provision of advice to the Deputy Premier in relation to the development and implementation of voluntary assisted dying legislation, mental health, palliative care, aged care, and homeless health
- parliamentary adviser during passage of the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2019*.

Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Western Australia

Research and advice (2017 –2018)

- Research, advice, and drafting for the Joint Select Committee on End-of-Life Choices and Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission.

Mental Health Law Centre (WA)

Senior Lawyer (2015 – 2017)

Lawyer (2014 –2015)

- Counsel advising and representing people with mental impairment in Western Australian courts and tribunals.
- Advising, supervising, and mentoring junior lawyers.

Break from Legal Practice

Immediately prior to working for the Mental Health Law Centre Marion spent five years raising her son, who has a disability. This included two years of supporting him through distance education home schooling arrangements and his reintegration into mainstream schooling. During this time, Marion worked weekends in administration at Rockingham General Hospital, as FOI coordinator for Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and Coordinator for the WA Lawyers Practice Manual for Thomson Reuters.

Dobson Mitchell Allport Lawyers (Hobart, TAS)

Lawyer (2008 –2009)

- Representing clients in family law matters.

SCALES Community Legal Service

Locum Solicitor/Student Supervisor (2006 –2008)

- Supervision of Murdoch University final and penultimate year law students, in their clinical practice unit.
- Family law and general legal practice.

Nash Clavey Lawyers

Lawyer (2006 –2008)

- Representing clients in family, probate, and criminal matters.

Legal Aid (WA)

Locum Duty Lawyer (2006)

- Duty lawyer in Rockingham and Mandurah Magistrates Courts.

Peel Community Legal Centre

Inaugural Principal Legal Officer (2005)

- Providing legal advice and minor assistance to clients throughout the Peel region in family law and general legal matters
- Policy review and oversight of professional indemnity requirements for the practice.

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions Western Australia

Crown (then State) Prosecutor (2002 –2005)

- Counsel in all courts including junior counsel on trials for attempted murder, arson, armed robbery, and aggravated burglary.

Dwyer Durack

Restricted Practitioner and Articled Clerk (2001 - 2002)

- Research and minor appearance work: civil litigation, family, and criminal law.