

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 trust, construction, property, contractual and insurance matters, in the District Court, High Court and Court of Appeal.

Since her move to the independent bar, she has acted on and assisted with defending a number of criminal matters in the District and High Courts. She has assisted with employment disputes in the Employment Relations Authority and has also appeared in arbitral proceedings and in the Family Court.

Lara was a Junior Representative on the New Zealand Bar Association Council from October 2016 to September 2019 and remains a member of the NZBA Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

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

Mad Butcher Holdings Ltd v Standard 730 Limited & Ors [2019] NZHC 589. Acted as junior counsel for defendants/respondents in an application for an interim injunction in relation to alleged breaches of restraint of trade provisions in a franchise agreement.

Li v 110 Formosa (NZ) Ltd & Ors [2018] NZHC 3418. Acted as junior counsel for second, fourth and fifth defendants in High Court proceedings regarding alleged breaches of trust arising from the purchase of a golf course in Auckland.

International Consolidated Business Pty Ltd v S C Johnson & Sons Inc [2019] NZCA 61. Acted as junior counsel for appellants regarding provisions of the Trade Marks Act 2002.

Wei & Anor v Café Brioche Ltd [2018] NZDC 16151. Acted as junior counsel for plaintiffs in a claim for damages for misrepresentations arising from the sale and purchase of a café business.

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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.

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.