

SARAH CARTLEDGE

Year of call - 2011

DIRECT CONTACT DETAILS:

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CHAMBERS MANAGER/RECEPTION DETAILS:

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AREAS OF PRACTICE

Criminal Law
Work Health and Safety Law
Regulatory Prosecutions
Disciplinary Proceedings
Appellate
Commissions of Inquiry
Inquests

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Laws, Queensland University of Technology, 2006
Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, College of Law, 2007
Admitted to the Supreme Court as a Legal Practitioner, 2007
Bar Practice Course, Queensland Bar Association, 2011
First called to the Bar, 2011
Bachelor of Biomedical Science, Queensland University of Technology, 2017

CAREER HISTORY

Sarah was first called to the Bar in 2011. She practices in criminal law at trial and appellate level and appears in regulatory matters, with a special interest in work, health and safety prosecutions.

Sarah's career commenced working for the State DPP as a Crown Prosecutor running trials since 2011 and complex legal arguments in matters ranging from property offences to serious violent offences. Having the unique perspective of conducting criminal trials as a Crown Prosecutor has assisted Sarah in approaching defence cases with a balanced view, able to pre-empt prosecution case theories and deficiencies. Since joining the private bar Sarah conducts trials for both the prosecution and defence, with experience in criminal jury trials spanning over 12 years.

Following work at the State DPP, Sarah worked in the Office of the Work, Health and Safety Prosecutor for five years, before joining the private bar. Sarah has extensive knowledge and experience in prosecuting and defending Work, Health and Safety matters and is frequently engaged to advise and appear on behalf of companies and individuals who have been charged following a death or serious injury at a workplace. Sarah is also regularly briefed by the Work, Health and Safety Prosecutor to advise on workplace incidents and appear on legal arguments and trials on industrial manslaughter, breaches of duties with reckless conduct as well as breaches exposing individuals to the risk of death or serious injury.

EST. 1997

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Additionally, Sarah appears in inquiries and inquests. In 2022, Sarah was Counsel representing the Queensland Police Service in relation to the Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland.

Work Health and Safety Cases of note: -

- R v Owen, Gympie District Court, 2022
 - Appearing as junior counsel for the Office of the Work, Health and Safety Prosecutor securing the first conviction against an individual for Industrial Manslaughter.
- Guilfoyle v W*, Southport Magistrates Court, 2019
 - Appearing as Counsel for the defendant in the first trial conducted alleging a failure by a director to comply with their due diligence.
 - The prosecution alleged a failure of a construction director to comply with their due diligence duties exposing an individual to a risk of death or serious injury.
 - Successfully submitted that the prosecution had no case to answer due to deficiencies in the particulars of the complaint resulting in the charge being dismissed.
- Guilfoyle v K*, Southport Magistrates Court, 2021
 - Appearing as Counsel for the defendant in a Work, Health and Safety prosecution alleging a failure of a towing company to comply with their primary duties which exposed an individual to a risk of death or serious injury.
 - Defendant found not guilty following argument that the prosecution evidence did not support the particulars alleged.
- Guilfoyle v PC*, Ipswich Magistrates Court, 2022
 - Appearing as Counsel for the defendant in a Work, Health and Safety prosecution alleging a failure by a processing company to comply with their primary duties which exposed an individual to a risk of death or serious injury.
 - Defendant found not guilty following argument that the defendant had minimised risk so far as was reasonably practicable in the circumstances they were presented with.

*Names de-identified.

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