

RAPH AJZENSZTAT

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Admissions

- Admitted to practice: 27 April 2011
- Signed Victorian Bar roll: 24 October 2013

Education

- Bachelor of Laws (Honours), University of Melbourne, 2009.
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours in German Studies), University of Melbourne, 2008.
- Humboldt University, Berlin – Undergraduate Semester Scholarship, 2006.

Practice at the Bar

I have a broad civil practice, with a particular focus on torts, statutory benefits, judicial review, insurance and coronial matters. I have significant experience appearing in court both led and unled. In addition to appearance work, I have a substantial advice and paperwork practice.

I have a strong interest in judicial review, appellate work and public law, particularly where public law issues arise in common law actions.

Recent matters in which I have been briefed include:

- appeal under s.82 of the *Coroners Act* 2008;
- appeals to the Court of Appeal from serious injury determinations made by the County Court;
- various professional negligence claims and medical malpractice claims;
- claims involving issues of admiralty/maritime law;
- claims involving issues of choice of law;
- numerous coronial inquests;
- claims involving disease and injury arising out of asbestos exposure;
- claims for indemnity pursuant to s.138 of the *Accident Compensation Act* 1985 together with associated insurance issues;
- various tort claims including false imprisonment, assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negligence and nuisance;
- claims for benefits under various statutory compensation schemes;

- numerous serious injury applications brought under legislation such as the *Accident Compensation Act 1985*, *Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013*, *Transport Accident Act 1986*.

Previous employment

- *Solicitor, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, 2011- 2013*

At Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, I had a busy workers' compensation practice. Additionally, while at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, I acted in a number of pro bono matters with colleagues at the firm, including acting on behalf of *Enough Pokies in Castlemaine Inc* in *Mt Alexander Shire Council v VCGLR & Ors* [2013] VCAT 101, as well as the Law Institute of Victoria in *R v Chaouk* [2013] VSCA 99.

- *Supervised Workplace Trainee, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, 2010*
- *Intern, Attorney-General's Office, Canberra, 2010*

I completed a three-week internship in February 2010. I assisted the formulation of responses to various policy issues, including the National Human Rights Consultation.

Professional Memberships/Committees/Associations/Other Activities

- Common Law Bar Association (CLBA), 2013 – ongoing

I am an active member of the CLBA and have been a member of its committee for several years. I have contributed to a number of the CLBA's activities, including research into issues referred to it by the Bar Council. I assisted in researching and drafting the CLBA's response to a proposal from the Law Council of Australia in 2014 to introduce contingency fees in personal injuries litigation.

- Compensation Law Bar Association, 2013 – ongoing
- Library Committee, Victorian Bar – 2017
- Innovation and Technology Committee, Victorian Bar – 2018 – ongoing.
- ANZCA Faculty of Pain Medicine, joint medical and legal session, 7 November 2018

As part of a panel I presented at the Faculty's November 2018 session. The panel included a pain physician, a psychiatrist and a solicitor. The topic for the session was "*Emotional and sexual abuse in the genesis of chronic pain: Clinical and legal aspects.*"

- International Academy of Law and Mental Health – Rome, July 2019 (forthcoming)

As part of an interdisciplinary panel of speakers, in July 2019 I will be delivering a paper at a session at the XXXVIth International Congress on Law and Mental Health. The paper will focus primarily on disentanglement in the context of serious injury applications under Victorian legislation governing common law actions for work and road injuries. Other panel members include Dr George Mendelson, psychiatrist; Dr Hannah Mendelson, psychiatrist; Dr Carolyn Arnold, specialist in rehabilitation medicine and specialist pain medicine physician.