



REBECCA HUGHES

Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice – College of Law, Melbourne
Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Laws (Honours) - The University of Melbourne
Diploma of Modern Languages (French) – University of Melbourne

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Admitted to the legal profession
2009

Admitted as a barrister in NSW
2025

Also entitled to practise in
Australian jurisdictions (Commonwealth,
State and Territory)

Rebecca practices widely in commercial and public law.

Prior to commencing at the bar, Rebecca was a Senior Associate at Ashurst, working in environmental, property, planning, native title and aboriginal cultural heritage matters, with a significant litigation practice.

Rebecca has a particular interest in indigenous land and cultural heritage law and has been recognised as a “Native Title Rising Star” in Doyle’s Guide and as a “Leading Native Title Lawyers – Government & Traditional Owner Bodies”. Before rejoining Ashurst in 2017, Rebecca worked at the Northern Land Council in Darwin for several years, where she had carriage of both test case litigation and significant commercial negotiations.

Rebecca’s other professional experience includes inhouse roles working in statutory authorities, major private corporations and community legal centres.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **May 2017 – present:** Ashurst, Sydney. Senior Associate: May 2018 – present; Lawyer: May 2017 – May 2018
- **May 2013 – May 2017:** Northern Land Council – Darwin, Lawyer
- **Mar 2009 – Feb 2013:** Ashurst Melbourne, Lawyer
- **Jan 2012 – Jan 2013:** Telstra Corporation Limited (Secondment whilst at Ashurst), Legal Counsel Network Department
- **Jul 2011 – Dec 2011:** Civil Section of the Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency - NT Lawyer – Secondment whilst at Ashurst
- **2004 – 2008:** Melbourne Journal of International Law. Editor 2008, Assistant Editor 2007, General Member 2004–2006.

- **2007 – 2008:** University of Melbourne Editorial Assistant to PhD Candidates – Part time
- **2006 – 2008:** David O'Brien, Barrister-at-Law Legal Secretary – Part time

AWARDS OR PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Doyles Guide: Rising Star Native Title (2023)

Doyles Guide: Leading Native Title Lawyers – Government & Traditional Owner Bodies – Australia, 2017

John Madden Exhibition (2006) – for selection to the University of Melbourne Jessup Moot team

Melbourne University School of Languages Scholarship (2006) – for excellence in language study

Premier's Prize for Classical Societies and Cultures (2002) – for top 5 students per subject in the VCE

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2025: New South Wales Bar Association

2018 - present: St John's Community Services – Director

2014 – 2017: Northern Territory Red Cross International Humanitarian Law – Advisory Board Member

2013 – 2017: Melbourne University Law School Alumni Mentor Program – Mentor

PRINCIPAL AREAS OF PRACTICE

COMMERCIAL LAW

Administrative Law

Admiralty and Maritime

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Appellate

Contracts

Environment and Planning

International Law

Mining resources and energy

Real property

COMMON LAW

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Appellate

EQUITY

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Appellate

Property

PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Alternative Dispute resolution

Judicial review and administrative law

Native Title

Appellate

Merits review

Public law

Constitutional Law

INDUSTRIAL / EMPLOYMENT

Civil and Human Rights

Government Inquiries

SECTORS

Agribusiness

Government

Infrastructure and Transport

Primary Resources

Power and Utilities

Real Estate