

ZAINA SHAHNAWAZ

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QUALIFICATIONS

New South Wales Bar exams, passed	2016
New York Bar exams, passed	2013
Masters of Law (Environmental Law) <i>New York University School of Law, New York NY</i>	2013
Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (with Merit) <i>Australian National University, Canberra ACT</i>	2007
Bachelor of Laws (Hons), Bachelor of Arts (English) <i>The University of Sydney, Sydney NSW</i>	2006

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Third Floor St James' Hall Chambers *Barrister*

- District Court jury trials; summary criminal matters in Local Court and Land and Environment Court.
- Briefed to advise and appear by Commonwealth DPP, Department of Planning & Environment, Environment Protection Authority, NSW Fair Trading, Legal Aid, defence firms.
- Regularly advise on appeal prospects to the NSWCCA on questions of law and severity of sentence.
- Criminal matters include fraud, tax offences, offences of violence, sexual assault, telecommunications offences, drugs, proceeds of crime, robbery, firearms offences and regulatory prosecutions.
- Civil matters include judicial review proceedings for asylum seekers in the Federal Court, general commercial matters in Supreme Court.
- Regularly participate in pro-bono duty barrister scheme at Downing Centre criminal courts.

Office of Environment and Heritage, Sydney *Senior Lawyer & Lawyer*

November 2013–April 2016

- Regularly appeared in the Land and Environment Court and Local Court for prosecutions under environmental protection legislation
- Matters include: illegal transport and dumping of waste, land and water pollution, clearing native vegetation, damage to threatened species habitat and to endangered ecological communities.
- Advised on investigations, evidence, powers and offences for the Environment Protection Authority, the Office of Environment and Heritage and the National Parks & Wildlife Service.
- Obtained and settled expert evidence including in toxicology, lubricant / chemical manufacture, site sampling, ecology / vegetation, aerial photograph interpretation, and environmental harm.

- Consulted with state-owned corporations and public authorities on allegations of environmental offences.

Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, Sydney

January 2010–April 2012

Federal Prosecutor

- Prosecuted offences primarily for major drug and precursor importations and fraud.
- Appeared in first instance and appellate courts, instructed counsel in complex trials. Unled court work includes conducting local court hearings and sentences, appeals against severity of sentence, fresh charges, contested committals. Trial work (instructing counsel) includes drug and precursor importations.
- Assessed briefs of evidence from investigative agencies including the Australian Federal Police, Customs and Border Protection, Medicare and Centrelink for the commencement of prosecutions.
- Researched and advised on complex legal and evidentiary issues.
- Assistant Liaison Officer, Department of Corrective Services (2011); Assistant Liaison Officer, Australian Fisheries Management Authority (2012).

Judicial Commission of New South Wales, Sydney

April 2009–December 2009

Senior Legal Editor

- Wrote amendments to the Judges' Bench Book on evidence law following introduction of the *Evidence Act 2007* (Civil Trials Bench Book).
- Monitored all superior courts of record decisions and updated Bench Books as needed.
- Wrote case reports of decisions of the New South Wales Court of Appeal and the High Court of Australia for publication and distribution to all members of the judiciary in NSW.

Commonwealth Attorney-Generals Department, Canberra

February 2007–March 2009

Graduate program (2007); Lawyer, International Crime Co-operation Division

- Provided assistance in criminal matters to foreign governments made under bilateral or multilateral treaties.
- Advised foreign governments and law enforcement on mutual assistance and powers under Australian law.
- Wrote submissions to the Attorney-General/Minister recommending international crime co-operation.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Author, Thomson Reuters *Environmental Responsibilities and Law Service* (2015–current)

OEH and EPA Young Professionals Network Committee (Committee Chair 2014/2015, Social Chair 2015/2016)

Research Associate, Guarini Center for Environmental and Land Use Law, New York (2013)

Clinic Associate, Independent Diplomat, New York (2012–2013)

Environmental Law Journal (USA) (2013)

Reporter, New South Wales Law Reports (2011–12).