



CURRICULUM VITAE

ASANKA GUNASEKERA

Barrister

Francis Burt Chambers

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INTRODUCTION:

- I am a Western Australian lawyer.
- I am presently a Barrister at Francis Burt Chambers.
- I am also a sessional lecturer in *Occupational Health and Safety (Industrial Relations)* 383 at Curtin University WA.
- I owned and operated my own legal practice between 14 May 2009 – 3 March 2015.
- Between 2005 and 2009 I was a self-employed WorkCover Registered Agent.

PERSONAL:

Date of Birth: 30 September 1979

Citizenship: Australian

Health: Excellent (Non-smoker)

Marital Status: Single

EDUCATION:

Tertiary

Murdoch University - Western Australia

Completed a ten (10) year “Managing Clerkship” pursuant to section 16 of the *Legal Practitioners’ Act (WA) 1893*. This Clerkship enables admission into the profession following completion of 11 law units and ten (10) years legal work.

- Registered as a Managing Clerk on 9 December 2002.
- Admitted as a Lawyer on 2 April 2009.
- Issued an Unrestricted Practising Certificate on 14 May 2009.

Business Associations Law	High Distinction
Contract	Credit
Criminal Law and Procedure	Credit
Constitutional Law	Distinction
Administrative Law	Credit
Property	Pass
Equity and Trusts	Distinction
Evidence	Distinction
Civil Procedure	Distinction
Torts	Credit

Curtin University of Technology – Western Australia

Commenced a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Accounting and Commercial Law

Legal Framework	Credit
Accounting	Distinction
Micro-Economics	Credit
Management	Credit
Law (Corporations)	Distinction
Law (Business Organisations)	Credit
Law (Industrial)	Credit
Law (Trade Practices)	Distinction

Secondary

Christian Brothers' College Fremantle 1991 – 1996
(Secondary Education from years 8 – 12)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

March 2015 to present	Barrister Francis Burt Chambers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for and argue matters at various Courts and Tribunals. • Draft Opinions. • Draft advices on evidence. • Draft and/or settle pleadings. • Adversarial and non-adversarial negotiation at conferences including Conciliation, Pre-Trial and Mediation in various Courts and Tribunals. • Devise, consider and execute file management strategies. 	

May 2009 to March 2015	Principal Personal Injury Law Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for and argue complex workers' compensation disputes before WorkCover (WA) on behalf of varying stakeholders. • Prepare for and argue workers' compensation appeals before the District Court of WA. • Adversarial and non-adversarial negotiation at conferences including Conciliation, Pre-Trial and Mediation in various Courts and Tribunals. • Devise, consider and execute file management strategies for disputed claims in District and Supreme Courts including the Court of Appeal. • Maintain and analyse statutory outcomes. • Consider proposals for legislative amendment. • Preparing Submissions on legislative proposals for stakeholder dialogue. • Drafting opinions and letters of advice. • Manage relationships with key WorkCover stakeholders including, workers, employers, insurers, brokers, solicitors, and Arbitrators. 	

July 2005 to May 2009	Principal Workers' Compensation Advocacy Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for and argue complex workers' compensation disputes before WorkCover (WA) on behalf of varying stakeholders. • Prepare for and argue workers' compensation appeals before the Commissioner. • Adversarial and non-adversarial negotiation at conferences including Conciliation, Pre-Trial and Mediation in various Courts and Tribunals. • Devise, consider and execute file management strategies for disputed claims in District and Supreme Courts including the Court of Appeal. • Maintain and analyse statutory outcomes. • Consider proposals for legislative amendment. • Preparing Submissions on legislative proposals for stakeholder dialogue. • Drafting opinions and letters of advice. • Manage relationships with key WorkCover stakeholders including, workers, employers, insurers, brokers, solicitors, and Arbitrators. 	

June 2003 to July 2005	Lead Advocate Messrs Jackson McDonald Lawyers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training, mentoring and supervising a team of Advocates at WA's largest non-national law firm. • Prepare for and argue complex workers' compensation disputes before WorkCover. • Adversarial and non-adversarial negotiation. • Devise, consider and execute file management strategies for disputed claims in District and Supreme Courts. • Maintain and analyse outcomes. • Deliver speeches and write articles on pertinent workers' compensation issues. • Drafting opinions and letters of advice. 	

January 2001 to June 2003	Para-Legal or Law Clerk Messrs Basile Hawkins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for and attendance at various hearings at WorkCover, District Court and Supreme Court of WA. • Draft legislative training material for insurer clients. • Assist in the preparation of tender documents. • Attending contentious hearings before the Compensation Magistrate's Court. • Drafting and pursuing various interlocutory applications. • Drafting opinions and letters of advice. 	

March 2000 to December 2000	Para-Legal or Law Clerk Messrs Pullinger Readhead Stewart
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for and attendance at various hearings at WorkCover, District Court and Supreme Court of WA. • Drafting pre-trial and pre-conference opinions. • Day to Day conduct of workers' compensation, public liability and recovery files.
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August 1998 to March 2000	Law Clerk Messrs Greenland Brooksby
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in the day-to-day conduct of motor vehicle third party insurance and workers' compensation insurance files. • Arranging medical appointments, providing discovery, organising informal conferences, liaising with plaintiff's solicitors, briefing counsel and preparations for trial. • Undertaking legal research. • Appearing before District and Supreme Courts. 	

June 1997 to August 1998	Para-Legal/Law Clerk Messrs Atkins & Co
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day to day conduct of personal injury files. • Drafting submissions, perusing expert's reports, arranging appointments and drafting various court documents. • Providing secretarial and research support for two barristers at London Court chambers. • Drafting securities, including mortgages, trust deeds, memorandums and articles of association, wills and powers of Attorney. 	

9 April 1996 – 17 April 1996; and 2 October 1995 – 22 October 1995	Outside Clerk/Legal Secretary Messrs Barker Gosling
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15 January 1996 – 19 January 1996	Work Experience/Law Clerk Messrs Talbot & Olivier
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12 December 1995 – 22 December 1995	Office Services Clerk Messrs Parker & Parker
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10 July 1995 – 14 July 1995	Work Experience Clerk Messrs Summers Partners
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1 – 17 May 1994; 27 June – 11 July 1994; 16 October – 10 November 1994; and 8 December 1994 – 1 February 1995	Work Experience/Legal Secretary Messrs Antoine Bloeman & Co
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ARTICLES, PRESENTATIONS & OTHER WORK:

- Panel Speaker “*Homophobia within the Law – Law Week Panel Discussion*” presented by the Law Society of Western Australia (Young Lawyers Committee) at the Supreme Court of Western Australia on 18 May 2015 at 6pm.
- Completed Australian Bar Association “*Essential Trial Advocacy Course*” from 13-17 July 2015 at the District Court of WA.
- Completed Western Australian Bar Association “*Bar Readers’ Course – Ethics & Practice Module*” from 5 May - 16 June 2015.
- Completed Western Australian Bar Association “*Bar Readers’ Course – Jurisdiction & Procedure Module*” from 6 May - 3 June 2015.
- Completed Western Australian Bar Association “*Bar Readers’ Course – Evidence Module*” from 7 May - 4 June 2015.
- Drafted presentation “*Section 60 and 61 Applications*” and Panel Speaker at the “*2nd Annual Personal Injury Conference*” Legalwise CPD Seminar on 5 March 2015.
- Drafted presentation “*Stress Claims and the Path to Arbitration*” and Panel Speaker at the “*Psychological and Psychiatric Injury*” Legalwise CPD Seminar on 12 June 2014.
- Drafted “*Policy for Managing Challenging Interactions*” for the WA AIDS Council – December 2013
- Drafted presentation “*Workers’ Compensation Appeals*” and Panel Speaker at the “*Workers’ Compensation Developments*” Legalwise CPD Seminar on 21 November 2013.
- Panel Speaker “*Pro Bono: Why, Where and How*” CPD Seminar for the Law Society of WA on 20 June 2013 at 5.00pm.
- Chair “*Contract Law Masterclass*” produced by Thomson Reuters at the Duxton Hotel on 20 June 2013 from 9.00am-5.00pm.
- Drafted “*Policy for Access to Retreats for People Living with a Disability*” for the WA AIDS Council – January 2013.
- Speaker at the Seminar “*Mental Health and the Workplace – A Legal Guide for Managers*” on Wednesday 6 June 2012 at the State Library Theatre.
- Drafted the “*WorkCover Registered Agents and Legal Work Guidelines*” and “*Explanatory Notes*” dated 30 March 2011 for the Legal Practice Board (WA) Inc.
- Drafted “*Submission to the Legal Costs Committee made pursuant to Section 272(1)(a) of the Workers’ Compensation & Injury Management Act (WA) 1981*” 31 July 2007
- Drafted Article: “*Dealing with Workplace Anxiety*” (2004) See: <http://www.tphumancapital.com.au>
- Drafted Article: “*Managing Workplace Stress*” (2004) See: <http://www.humanresourcesmagazine.com.au/articles>
- Delivered the presentation “*Stop Stressing - Understanding the Psychological and Legal Issues for Employers in Managing Workplace Stress*” public seminar delivered Thursday 4 March 2004 at the Jackson McDonald boardroom at Level 4, 81 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA.
- “*Raising Objections at Review Hearings before the Conciliation and Review Directorate (WorkCover) WA*” seminar to CGU Insurance Ltd delivered Thursday 10 May 2001.

COMMITTEES & VOLUNTEER WORK

WA Bar Association (Inc)

- 2015 – present Board Member and Secretary of Bar Council
- 2015 – present Member *Diversity Subcommittee*
- 2015 – present Member *Professional Standards Subcommittee*

Law Society of WA

- 2009 – present, Judge, Law Society of WA Inter School Mock Trial Competition.
 - Judged over 40 trials.
 - Wrote and settled Mock Trial cases.
- 2009 – present, Law Society of WA Access to Justice pro bono referral service.
- 2012 – Judge, Murdoch Student Law Society Mooting Competition.
- 2013 – Law Society of WA + Edith Cowan University Graduate Mentoring Programme.
- 2014 – present Member Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation Subcommittee.

WA AIDS Council (“WAAC”)

- 2013 – present Board Member.
- 2014 – present Co-Chair *HIV+ Community Liaison Sub-Committee*.
- 2014 – present Vice Chairman.
- 2014 – present Member *Governance Subcommittee*.

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights

- 2013 – Assisting solicitor in *amicus* brief for *State of WA v. Brown & Anor* – P49 of 2013 – High Court of Australia.

AFFILIATIONS:

- 2008 – present Member of the Law Society of Western Australia.
- 2006 – present Member of the Friends of the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra.
- 2001 – present Member of the Friends of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.
- 2001 – present Member of the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts.
- 2001 – present Member of the Friends of the Art Gallery of Western Australia.
- 2003 - 2009 Fellow of the Australian Institute of Legal Executives WA (Inc).
- 2013 – Member Australian Lawyers for Human Rights.
- 2013 – Sponsor Perth International Fashion Festival.

2015 – Member WA Bar Association
2015 – Member Law Council of Australia

REFEREES:

Available upon request.