Damien Atkinson OAM KC

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Professional Qualifications

Barrister of the High Court of Australia
Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland
Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria
Solicitor of the High Court of England and Wales
Nationally Accredited Mediator

Career History

Damien studied Arts and Law at the University of Queensland, graduating in Law with Honours. 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, so that he appears in commercial and construction matters, as well as acting for doctors, patients and hospitals in major medicolegal litigation, appearing in commissions of inquiry and inquests, and taking briefs in general commercial matters. He also has a busy practice as a mediator and is regularly engaged in that role by the private and public sectors.

He is the Senior Vice President of the Medico-Legal Society of Queensland. He is also the Chair of the Human Rights Committee for the Bar Association of Queensland and Chair of the Youth Advocacy Centre, Brisbane. He was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2019 for his work in youth justice.

Areas Of Practice

Commercial
Medico-Legal
Mediations
Common Law
Asbestos litigation
Personal Injuries
Disciplinary Proceedings
Equity
Family
Insurance
Professional liability
Property
Sport
Corporate Insolvency & Bankruptcy

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, Coorparoo, Brisbane 1974 - 1982

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
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 [2023] QSC 135

Allen v Brothers International [2025] QSC 129

James v Parole Board of Queensland [2026] QSC 117

John Palace v RCR O'Donnell [2021] QCA 137

Coulon v Adams [2022] QDC 291

Westwood v Westwood [2025] FedFamC1F94

Brown v Logan City Council [2019] QSC 46

Waller Projects Pty Ltd v F.W. Estate Pty Ltd [2025] QSC 16

Lee Group Charters v Commissioner of Taxation [2016] FCA 322

Edie v Brisbane City Council [2023] QPEC 9

Appeared for Storm investors in Sherwood v Commonwealth Bank of Australia

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	Senior Vice President, Medico-Legal Society of Queensland Chair
	Chair, Human Rights Committee, Bar Association Qld
	Chair, Youth Advocacy Centre, Brisbane (from 1995)
	Former Director, Micah Projects Pty Ltd, South Brisbane
	President, All Hallows Debating PSG Committee
2018	Member, Chain Reaction (Queensland Chapter)
2016-2019	Member, Order of St John of Jerusalem
2016	Committee Member, Administrative Law Society Queensland
2007	Counsel Assisting, Morris Commission of Inquiry, Queensland
2005	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
1984-86	Adjudicator, Queensland Debating Union
1984-86	Member, Australian Army Reserve, Queensland University Regiment, Corporal
1982-83	Member, Italo-Australia Association