



Terrie Gibson
Director, Licensing and Registry
The Law Society of NSW

Background

Terrie was admitted as a solicitor in 1987 and has a background in private legal practice in commercial litigation, professional conduct and insolvency. She has been a judge's associate, and worked as a corporate lawyer overseas and in government practice here. Regulation and improvement of the standards of the legal profession has been a consistent theme in Terrie's career since the 90's during her time in private practice, she acted on behalf of the NSW Bar Association in its disciplinary matters against barristers. She was subsequently appointed – on 2 occasions (between living overseas and returning to Australia) – as its Director, Professional Standards and in that role was responsible for the investigation and carriage of professional misconduct matters in respect of barristers' and also participated in the policy development for a national regulatory regime for the profession.

Law Society Role

Terrie has been at the Society for 4 ½ years and is responsible for carrying its functions associated with all aspects of licensing Australian lawyers and foreign lawyers in NSW under the Uniform Law - including the grant & issue of 36,700 practising certificates, applications and ensuring that practising certificates are issued with the appropriate statutory and discretionary conditions attached, that all additional practice requirements are met and referring applicants to Professional Standards when appropriate. She has overall responsibility for the maintenance of the statutory register of practising solicitors and foreign lawyers and the Society's membership records in accordance with legal profession legislation and the Society's Memorandum and Articles of Association. She is also responsible for the Society's Professional Standards Scheme. Her role includes responding to hundreds of enquiries for data and information from members of the Courts, the public, profession, other DLRA, and government bodies such as ASIC, state and federal police and other Commonwealth bodies. Ensure that appropriate professional indemnity insurance (PII) is in place for all practitioners, and assess applications for PII exemption. Overall responsibility for the annual review of in excess of 200 PII policies pertaining to exemption applications and review of those policies

Respond to queries from, and determine applications by, foreign lawyers, interstate practitioners and law practices in respect of their PII arrangements and obligations under the Uniform Law. Terrie's is supported by her dedicated and experienced Licensing, Registry & Scheme teams who share her endeavours for the profession and the Society, and provide daily and bespoke and extensive support and guidance to all legal practitioners.

As a member of the Senior Leadership team at the Society she shares responsibility for governance, strategy and risk management of the organisation at the corporate level. Terrie has developed risk & compliance plans. She works closely with IT to develop new platforms for delivery of the Society's regulatory functions, ensures its data integrity & appropriate release. She also provides legal advice on licensing, regulation scheme support to all other business units as required, including General Counsel, Company Secretary, PSD, Membership.

Personal

Terrie attained her BA/LLB and an LLM from UNSW. She also holds non-legal qualifications obtained in Ireland and France in both Music and French respectively. Playtime is usually spent doing water colour painting, spending time with her kids and hubby and travelling (pre covid!) Terrie is the first non- clinician board director of Head & Neck Cancer Australia – a Not for Profit organisation lead by Professor Jonathon Clark (of Chris O'Brien Lifehouse) that provides information and support for Head and Neck Cancer patients, carers and clinicians.