

# DAMIEN ATKINSON

Year of call - 1995  
Year of silk - 2018

## DIRECT CONTACT DETAILS:

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## PERSONAL ASSISTANT DETAILS:

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Email: [rosasims@qldbar.asn.au](mailto:rosasims@qldbar.asn.au)

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## CAREER HISTORY

Damien studied Arts and Law at the University of Queensland. He completed a Masters of Law at Cambridge, where he was awarded First Class honours as well as the Lady Foundress' Prize for Pembroke College. He was admitted to the Bar in 1995 and became a Nationally Accredited Mediator in 2017 before taking silk in 2018.

His practice as counsel is varied, regularly appearing in commercial and construction matters in the state and federal courts, as well as acting for doctors, patients and hospitals in major medicolegal litigation, acting in commissions of inquiry and inquests and appearing in general legal disputes such as property and personal injuries matters. He also has a busy practice as a mediator and is regularly engaged in that role by the private and public sectors.

Damien is the Chair of the Human Rights Committee for the Bar Association of Queensland and Chair of the Youth Advocacy Centre, Brisbane. He is also a Board Member for the Medico-Legal Society of Queensland, and a Director of Micah Projects, a not-for-profit organisation committed to eliminating homelessness, domestic violence and social isolation.

He was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2019 and he lives with his family in West End, Brisbane.

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

Alternative Dispute Resolution  
Appellate  
Building and Construction  
Commercial  
Commissions of Inquiry  
Common Law  
Contract  
Disciplinary Proceedings  
Equity  
Family  
Government  
Human Rights  
Insurance  
Maritime  
Mediation  
Medical Negligence  
Personal injury  
Planning and Environment  
Professional liability  
Property  
Sport  
Wills and probate  
Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

# 35 WEST CHAMBERS

LEVEL 35 SANTOS PLACE, 32 TURBOT STREET, BRISBANE QLD 4000  
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## EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE (PEMBROKE COLLEGE)

1992 - 1993

Master of Law (First Class Honours)

Administrative Law; Intellectual Property;

Private Law/Political Theory; Restitution

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE

1984 - 1988

Bachelor of Law (Honours)

Bachelor of Arts

VILLANOVA COLLEGE, BRISBANE

1974 - 1982

Schooling

## PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Barrister of the High Court of Australia

Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland

Barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales

Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria

Solicitor of the High Court of England and Wales

Nationally Accredited Mediator

## EMPLOYMENT AT LAW

LEVEL 35 WEST CHAMBERS, 32 TURBOT STREET, BRISBANE

February 2021 – Present

Barrister

31 WEST CHAMBERS, 32 TURBOT STREET, BRISBANE

July 2010 – January 2021

Barrister

ELDON CHAMBERS, 239 GEORGE STREET, BRISBANE

July 1995 – June 2010

Barrister

SQUIRE & CO, SOLICITORS, LONDON

February 1994 - December 1994

Solicitor

ASHURST MORRIS CRISP, SOLICITORS, LONDON

October 1993 - February 1994

Paralegal

SLATER & GORDON, SOLICITORS, MELBOURNE

March 1990 - September 1992

Solicitor (including secondment to Pato Lawyers, PNG)

INJINOO ABORIGINAL COUNCIL, CAPE YORK, QUEENSLAND

February 1989 - January 1990

Legal Advisor

BAKER & MCKENZIE, SOLICITORS, SYDNEY

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December 1987 - February 1988  
Summer Clerk

## AWARDS AND PRIZES

2022 Year 7, Classical Guitar, Trinity College  
2019 Order of Australia Medal  
1999 Queensland Children's Lawyer of the Year  
1993 Lady Foundress' Prize for Law, Pembroke College, Cambridge  
1988 Lord Mayors Debating Shield, Brisbane  
1988 University of Queensland Law Society Moot Competition Finalist  
1981, 82, 84, 85 Dante Alighieri Society Verse Speaking Prize  
1982 Member of Queensland Schools Debating Team

## LANGUAGES SPOKEN

Italian  
Conversational Spanish

## RELEVANT CASES

Wilson v Gold Coast Health and Hospital  
Ok Tedi claim for Slater & Gordon, Papua New Guinea  
Counsel Assisting in the Patel Inquiry  
Regularly briefed by State of Queensland for inquests and medicolegal claims  
Appeared for Storm investors in Sherwood v Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
Appeared for Storm investors in Lee v Westpac Banking Corporation  
Appeared for Plaintiff in Sandvik v Dempsey  
Appeared for Brisbane Boys College in Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse  
Appeared for Commonwealth of Australia in Turner v Commonwealth of Australia and Barker v Commonwealth of Australia

## SPEECHES AND PUBLICATIONS

Keynote Speaker, Bar Dinner 2022 - <https://www.hearsay.org.au/annual-bar-dinner-2022/>  
Keynote Speaker, Silks Dinner 2018 - <https://www.hearsay.org.au/speech-to-silks-dinner/>  
State of Youth Justice, 2019 - <https://www.qlsproctor.com.au/2021/02/the-state-of-youth-justice/>

## ORGANISATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Present Vice President / Treasurer, Medico-Legal Society of Queensland  
Chair, Human Rights Committee, Bar Association Qld  
Chair, Youth Advocacy Centre, Brisbane (from 1995)  
Director, Micah Projects Pty Ltd, South Brisbane  
2018 President, All Hallows Debating PSG Committee  
2016-2019 Member, Chain Reaction (Queensland Chapter)  
2016 - Member, Order of St John of Jerusalem  
2007 Committee Member, Administrative Law Society Queensland  
2005 Counsel Assisting, Morris Commission of Inquiry, Queensland  
Counsel Assisting, Davies Commission of Inquiry, Queensland  
2004 Member, Queensland Government's Forde Inquiry Monitoring Group  
1999 Management Committee, Youth Arts Queensland  
1996 to 1998 Chair, Streets Arts Inc.  
1992 Volunteer, Fitzroy Legal Service, Melbourne  
1990 Member, Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council's Working Party on Amending the Community Services Legislation  
1988 Member, Law Faculty Board, University of Queensland  
1986 Secretary, Queensland Debating Union

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1984-86  
1984-86  
1982-83

Adjudicator, Queensland Debating Union  
Member, Australian Army Reserve, Queensland University Regiment, Corporal  
Member, Italo-Australia Association

## Interests

Classical guitar, running, reading, swimming, languages.

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