

LEE – MAY SAW

Barrister

FREDERICK JORDAN CHAMBERS

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Lee-May has developed a solid practice acting for both individuals and corporations in environment and planning law, family law, common law, personal injury, succession and family provision matters.

Regularly briefed in a broad spectrum of cases concerning family law and child protection, Lee-May skilfully appears in matters relating to separating couples, State protection cases where the Department of Community Services is involved, parenting and adoption cases, and in complex property cases, including where the assets in question are overseas. Notably, she has particular expertise in family law cases where there is a challenge to expert evidence on the grounds of cultural bias.

The depth and breadth of Lee-May's planning and environment practice extends to acting for Chinese property developers expanding their portfolios in Australia, and her fluency in the Mandarin, Cantonese and Hokkien languages is highly advantageous in such matters. In addition to her representation of clients in Federal and State jurisdictions, Lee-May also provides effective representation at conciliation and at mediations.

Lee-May has developed a niche practice where challenging issues of cultural diversity arise and is an emerging leader in law and policy developing test case litigation. She has a special interest in diversity in the legal profession, the quality provision of legal services, and quality access to justice. She regularly delivers presentations on Women in Leadership in the legal profession and has an extensive list of notable present and past appointments and memberships.

Prior to being called to the Bar, Lee-May practised as a solicitor advocate in private practice and at community legal centres. She graduated from the University of New South Wales with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts.

ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE

- 2010 Admitted to the Bar of New South Wales
- 2005 Admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- 2005 Bachelor of Laws: University of New South Wales
- 2005 Bachelor of Arts: University of New South Wales

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PRINCIPAL AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Common Law, Personal Injury and Medical Negligence
- Environment, Local Government and Planning
- Family Law, Matrimonial Property, Child Welfare and Adoption
- Succession and Family Provision

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2013 – present Barrister, Frederick Jordan Chambers
- 2012 16 Wardell Chambers
- 2010 – 2011 Martin Place Chambers
- 2009 JPM Legal (formerly Meehan Legal)
- 2007 Solicitor in Charge, Family Law and Care and Protection Division
- 2006 – 2007 Solicitor, Women’s Legal Resource Centre

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS

- Member, New South Wales Bar Association
- Member, Diversity and Equality Committee, New South Wales Bar Association
- Vice President and Director for NSW, Australia Women Lawyers
- Immediate Past President, Women Lawyers’ Association of NSW
- Member, Asian Australian Lawyers Association
- Member, Law Council of Australia Family Law Section
- Member, Planning and Environmental Law Association
- Member, City of Sydney Law Society

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Lee-May regularly delivers presentations on Women in Leadership and diversity in the legal profession

SELECT CASES

2016

- *Pigott & Pigott* (Family Court application before Rees J to have a solicitor dismissed on grounds of conflict of interest)

2015

- *Brindley v Parramatta City Council* [2015] NSWLEC 1160 (Motion for costs for Land and Environment Court Class 1 Appeal challenging principles of confidentiality for the purposes of costs for conciliation conferences under section 34 of the Land and Environment Court Act 1979 (NSW))
- *JS & Secretary Department of Community Services* (Children’s Court hearing of s90 application in relation to orders made in District Court decision of *S v Department of Family and Community Services*)
- *Gillard & Gillard* [2015] FamCAFC 169 (Family Court Full Court appeal hearing of decision in *Gillard & Gillard* [2015] FamCA 18)

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- *In the matter of Molina Grozdanovic and Nikolas Miladinovic* (Children’s Court proceedings before Johnstone DCJ President of the Children’s Court involving issues of the children’s Serbian ethnic and Serbian Orthodox religious culture)
- *Thayer & Caville and Ors* [2015] FamCA 777 (Family Court hearing involving application for equal shared parental responsibility of Indigenous children by maternal great grandmother and maternal aunt as “kin mothers”, issues of ethnocentric cultural bias in expert evidence, paternal DNA issues, severe mental illness of mother, and family violence)
- *Keh-Sesay v Department of Family and Community Services* (District Court appeal hearing before DCJ Maiden of care and protection proceedings addressing section 106A of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (NSW), ethnocentric cultural bias in expert evidence, and child’s Sierra Leonean cultural background)
- *SL v Secretary, Department of Family and Community Services* [2016] NSWCA 124 (Supreme Court Court of Appeal hearing of application under section 69 of the *Supreme Court Act 1970* (NSW) for relief or remedy in the nature of a writ of certiorari)

2014

- *JS v Secretary, Department of Family and Community Services* [2014] NSWCA 441 (Supreme Court Court of Appeal hearing of application under section 69 of the *Supreme Court Act 1970* (NSW) for relief or remedy in the nature of a writ of certiorari)

2013

- *In the matter of Max Trestain* (Children’s Court hearing before Russell CM of notification of breach brought by Crown Solicitor’s Office issues of complex medical evidence relating to Lyme disease and Morgellan’s syndrome / whether a s90 application or notification of breach is the correct pathway for the matter to be dealt with)
- *In the matter of Maalik Boakye-Yiadom* (Children’s Court hearing before Keogh CM involving non-accidental injury and issues of acceptable / unacceptable risk of harm in circumstances where baby suffered from severe head injuries while thrown by the mother during an epileptic fit)
- *Gillard & Gillard* [2015] FamCA 18 (Family Court Magellan parenting matter final hearing involving the principle in *In the Marriage of Rice and Asplund* (1978) 6 Fam LR 570 on variation of previous parenting orders, and the new definition of “family violence” under the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth))
- *Jenkins v Clarence Valley Council* (Land and Environment Court Class 1 Appeal involving the definition of “dwelling house” as it applies to a 12 bedroom extension to an existing heritage dwelling, proposed as a domicile for the applicant and his extended family and foster children and the care of the applicant and his wife)
- *Lander and Boakye-Yiadom v Director General of NSW Department of Family and Community Services* (District Court appeal before DCJ Olsson of Children’s Court decision)

2011

- *Coleman v Scern; Dunn v Scern* [2011] NSWLEC 1146 (Class 2 hearing first matter under amendments to *Trees (Disputes Between Neighbours) Act 2006* (NSW) involving joint applicants and application against the occupier)

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2010

- *Director General of NSW Department of Education v Mary Anne Castle and Reginald Castle* (Children's Court application before Russell CM for Compulsory Schooling Order under Education Act 1990 (NSW), one of the first applications made under new legislation)
- *Director General of NSW Department of Education v Kichelle Harding* (Children's Court application before Russell CM for Compulsory Schooling Order under Education Act 1990 (NSW), one of the first applications made under new legislation)
- *Director General of NSW Department of Education v Shane Hough* (Children's Court application before Russell CM for Compulsory Schooling Order under Education Act 1990 (NSW), one of the first applications made under new legislation)
- *Director General of NSW Department of Education v Charmaine King* (Children's Court application before Russell CM for Compulsory Schooling Order under Education Act 1990 (NSW), one of the first applications made under new legislation)