

Editors' Note

Dear readers,

We hope you had an inspiring International Women's Day on 8 March. At CAMLA, we like to celebrate International Women's Month, because we believe it deserves more recognition than just a single day.

In connection with this important time of year, we are excited to share a special edition of the CLB celebrating the many illustrious and diverse contributions of some of our industry's leading women.

We've compiled a series of short interviews with around 30 leaders from a range of backgrounds and experiences across media, communications, IP, advertising, privacy, sport, entertainment and tech. We have celebrated the voices of brilliant women from the bench, the bar, private practice, in house, and executive roles. The CAMLA industries in Australia are driven by the intelligence, grit, warmth, leadership, talents and wisdom of many incredible women – and we can only capture a small sample of that in these pages.

One of our favourite questions asked is “who is one woman you really admire, and why?” If you're reading this, think about celebrating International Women's Month in 2021 by telling or emailing a woman you really admire to say that you look up to her, and what impact she has had on you.

We hope that we can repeat these special editions in future years and continue celebrating the achievements of women in our industry. If this Special Edition has demonstrated anything, it's that we certainly won't struggle for examples.

We'd love to hear how you celebrated International Women's Day/Month. Please send us an email at clbeditors@gmail.com - we'll try to include some of the responses in the next edition. Do you have any photos from the day? Even better – we'd love to see them too.

Finally, thank you to the wonderful women who gave their time to be featured, and to the Young Lawyers who conducted the interviews. Happy reading!

Always,

Ashleigh and Eli

MCCALLUM JA: I would answer that question by repeating a comment made by one of my colleagues after the ceremonial sitting to welcome the Honourable Justice Jacqueline Gleeson to the High Court, just a week before International Women's Day this year. It was a very warm occasion and the courtroom was brimming with excitement about Justice Gleeson's appointment. The remark my colleague made when we were driving back to Sydney was that, for the many women who attended the ceremony, the mood in the courtroom was joyful and welcoming. That might not sound particularly surprising, but her point was that, unlike the position, say, twenty years ago, we did not feel as though we were intruding on the hallowed ground usually occupied by men. It felt perfectly natural to be celebrating the appointment of a female judge

to the High Court in the presence of a crowd of senior judges and practitioners, many of whom just happened to be women.

FEHRENBACH: What important developments do you see as being on the horizon for the communications and media legal landscape?

MCCALLUM JA: The Uniform Defamation Law has recently been the subject of a significant overhaul led by the NSW Attorney General, Mark Speakman. Probably the most significant change from the point of view of the media is the proposed introduction of a defence of publication of matter concerning an issue of public interest. A source of frustration for journalists over the years has been the difficulty of establishing a defence of qualified privilege for a mass media publication, owing to the difficulty of proving reciprocity

of duty and interest as required to establish the defence at common law. Section 30 of the *Defamation Act 2005* was intended to extend the defence to circumstances where that reciprocity did not exist but was largely unsuccessful, partly due to a hard-line approach to the question whether the journalist had acted reasonably. The statutory defence thus failed to provide the protection anticipated. It will be interesting to see what difference the new defence makes.

FEHRENBACH: What energises you about your work?

MCCALLUM JA: I think what I love most about the work of a judge, and what gets me out of bed in the morning, is having the intellectual freedom to write what I consider to be the just outcome (according to law), rather than being paid, as barristers are, to adopt one or