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Chantal Nguyen

Chantal is an advocate with extensive experience across commercial litigation, public law, and criminal law, regularly advising and appearing unled in an extensive range of cases.

Before joining the Bar, Chantal was a commercial litigator and environment and planning solicitor at Corrs Chambers Westgarth, a Principal Federal Prosecutor, and the UNSW Human Rights Fellow to Legal Aid.

She was the Associate to Justices Jagot, Griffiths, and Bromwich of the Federal Court of Australia, and has also represented Australia before the United Nations.

ADMISSION & MEMBERSHIPS

2021	Barrister, NSW Bar
2013	Solicitor, High Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of NSW

EDUCATION

2012	Bachelor of Laws (Hons) / Arts (Politics & International Relations) – UNSW
2011	Bachelor of Laws / Civil Laws (exchange) – McGill University, Montréal

SELECTED CASES AS COUNSEL

Commercial matters

Foulsham & Ors v Demetris & Ors (2026, FCA, settled & discontinued against the respondents)
Unled for the fifth and sixth respondents in complex Federal Court proceedings involving multiple financial advisers and financial services licensees, concerning alleged breaches of financial services laws and multimillion-dollar claims arising from sophisticated derivatives trading.

STM123 No. 16 Pty Ltd v Wang [2025] NSWSC 444
Unled for the successful plaintiff in a precedent case concerning the appropriate date for assessment of damages for breach of contract concerning the sale of luxury property.

Hammond v Royal NSW Canine Council Ltd (2024, NSWSC, settled & discontinued against the defendant)
Unled for the defendant in Supreme Court proceedings concerning clubs and associations law.

Piggott & Anor v Hunt & SJH Hospitality Fund (2024, NSWSC, settled & discontinued against the defendants)

Unled for the defendants in proceedings concerning allegations of misleading and deceptive conduct.

Singh v Tidball [2023] NSWSC 613; *Singh v Sharma* [2023] NSWSC 551; *Singh v Singh* [2023] NSWSC 280

Unled for the successful defendants in significant multi-party Supreme Court litigation involving challenges to NCAT decisions and proceedings against senior government officials, securing summary dismissal of the proceedings in their entirety as frivolous and vexatious, with costs awarded against the plaintiff.

TMA Australia Pty Limited v 100% Bottling Company [2023] NSWDC 231

Led by E Ball for the successful defendant in complex commercial litigation concerning manufacturing supply contracts and allegations of fabricated documentary evidence. The contested hearing involved forensic examination of electronic communications and witness credibility, securing dismissal of the proceedings with costs.

Sydney Light Rail Project (settled, 2022)

Led by R M Smith SC and D Hughes for the successful D&C joint venturer in a complex expert determination concerning the delivery of major public infrastructure.

Tomanovic Multiown Pty Ltd v Interlux Projects Pty Ltd [2022] NSWCA 38

Led by E Ball for the successful respondents in a stay application concerning gross sum costs orders.

Re matters of Transitory Persons under the Migration Act concerning claims against the Commonwealth relating to regional processing arrangements in Nauru and Papua New Guinea (ongoing)

Led by G Johnson SC and P Knowles SC in a cohort of complex cross-jurisdictional tort claims.

Public law / regulatory matters

Mudgee District Environment Group Incorporated v Ulan Coal Mines Pty Ltd & Anor (2025)

Led by M Hall SC for the successful applicant in high-profile environmental public interest litigation, challenging Glencore's expansion of the Ulan coal mine on climate change, biodiversity and planning law grounds. The respondents conceded the proceedings in their entirety and agreed to pay costs.

Tamer v Parole Authority of NSW [2024] NSWSC 1152

Unled for the successful defendant in administrative law proceedings challenging a parole decision.

Alexander Ramsay & Anor v The Minister administering the Water Management Act 2000*; David Ramsay v The Minister administering the* Water Management Act 2000 (settled)

Led by C Lenehan SC and N Sharp SC in judicial review proceedings concerning the floodplain harvesting scheme under the *Water Management Act 2000* (NSW).

Mineralogy Pty Ltd v Australian Securities and Investments Commission [2021] FCA 996

Led by J Giles SC for the successful respondent, in proceedings involving justiciable controversy.

Criminal matters

Secretary, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water v Dalton [2026] NSWLEC 138

Led by B Nield SC for the prosecution of environmental offences concerning the unlawful clearing of 944 hectares of native vegetation using fire, accelerant, and machinery.

Al-Saify v R (2024, District Court)

Unled for the successful appellant in a theft matter, obtaining a 70% reduction in compensation orders.

Department of Education v Kids Kinder & Jaroudi (2024, unreported)

Unled for the Department. High-profile proceedings proving systemic abuse in a childcare centre. Obtained a record penalty for offences of this kind.

R v Sanchez (2023, District Court)

Unled for the defendant, securing an acquittal following a month-long grievous bodily harm trial involving expert medical evidence, the admissibility of downloads, and coercive control allegations.

R v Lipovac [2022] NSWDC 649

Led by M Thangaraj SC for the offender in a sentencing hearing for attempt to possess a commercial quantity of a border-controlled drug (351 kilograms of MDMA) and deal with proceeds of crime. NPP 4 years.

R v Dingwall [2022] NSWDC 87

Led by M Thangaraj SC for the offender. Sentence for supplying 258 times the marketable quantity of ketamine. Released on recognisance.

SOLICITOR EXPERIENCE

2016 – 2021 **A/Principal & Snr Federal Prosecutor**, Commonwealth DPP

- Appeared unled against Senior and Junior Counsel in Supreme, District, and Local Court trials and sentencing hearings.
- Practice groups: human exploitation and border protection (including all Cth drug and proceeds of crime offences); commercial, financial and corruption; revenue and benefits fraud.

2015 – 2016 **Judge's Associate**, Federal Court of Australia

- 2016 Executive Associate to **Justice Jayne Jagot**.
- 2016 Founding Associate to **Justice Robert Bromwich**.
- 2015 Associate to **Justice John Griffiths** (then National Coordinating Judge of the Court's "Administrative and Constitutional Law and Human Rights" National Practice Area).

2012 – 14 **Lawyer**, Corrs Chambers Westgarth

- Practice groups: Commercial, Environment & Planning.
- Notable matters:
    - $8b Green Square urban renewal;
    - $77m Green Square Consortium planning agreement;
    - Australian Turf Club and Transport for NSW development agreement;
    - Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;
    - NBN rollout.

2013 – 14 **UNSW Human Rights Fellow**, Legal Aid NSW

- Supreme Court torts, NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal claims, Mental Health Review Tribunal reviews, Anti-Discrimination Board conciliations.

2012 **Assistant Policy Adviser**, DFAT, Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland

- Appeared for Australia before the:
  - UN Human Rights Council;
  - Committee on the Rights of the Child;
  - Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
  - International Telecommunication Union;
  - Executive Committee of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees;
  - Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat.
- Negotiated unled for the resolutions on Migrants, Arbitrary Detention, Right to Nationality, Trafficking in Persons, and Internally Displaced Persons.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS / PAPERS

'International Women's Day and equitable briefing' (Speech presented at the Wotton + Kearney International Women's Day Event, Sydney, 8 March 2023).

'Cybercrime offences' and 'Cybercrime powers: s 3LA of the *Crimes Act 1914* (Cth)' (Paper presented at the Australian Federal Police Tier Two Cybercrime Course, Canberra, 1 May 2017).

'UN Special Procedures' (Training presented at the 2014 Regional Capacity Building Program on Human Rights Advocacy and Migrant Workers in the Middle East and North Africa, Kuwait City, 30 November 2014).

With Dr Louise Camenzuli, 'Recent developments in environmental penalties: Is NSW headed towards the US model?' (Paper presented at the 2014 Environmental & Planning Law Association Conference, Sydney, 13 November 2014).

'Statement for the clustered interactive dialogue with the working group on the issue of discrimination against women in the law and in practice' (Australian statement to the 20th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva, 21 June 2012).

RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Justice John Griffiths, 'Some ethical issues for legal practitioners' (Paper presented at the College of Law Judges' Series, Banco Court, Sydney, 19 November 2015).

Justice John Griffiths, 'Application of the Australian Commercial Law to government commercial activities' [2015] (September) Commercial Law Quarterly, 3.

Christine Covington, 'Voluntary planning agreements for property lawyers' (Paper presented at the Property Law Update, CLE Series, UNSW, 18 September 2014).

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the British Red Cross, Lauterpacht Centre for International Law, University of Cambridge, 'Australia' and 'New Zealand' in the Customary International Humanitarian Law Database (ICRC, April and June 2014);
Winner: American Society of International Law 2015 Jus Gentium Research Award.

Prof. Sarah Williams, Hybrid and internationalised criminal tribunals: selected jurisdictional issues (Hart Publishing, Oxford, 2012).

OTHER

2018 – Present **Lead dance critic –** Sydney Morning Herald
Opera / classical music / theatre journalist and critic – The Saturday Paper, Bachtrack, CutCommon Magazine

Winner: CutCommon Inaugural Young Arts Critic Mentorship Award.