



## Rachel Bernasconi

Partner

Sydney

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## Biography

### Practices & Sectors

International  
Employment Law

International Practice

Rachel Bernasconi is a partner of the Employment Law practice of Seyfarth Shaw in Australia, specialising in employment, labour law and discrimination matters. She works closely with large organisations, in relation to both blue-collar and white-collar workforces, to find solutions that meet their strategic aims whilst minimising their employment law risks.

Rachel has taken a lead role representing some of Australia's leading companies in their high-profile industrial disputes. She has also worked closely with large corporates, and government business enterprises to:

- Develop and implement strategic industrial arrangements and collective bargaining strategies
- Reduce industrial and legal risks associated with major business restructuring
- Manage and resolve complex industrial disputes and deal with industrial action
- Manage discrimination and sexual harassment complaints and proceedings
- Defend litigation in numerous Australian jurisdictions.

Most recently Rachel has: secured a termination of protected industrial action by Fair Work Commission on safety grounds; achieved a significant financial settlement for a client in respect of a breach of confidentiality by a former employee; and assisted a large corporate client navigate a difficult change management process without litigation by a highly militant union. Rachel also acted for Qantas in its much-publicised dispute with the Transport Workers' Union and subsequent contested workplace determination proceedings before the Fair Work Commission, in what was widely regarded as a comprehensive victory for Qantas.

Rachel's clients have described her as "magnificent: highly pragmatic and very commercial", "an excellent lawyer who gives digestible advice in a practical and structured form", and "a real standout lawyer". Rachel is recognised by *Chambers and Partners*, *Doyles Guide*, and *Best Lawyers*.

Rachel recently completed short courses in strategy and, management and negotiation at Harvard University.

## Education

- LL.B., University of Sydney (1998)
- B.Com., University of Sydney (1996)

## Admissions

- An Australian legal practitioner admitted in New South Wales (2000)

## Affiliations

- Law Society of New South Wales

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