

About our Presenter

Melissa Fenton

Melissa Fenton is a partner in Colin Biggers & Paisley's insurance practice.

Melissa has been a litigation lawyer for over 25 years and has extensive experience in litigation and dispute resolution, in professional indemnity and general liability claims acting for insurers and professionals in a variety of different fields.

She has experience in defending both large-scale litigation and small claim matters, acting for an array of professionals, including barristers and solicitors, financial advisers, auditors and accountants, as well as general liability claims against builders, contractors, retailers and occupiers of commercial premises.

Melissa advises insurers in respect of policy interpretation issues and has acted for major insurers in coverage disputes involving directors and officers and other professionals.

She regularly lectures and presents training seminars to clients (both insurers and insureds) on risk management, as well as specific insurance-related issues, including policy interpretation, the Insurance Contracts Act 1984 and claims management generally.

In 2014-15 and 2016-2022, Melissa was listed in The Best Lawyers in Australia for insurance law and was identified as a leading personal injury litigation lawyer in 2020-2022. In 2019, She was recognised in Doyle's Guide as a leading professional indemnity lawyer (defendant insurance) in NSW. She won the Mondaq Top Communicator Award for the most popular article in Australia for the month of August 2015.

In 2017, Melissa won the Partner of the Year Award at the Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Awards and was a finalist in 2018 and 2019. In 2021, Melissa was a finalist in the Women in Law Awards for the Mentor of the Year Award.

Melissa was admitted to the Federal Court, the High Court of Australia and the ACT Supreme Court in 1997. In 2002, she was admitted to the NSW Supreme Court. Melissa joined Colin Biggers & Paisley in 2004 and became a partner in January 2013. Melissa is a member of the Law Society of NSW, Australian Insurance Law Association, Women Lawyers Association of NSW and Women in Insurance.