

LARA STEEL

BARRISTER

Curriculum Vitae



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Lara joined Richmond Chambers in February 2016 after three years in the litigation department of a major Auckland firm.

She has experience working on a wide range of general civil disputes, including construction, property, contractual and insurance matters.

Since her move to the independent bar, she has also assisted with defending a number of criminal matters in the District Court and has appeared in arbitral proceedings.

In addition, Lara has been involved with a number of regulatory investigations by the Commerce Commission, Serious Fraud Office, and Financial Markets Authority.

Since September 2016, Lara has been a Junior Representative on the New Zealand Bar Association Council and is a member of the NZBA Gender Equity and Junior Committees.

CAREER HISTORY

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| Jan 2018 to date | Barrister, Richmond Chambers, Auckland, New Zealand |
| Feb 2016 to Dec 2017 | Junior Barrister, Richmond Chambers, Auckland, New Zealand |
| Oct 2013 to Dec 2015 | Bell Gully, Auckland, New Zealand, Solicitor in Litigation Department |
| Feb to Sep 2013 | Bell Gully, Auckland, New Zealand, Law Clerk in Litigation Department |
| Jan to Feb 2012 | Bell Gully, Auckland, New Zealand, Summer Clerk in Litigation Department |
| Nov 2010 to Feb 2011 | Bell Gully, Auckland, New Zealand, Summer Clerk in Litigation, Property and Corporate Departments |
| 2011 to 2012 | Research Assistant, School of Business and Economics, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand |

NOTABLE CASES

Xiao v Sun [2018] NZHC 536. Acted for borrower as junior counsel in successful claim for relief and declarations that high interest loan agreements entered into with a lender at SkyCity Casino were illegal contracts under Part 2, subpart 5 of the Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017 and unenforceable and oppressive under the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003.

Ecostore Company Ltd v Worth (2017) 15 NZELR 93, [2017] NZHC 1480. As junior counsel, successful opposition to a strike-out application by the defendant in a case concerning the misuse of confidential information and the jurisdiction of the High Court and Employment Relations Authority.

X v X. Successfully represented iwi interests as junior counsel in an arbitral proceeding involving rent review and other issues arising from long-term development leases.

Body Corporate 330324 v Auckland City Council (“*City Gardens Apartments*”) [2015] NZHC 995. Acting for third defendant as junior counsel, successful application for leave to file cross-claim against first defendant in relation to an allegedly defective apartment complex.

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Ellis Build 2008 Ltd v NZ Chemical Care & Storage Ltd [2013] NZHC 3204. As junior counsel, successfully defended a summary judgment application brought under the Construction Contracts Act 2002 in relation to disputed construction invoices.