



**Justice Ruth McColl**  
**Judge of Appeal**  
**NSW Court of Appeal (2003 – Jan 2019)**

Lauded by Chief Justice Tom Bathurst as "a trailblazer for women in the legal profession" and "a role model for many talented women", Justice McColl began her distinguished legal career as a solicitor in the NSW Crown Solicitor's Office from 1976. In 1980, McColl was one of 20 women among 750 barristers to be admitted to the NSW Bar and by 1994 she was appointed Senior Counsel.

From 1981 until 2001 McColl was elected as a member of the Bar Council of the NSW Bar Association and from 1999-2001 she was President of the New South Wales Bar Association - the first woman to serve in that position. McColl served as Vice-President of Australian Women Lawyers (1996–99) and President of NSW Women Lawyers (1996-1997) and from 2001-02, she was President of the Australian Bar Association. She has been a part-time Commissioner of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission, President of the Public Interest Law Clearing House (1999-2002), Assistant Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (1998-2000), and Counsel assisting the Coroner in relation to the inquest into the 1997 Thredbo landslide.

In 2003, McColl was appointed a Judge of Appeal of the NSW Court of Appeal. Justice McColl retired at the end of January 2019.