

Mary Chalmers SC

Barrister

Murray Chambers Northern Territory @ 3 Whitfield Street Darwin
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Mary Chalmers is senior trial lawyer with a reputation for hard-work and effective advocacy. Mary accepts briefs in a diverse range of matters at advice, trial and appellate stages. Raised in Nhulunbuy and Darwin, she offers a local and strategic perspective. Mary is a founding member of *Murray Chambers Northern Territory*.

Areas of Practice

- Administrative Law - disciplinary/regulatory Board and Tribunal matters
- Appeals and Review proceedings
- Criminal Trials and summary hearings
- Royal Commissions, Inquiries, Inquests, ICAC examinations
- Liquor Commission applications, complaints and objections
- Employment/ workers compensation & WorkSafe matters
- Personal / fatal injuries compensation
- Family matters including child protection, Hague Convention applications, Family Court and domestic violence order applications
- Migration Law
- Military Law

Qualifications & courses

- Bachelor of Arts, Northern Territory University 1994
- Bachelor of Laws, Northern Territory University 2001
- Graduate Diploma in Legal Studies, College of Law NSW 2002
- Graduate Diploma in Military Law, University of Melbourne 2006
- ABA Appellate Advocacy Course 2017
- Australian Dispute Centre Accredited Mediator course 2024 (accreditation pending)
- (currently studying for a Masters of Military Law, University of Adelaide)

Appointments and Admissions to Practice

- First admitted to Practice in the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory 2002
- Admitted to Practice in the High Court of Australia
- Admitted to Practice in the High Court of the Solomon Islands
- Appointed Senior Counsel 2021
- President NT Bar Association 2023 and ongoing
- Public Interest Advocate under *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act*
- Legal Practitioners Discipline Tribunal member, appointed 2024
- Major in the Australian Army Legal Corps, ADF Reserves

Cases of Note

Royal Commissions, Inquiries & Inquests

Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation of People with Disability - counsel for the Northern Territory

Royal Commission into Defence & Veteran Suicide - counsel for the Northern Territory

Inquest into the death of Kuminjayi Jurrah - counsel for affected party

Inquest into the death of Kazan Khan - counsel for the Commissioner of Police

Inquest into death of Jason Walter Challis - counsel for affected party

Appeals and review cases *Ugle v The King [2025] VSCA 102 (15 May 2025)* Appeal against conviction

Bahnert v Commissioner of Police & Anor [2024] NTSCFC 2 Reference, inability dismissals from NT Police

RCA v The King [2023] NTCCA 4 Appeal against conviction, historical child sex

Shortland v The King [2022] NTCCA 19 Appeal against conviction, importation

The Queen v Bennett [2021] NTCCA 2 Appeal against sentence – availability of home detention orders.

Wilson-Anderson v The Queen (unrep 30 July 2021 CA 6 of 2021) Appeal against conviction and sentence

NB & Ors v SB & Ors [2020] NTCA 2 Appeal against orders under *Care & Protection of Children Act* 2007.

McRoberts v The Queen [2018] NTCCA 11 – not published
Appeal bail following verdict s23A *Bail Act* 1982. Junior counsel to McHugh SC at trial.

Deacon v The Queen [2019] NTCCA 21
Appeal against conviction – s84 Evidence (NUL) Act, admissibility ‘Mr Big’ induced confession. Junior counsel at trial.

S. Kidman & Co v Lowndes CM & the Director of Public Prosecutions [2016] NTCA 5
Junior counsel on appeal- whether Deputy Coroner’s reasons constituted a “coronial inquiry” s 232(1)(b) of the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act* (NT).

Poulton v Chief of Navy [2023] ADFDAT 1 Appeal under Defence Force Discipline Act.

DGN18 v Minister for Home Affairs [2023] FedCFamC2G 18 Judicial Review of AAT decision under Migration Act.

Tasneem v NT of A [2022] NTWHC001 Appeal against s69 Notice Return to Work Act

Queen v Visagie [2021] NTSC 73 Admissibility of police interview

The Queen v Aitken [2021] NTSC 93 Admissibility of complainant text messages

Turner v Northern Territory of Australia & Anor [2021] NTSC 55 Judicial review- proper meaning of s95(3) of the *Police Administration Act* 1978 (NT)

The Queen v Rolfe (No. 2) [2021] NTSC 45 Contested subpoena to produce documents - claim of legal professional privilege in respect of communications between prosecutors and police in the course of dual criminal /coronial investigation.

In re Ferg Ferguson [2020] NTSC 20 Contested application for admission to legal practice. The published decision relates to a contested application to withdraw mid-hearing following cross-examination of the applicant by the Society.

The Queen v RCA [2021] NTSC 54 contested ‘Dietrich’ stay application.

Tun v Bryant [2020] NTSC 56 Appeal against conviction

Mallias v Rigby [2020] NTSC 19 Appeal against sentence

R v Danny Deacon Ruling No 1 - [2016] NTSC 30 Admissibility of ‘Mr Big’ confession – s 84 Evidence (NUL) Act 2011 (NT)

Forrester v Mattson [2016] NTSC 16 *Police Administration Act* s 120C(c) whether search by police member authorised; reasonable grounds to suspect.

Mary has been leading counsel in a substantial number of Criminal trials since 2009, including associated legal proceedings dealing with admissibility of evidence, stays, suppression orders, mental impairment & fitness considerations, withdrawal of guilty plea, sentencing, disclosure and subpoena matters.

Boards & Tribunals & other matters

Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal

Counsel for the Law Society in 2 appeals under s 506(1)(a) *Legal Profession Act* 2006

Police Inability & Disciplinary Appeal Boards

Numerous cases acting for the Commissioner in appeal matters under Part VI of the *Police Administration Act* 1978. [Also, counsel assisting in disciplinary matters under Pt IV]

Police Arbitral Tribunal

Counsel for the Commissioner in 2 Consent Agreement disputes under Part III *Police Administration Act* 1978

Northern Territory Liquor Commission hearings

- *Fox Ale House & Wisdom Bar and Café – Application to extend time* [2023] NTLiqComm 38
- *Complaint against P Lay Enterprises Pty Ltd* [2023] NTLiqComm 5
- *Deckmar Pty Ltd Disciplinary Action*, 2022 LC2022/004
- *Nitmiluk Tour Pty Ltd Application for Liquor Licence*, 2022 LC2022/045
- *The Hub Tavern Pty Ltd Application for a licence*, 2021
- *Barkly Region Variation of Licence Conditions*, 2021 – counsel assisting public hearing
- *PINT Club Incorporated Disciplinary Action Pursuant to the Liquor Act 1978*, 2020 - Counsel assisting the Commission
- *Little Cashy Pty Ltd & Anor Substitution of premises*, 2020 - Counsel assisting
- *Woolworths Group Ltd Application for variation of conditions of licence (BWS outlets)*, 2019 - Counsel assisting the Commission
- *Woolworths Group Ltd Application for Substitution of Premises (Dan Murphys)* 2019 Counsel for objector NGO

Other Boards and Tribunals

Mary has appeared in ICAC examinations as counsel assisting and for witnesses under examination; she has also had conduct of various matters under the Teacher Registration (NT) Act 2004 including NTCAT Review.

Defence Force Superior Tribunals

Mary regularly appears as a defending officer for ADF members facing disciplinary proceedings under the *Defence Force Discipline Act* 1982

Family Court of Australia & Federal Circuit Court

Mary has appeared as counsel in Family Law Act matters, including a Hague-Convention application as counsel for the applicant father. Mary's area of pro bono practice is in Judicial Review proceedings in the Federal Circuit Court in visa refusal cases.

Other

Summary of previous Professional Experience

Member of the Independent Bar NT 2018 to present
 Legal Officer ADF Army Reserves - 2002 to present (currently posted to Fleet Legal)
 Senior Crown Prosecutor ODPP, NT -2015- Jul 2018
 Crown Prosecutor ODPP, NT - 2009-2015
 Crown Prosecutor and Advisor (RAMSI) ODPP Solomon Islands -2006-2008
 Prosecutor (summary) ODPP, NT 2005/06
 Solicitor (various NTG agencies NT Police, Ombudsman & Health Complaints Commission) 2002 to 2005 and prior to that worked in Licensing NT
 Law Clerk, David Francis & Associates - 1998-2001

<p>Community & contribution</p> <p>(Conference papers omitted but available on request)</p>	<p>Appointed Public Interest Advocate (Journalistic Warrant Scheme) 2023 – ongoing</p> <p>Nominated Examiner Legal Items <i>Correctional Services Act 2014, 2022- ongoing</i></p> <p>Northern Territory Bar Association <i>Member since 2017; Bar Council since 2019; Vice President 2021 -23, President 2024-25</i></p> <p>Australian Bar Association Diversity & Inclusion Committee <i>Member 2020-21</i></p> <p>Australian Bar Association Criminal Law Committee <i>2023-</i></p> <p>Criminal Lawyers Association of the Northern Territory <i>Committee 2017-21; Vice President 2019</i></p> <p>Domestic Violence Justice Reform Network <i>Founding member 2018; Chair 2021</i></p> <p>Outreach / pro bono <i>Pro bono practice in visa refusal cases in Federal Circuit Court ♦ Volunteer Coach Law Society NT Advocacy Course 2017-2019 ♦ CPDs (various to DPP, SFNT, NTWL staff) ♦ AGD /SFNT Mentor to 2018 ♦ Supreme Court Moot for Sunrise Rotary Club ♦ Save the Children, Honiara SI developing inaugural youth justice forum.</i></p>
<p>Awards and Commendations</p>	<p>Letter of commendation from His Honour Justice Southwood for conduct as counsel</p> <p>Defence Force Service Medal</p> <p>Military Law Prize, Faculty of Law</p> <p>Dean’s Academic Achievement Commendation, Faculty of Arts</p> <p>KJ O’Sullivan Prize of English Literature</p>