



## Alice O'Connell

### Special Counsel

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## OVERVIEW

Alice O'Connell is a litigation lawyer with expertise in complex insurance litigation and medical negligence.

She has acted on behalf of hospitals, health-care providers and other state facilities in a range of litigious matters and coronial inquests in Victoria and NSW. She has acted for both plaintiffs and defendants.

While she has practiced predominantly in the area of health and medical negligence, she has experience in a wide range of civil litigation including asbestos, public liability and child abuse claims.

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Alice has worked as a lawyer in medical negligence since her admission to practice in 2006. Prior to joining K&L Gates, Alice was a Senior Solicitor in the NSW Government Crown Solicitor's Office and has previously worked in Melbourne for both Plaintiffs and Defendants.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Listed in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in Australia*™ for Medical Negligence, 2023-2025

## PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Law Institute of Victoria member
- Victorian Women Lawyers

## EDUCATION

- LL.B., Victoria University, 2005
- B.A. , Swinburne University of Technology, 2001

## ADMISSIONS

- High Court of Australia
- Supreme Court of Victoria

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 21 July 2023, NSW Supreme Court Considers Inherent Risk and Peer Professional Opinion in Bariatric Surgery Case *Polsen v Harrison* (No. 8)

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Patient Concerns", Law Institute Journal, November 2015
- "Alternatives to Medical Negligence Litigation", Precedent, Mar/Apr 2015

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Acting in defence of a wide range of medical negligence claims brought against Victorian and NSW public health care organisations, including in relation to alleged negligent surgical technique, failure to warn, and failure to diagnose.
- Representing hospitals, disability service providers and family members at coronial inquests.
- Defending public liability claims arising from injuries that occurred on government property.
- Investigating and advising on the negotiation and quantification of claims, including catastrophic claims, and appearing at mediation and other informal settlement conferences.
- Referring impairment assessments to the Victorian Medical Panel.
- Acting in Supreme Court judicial review appeals of Medical Panel determinations.
- Acting for NSW state entities in alleged historical abuse claims.
- Seeking compensation on behalf of individuals suffering injury due to asbestos exposure.