

# New Faces in the Secretariat

**Kellie Grainger,**  
Manager Regulatory Services



## Brief career history

After finishing combined degrees of Law and Commerce at the University of Queensland, I undertook my two year articles of clerkship (as they used to be called) with a small firm in regional Queensland. Following my admission I stayed on with the same practice for another sixteen years until relocating to the Territory and taking up my current position. Whilst over the last ten years I did practise largely in family law, working in a small practice meant being able to advise in a variety of areas of the law such as succession law, criminal law, conveyancing, commercial law, etc.

## What motivated you to start working in the legal profession?

As a doe-eyed and philosophical teenager my desire to work in the law was based on wanting to "help people". As I matured that evolved into a broader sense of social justice and a better understanding of the integral role that lawyers played in that arena.

## If you had not become a lawyer what other profession might you have chosen?

From the moment I started primary school I had my heart set on being a teacher. It was very late in high school that I changed my mind and set my sights on a career in the law.

## What's the best advice you have been given about practising law?

When I first started as a wee articulated clerk the senior partner

told me that there are very, very few mistakes that I could make that couldn't be fixed (usually with a claim for professional negligence and a compensation cheque) and I have found over the years this is generally pretty spot on. Take a moment to stop and think about the situation, speak to a colleague and its remarkable how often a solution becomes apparent. Panicking just confuses your thinking and gets you nowhere. Trying to hide your mistakes will only make things worse.

## How long have you been in the Territory and what brought you up here?

I am a very recent arrival to the Territory; lobbying in at the start of March. My partner was offered a great job opportunity here in the middle of last year and after 18 years at the one law firm, I saw the move as an opportunity to try something new and different work-wise, and to experience life in a very different part of Australia.

## What sport do you follow?

I love my football; the true football, played with the round ball. I follow the Brisbane Roar, but if the Territory should ever get their own A-League team, I would convert! I am planning on pulling on my boots this season to see if I can manage the change of climate.

## What was the last book you read?

"The Girl who Kicked the Hornets' Nest" by Stieg Larsson. I love reading and enjoy a variety of different authors and genres.

## What was the last music album you bought?

Mumford and Sons debut album "Sigh No More"

## What is your favourite holiday destination and why?

Years ago a friend and I backpacked through parts of South America – the Galapagos, Peru and Bolivia. It was the best holiday of my life; I loved the ancient Incan ruins, the opportunity to walk through the Andes as well as the amazing wildlife. I would love to go back one day and see more of this incredibly diverse continent.

## Three adjectives that describe who you are and why?

**Organised:** I lead a pretty busy life so my organiser goes everywhere with me; losing it would be like losing my right arm! I simply can't get by without my "To Do" lists, if it's not on the list there's a big risk it just won't happen. I am also a firm believer in "Everything has a place and everything in its place". My partner refers to this as OCD.

**Calm:** It generally takes quite a bit to ruffle my feathers.

**Adventurous:** I am always up to try something new and perhaps out of my comfort zone, except for food; really not good with anything outside that comfort zone! I think you really do have to try something once before you can truly say you don't like it. There are always exceptions to this rule (what's a lawyer with exceptions!!) but it's generally not a bad philosophy to live by. ●