



## Hayley Bennett

### Barrister, New Chambers

Hayley commenced practice as a barrister in 2009 and since that time has been involved in cases in a broad range of areas in both public and private domains. She further specializes in health law across jurisdictions, and has advised and appeared in areas including: Equity (testamentary capacity, knowledge and approval, undue influence, *inter vivos* property transfers; Family Provision: she is listed as recommended in the “*Doyles Guide of Leading Wills & Estates Litigation Barristers*”); Public law (health and legal professional discipline, high risk offender and forensic patient applications); Protective (guardianship, financial management, issues related to mental illness); and Coronial Inquests and other Commissions of Inquiry. She also accepts briefs in other jurisdictions where analysis of complex evidence, including expert evidence, is a central feature.

Hayley previously worked as a clinical and research neuropsychologist specialising in the cognitive and behavioural sequelae of neurological, psychiatric, and other medical and psychological disorders. Her qualifications in this area include a BA (Psychology honours), MA (Counselling), MSc (Neuropsychology), and PhD (Clinical Neuroscience). She also provided expert opinion to courts and tribunals where mental capacity and decision-making were in issue and sat on the Guardianship Tribunal of NSW (as it then was). Hayley has published and lectured in these areas, as well as more recently in the area of judicial decision-making and its neurobiological underpinnings.

Whilst working as a research neuroscientist at Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute (now Neuroscience Research Australia), Hayley decided she would like to practice as a barrister and in 2003 commenced a law degree at the University of NSW. In 2007 she worked as Tipstaff to Justice David Kirby of the Supreme Court of NSW, and in 2008 graduated from the law degree with first class honours.

Hayley maintains academic and research interests in neuroscience within law, and has been invited to speak to judges, magistrates, commissioners and tribunal members about the interface between neuroscience and the law in general, and judicial neurobiology and decision making in particular. She has also been invited to speak to legal and health practitioners about ethical decision making, expert evidence, and Succession and Health Law.



During her time as a barrister, Hayley has been a member of the NSW Bar Association Bar Examination Working Committee (2010-2017), has represented the NSW Bar Association on a Working Party of the Motor Accidents Authority (2011-2012), and has been a Mentor with the NSW Bar Association's Mentoring Program (2016-2017). Hayley is currently a Research Affiliate with the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney (Adjunct Senior Lecturer 2015-2019, Research Affiliate since 2020), and is an Honorary Research Scientist with Neuroscience Research Australia (since 2017, ongoing affiliation since 2009).



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