



in conjunction with:



invites you to attend a seminar

## **WOMEN AT THE BAR – BE PASSIONATE AND HOLD YOUR NERVE**

*A discussion of the benefits, privileges and tribulations for women practising at the bar*

**Presented by:**

**Fiona McLeod SC**

President of the Australian Bar Association

**Raelene Webb QC**

President of the Native Title Tribunal

**Jane Needham SC**

President of the Bar Association of New South Wales

Where: Salamanca Inn, 10 Gladstone Street, Hobart  
When: 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015  
Cost: Free

RSVP: Ms Kate Cuthbertson, Tasmanian Bar

NOTE: Places are strictly limited and it is essential to reserve a place

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### **The Tasmanian Bar**

(A member of the Australian Bar Association  
and the Law Council of Australia)

c/- Malthouse Chambers  
119 Hampden Road | P.O. Box 20, Battery Point TAS 7004  
DX 160, Hobart  
Ph: 03-6223 3844 Fax: 03-6223 5466  
Email: [tamara@tasmanianbar.com.au](mailto:tamara@tasmanianbar.com.au)  
Website: [www.tasmanianbar.com.au](http://www.tasmanianbar.com.au)

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKERS:**

### **Fiona McLeod SC**

Fiona is a Senior Counsel at the Victorian Bar practising in the areas of human rights, commercial, common law and administrative law. She signed the bar roll in 1991 and was appointed SC in 2003. Fiona is currently the President of the Australian Bar Association and the Treasurer of the Law Council of Australia. She is a former Chair of the Victorian Bar.

Fiona appears regularly in the Supreme Court of Victoria and the Federal Court of Australia in trials including jury trials and appeals. She led the Commonwealth legal team in the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry, the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission and currently the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sex Abuse. She led the class action concerning the Murrindindi bushfires of Black Saturday settled recently for \$300M.

Fiona has worked on developing policy for women and human rights over the last 20 years including submissions on equal opportunity, pay equity and maternity leave. She was President of Australian Women Lawyers and a founding member, then convenor, of the Victorian Bar Women Barristers Association.

Last year she launched the Victorian Bar Quantum Leap Project last year and oversaw the Law Council National Attrition Study.

She acts for victims of human trafficking and was awarded an inaugural Australian government Anti-Slavery Freedom Award and a number of pro bono awards in recognition of this work. Last year Fiona was appointed to the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

### **Raelene Webb QC**

Ms Raelene Webb QC holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physics from the University of Adelaide and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland. She was admitted to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory and the High Court of Australia in 1992. In 2004, she was appointed Queens Counsel. Prior to her five year appointment on 1 April 2013 by the Attorney General, as President of the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT), Raelene was named as one of the leading native title silks in Australia. She has appeared as lead counsel in many native title and Aboriginal land matters and has advised upon and appeared in the High Court in most land-mark cases on the judicial interpretation and development of native title/Aboriginal land law since the decision of *Mabo v Queensland (No 2)*.

Raelene became a fellow of the Australian Academy of Law in August 2013 and delivered the Annual Richard Cooper Memorial Lecture at the TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland, at the end of September 2013. She was a recipient of the 2014 Law Council of Australia President's Medal, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the legal profession in Australia. Raelene is in great demand as a public speaker on a range of topics, native title matters especially, and has presented or chaired sessions at various conferences throughout Australia and internationally, including at the Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty held in Washington DC in March 2015. In April Raelene gave a number of public lectures at Canadian universities and was a guest speaker at the University of Northern British Columbia's Global Fridays Speakers Series.

### **Jane Needham SC**

Jane Needham SC is the current President of the NSW Bar Association. She is its third woman president, and the first to serve with children. She was appointed Senior Counsel in 2004 at the age of 42 and has practised extensively in Equity, Succession, Administrative, Trusts and Estate law. She provides advice on succession planning to some of Australia's wealthiest families as well as representing public housing tenants on legal in administrative law appeals. Currently she is briefed by the Truth, Justice and Healing Council in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Jane is currently leading the NSW Bar through its response to the NARS report of 2014. She chairs its NARS Response working party, and is working on a revitalisation of the Equitable Briefing Policy to bring to the Law Council of Australia. Under her leadership the NSW Bar Equal Opportunity Committee has developed Best Practice Guidelines for adoption by chambers of procedures in relation to Sexual Harassment, Bullying, Discrimination, Grievance Handling, and flexible working frameworks for those on parenting or other leave. She has liaised with the Courts operating in NSW to achieve recognition of family and carer responsibilities as a factor in setting predictable sitting hours.

As Jane is one of the few people who were appointed silk whilst practising part-time, she has a goal to make flexible work a more achievable and attractive option for people coming to the Bar.

Jane was named Senior Barrister of the Year in 2013 by *Lawyers Weekly* and one of the AFR/Westpac Women of Influence in 2014.