

PENELOPE GILES SC

CURRICULUM VITAE

I am an experienced trial lawyer, having worked as an advocate for 11 years in private practice, and 24 years at the independent bar. I have appeared as counsel in most major courts and tribunals, conducting complex and lengthy litigation, both as a solicitor and as a barrister, at first instance and in appeals. I am equally comfortable in courts and administrative tribunals and boards.

I have been a Commissioner of the District Court, President of the Equal Opportunity Tribunal, and a legal member of the Medical Board. I am active in professional affairs, and mentor junior practitioners. I have also tutored in Evidence at the University of Western Australia Law School.

Principal areas of practice

- Family Law, including parenting and financial matters, de facto claims, appeals, surrogacy
- Industrial law including Federal and State industrial commissions, unfair dismissals and industrial disputes, and appeals
- Equal opportunity, anti discrimination and human rights law including Federal and State anti-discrimination and equal opportunity legislation, appearing in the State Administrative Tribunal, the Federal Circuit Court and the Federal Court
- Boards of inquiry, coronial inquests, administrative inquiries and disciplinary tribunals

Professional background

- Born 26 August 1956.
- BA/LLB (Hons) ANU 1986.
- Articles, Northmore Hale 1987.
- Admitted to WA Supreme Court, September 1987.
- Solicitor, Northmore Hale 1987 – 1989.
- Admitted to Federal Court of Australia 1989.
- Admitted to High Court of Australia 1989.
- Solicitor, Dwyer Durack 1989 – 1993.
- Partner, Dwyer Durack 1993 – 1998.
- Chairperson, Homeswest Independent Appeals Tribunal 1991 – 1993.
- Barrister at the independent bar in WA December 1998 – present.
- Commissioner of District Court October 2001 - December 2001.

- President Equal Opportunity Tribunal of Western Australia 2004.
- Legal Member Medical Board 2002 – 2007.
- Appointed Senior Counsel, November 2020.
- Head of Chambers, Murray Chambers, April 2021 – March 2024.
- Adjunct Clinical Professor, Curtin Law School, July 2021 – present.

Professional associations, committees and boards

- Member, Law Society of WA 1987 – present
- Lecturer Masters of Business Administration, UWA Industrial Law 1990 – 1991
- Member, WA Museum Board 1994 – 1996
- Member, Industrial Law Committee Law Council of Australia (Federal Litigation Section) 1995-1996
- Member, WA Bar Association 1998 – present
- Member, Bar Council 1999 - 2001
- President, Women Lawyers of WA 2002 – 2004
- Member, Board of Directors Australian Women Lawyers 2004 – 2006
- Member, Family Law Practitioners' Association of WA, 2004 – present
- Mentor, Law Society Program for Mentoring of Indigenous Law Students 2004 - 2005
- Tutor, Law of Evidence, University of Western Australia Law School 2005 and 2006
- Member, Family Law Practitioners Association of WA Senior Members Panel for advice to practitioners 2016 - present
- Mentor, WA Bar Association Indigenous Students Clerkship Program
- Presented numerous papers on various aspects of family law, including tax, social security, post-separation contributions, parental alienation, legal professional privilege, expert evidence, cross examination of medical evidence and the rules of evidence generally in the Family Court
- Presented numerous papers on anti-discrimination and human rights law, in particular indirect discrimination

Contact details

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