

Kassie James

The Tasmanian President of APLA is a 32-year-old barrister and solicitor with extensive experience in acting for injured workers and road accident victims in this state.

Kassie James was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Tasmania in 1994. She started work with a leading defendant firm but soon scurried from there to the Commonwealth where she prosecuted harmless social security fraudsters.

It was not long before she moved to Jennings Elliott – a firm with a strong union referral base. Despite her early conditioning by the defendants, she had no difficulty in understanding that pain is a multifactorial experience and that merely because an orthopaedic surgeon could not explain a plaintiff's symptoms by a laying on of hands did not make her client a malingerer. In 1999 Kassie moved to Phillips Taglieri, another well-known plaintiff practice in Hobart, and was soon made a partner.

Working as both a barrister and solicitor, Kassie particularly relishes the challenge of appearing in court. The decision of the Full Court of the Tasmanian Supreme Court in *Clark v The State of Tasmania* where she won 3-0 was a high point. Special leave was refused by the High Court (apparently losing 3-0 to a young female was not considered a ground for the grant of special leave!)

“Kassie’s commitment to injured workers has come to the fore with her election as State President.”

Kassie is recognised as having considerable knowledge of medical matters that comes from detailed research. At last year’s APLA conference she presented an informative and well-researched paper on issues of medical causation in respect of low back pain.

Kassie’s commitment to injured workers has come to the fore with her election as State President as she has spearheaded an attempt to reverse recent changes to the full availability of common law remedies to injured workers. This fight will be a long one, and we can be sure that Kassie will provide leadership and energy throughout.

On the home front, Kassie is married to a genial, easygoing entrepreneur with his own successful business. They have two badly behaved



Staffordshire bull terriers. Recently she has been bitten by the golf bug and tells me that in being measured for her clubs it was found that she needed an extra thick grip!

Kassie has been a keen attendee at APLA conferences. While she may have been missed at the occasional lecture she assures me she read the conference papers by the pool and her diligence in assisting in a proper and reasonable consumption of red wine has never been in doubt.

With the APLA conference in Hobart this year it will give members a chance to be surprised by how good Hobart’s weather is. It will also present an opportunity to meet the Tasmanian President. Those who take that opportunity will be impressed by her friendly nature and excellent grasp, not only of the law, but also of the social issues that confront those persons unfortunate enough to have suffered injury. **PL**

APLA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2002

Hotel Grand Chancellor • Hobart

Why APLA members love this event . . .

"It's the only conference I go to where I actually look forward to attending the sessions. I love catching up with interstate colleagues, putting faces to names."

Pat Worthby, Snedden Hall Gallop, ACT

"The conference motivates me. Acting for plaintiffs is demanding and draining, particularly at present when plaintiff lawyers are being made to feel personally responsible for the financial ruin of the nation. Meeting with my colleagues at the conference gives me energy (after I have caught up on sleep)."

Kassie James, Phillips Taglieri, Tasmania

"Past conferences have given me the following: a number of heavy folders; a backache from carrying them around; sunburn; inferiority complex; a knowledge of Golf Course Architecture; an understanding of the fallibility of Hotel pens; a handful of bad jokes; a dance with Jane Staley; a partial comprehension of Queenslanders (I think) and five APLA tee shirts."

Geoff Coates, Ryan Carlisle Thomas, Vic

"I always look forward to the APLA National Conference. It's a great chance to have a refreshing break from the office while learning lots of useful things. I always come away from the conference with a renewed sense of the worth of plaintiff practice. And going south to Tassie this year should be lots of fun."

Allison Robertson, Maurice Blackburn Cashman, NSW

THOMSON
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We would like to thank LawBook Co for their support

apla Diary

10 October 2002

NSW Litigation at Sunset

"AMA Guides" presented

by Professor Peter Disler

Offices of IPAC Securities, Sydney

ENQUIRIES: lbalchin@apla.com.au

17-20 October 2002

APLA National Conference 2002

Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart TAS

ENQUIRIES: tdickson@apla.com.au

23 October 2002

VIC Litigation at Sunrise

Medical Negligence Workshop

Metropolitan Hotel, Melbourne

ENQUIRIES: lbalchin@apla.com.au

26 October 2002

December Plaintiff Copy Deadline

Theme: Health Law

CONTRIBUTIONS: lhayward@apla.com.au

21 December 2002

February Plaintiff Copy Deadline

Theme: Damages

CONTRIBUTIONS: lhayward@apla.com.au

7-8 February 2003

Queensland State Conference

Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove

ENQUIRIES: tdickson@apla.com.au

14-15 March 2003

NSW State Conference

Manly Pacific Parkroyal

ENQUIRIES: tdickson@apla.com.au

Every effort will be made to keep to the descriptions above, however, some changes may occur. Please contact APLA for more information on any of the events listed on **PHONE (02) 9698 1700.**