



Society of Construction Law Australia Limited

Information in relation to Nominated Members 2022 Board Elections

List of Nominees

- Caroline Beaumaris
- Laina Chan
- Tina Funge
- Michael Gibson
- Sean Marriott
- Kirsty Mayer
- Kiri Parr

Caroline Beaumaris



For many years I have been involved in SoCLA. I chair the Thought Leadership Sub-committee and am an active member of the Conference Sub-committee year on year. Meeting or re-connecting with so many of you at this year's conference in Hobart was a highlight of my year and I cannot wait for what will be an extravaganza in 2023. As a Director of Cahill Advisory; the Group Leader, Commercial and Finance with UGL Engineering in the TasWater Capital Delivery Office and a student of the Master of Construction Law at Melbourne University, I have the experience across many facets of the industry, the required networks and the enthusiasm to assist the Society on the Board in 2023 and beyond.

I bring a unique perspective to the Board as an internationally renowned Commercial Manager and Director with more than 20 years end to end experience on an array of projects and industries both in Australia and across Asia and the Middle East. I've worked across consulting, client-side, contractor-side and in project management and directorship; building and leading a number of high-performance teams to achieve exceptional project outcomes; often meeting or improving cost and time expectations whilst successfully managing stakeholder relationships, governance and best for project outcomes.

I am known for my passionate and energetic personality and ability to steer positive and strategic interfaces. I have been recognised with several industry accolades; in 2018 I reached the national finals of the Australian Construction Awards, Women in Construction award. This month, I reached the finals of the NAWIC Crystal Vision Award; an award which recognises individuals, businesses or organisations that actively promote and encourage participation and career progression of women in the construction, building or related industries, the winner of which will be announced in November.

Laina Chan



I have been the Chair of SoCLA for the 2 years. In that time I have sought to make the Society more inclusive and at the same time ensure that SoCLA was delivering member benefits while so many of us were in lockdown. Gratifyingly, membership has grown by about 20% in the last 2 years. In May at Hobart, the Board commenced a process whereby we looked at the core mission of SoCLA and what our members want or expect from us. That process has involved work with strategist Simon Want who many of you may have seen at our national conference. We have progressed our work to the point where we are clear about what SoCLA is about, where it is at and where we wish to be in 2, 5 and 10 years. The next stage will be working out how we can fund all of our plans and how we can deliver our plan.

I believe that I can make a useful contribution to that process having served on the executive for 6 years - 4 years as Secretary prior to being Chair. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to continue to serve you and the membership. It would be good to be able to complete this work for SoCLA.

Tina Funge



With more than 20 years' experience as a front-end construction lawyer, both in top tier private practice and in-house with tier 1 contractors, Tina has gained an in-depth knowledge of the key drivers and strategies implemented by industry participants during a project's life cycle. This includes winning work, addressing risk, project delivery and dispute resolution, within the parameters of corporate processes, regulation and governance.

She has worked across a number of sectors including energy, transport, infrastructure, mining, gas, oil, commercial, industrial, residential, retail, health, tourism, education, telecommunications, defence, justice, water and green projects using various procurement methods.

Tina has a keen interest in understanding the latest developments in the construction industry, having completed a Masters in Construction Law in 2017, graduating with First Class Honours. She is now undertaking higher degree research, undertaking a PhD focussing on infrastructure contracting. Tina believes that there is a more efficient, simpler and collaborative way of contracting, and believes that her area of study and participation in industry forums and groups (such as SOCLA) can make a real difference in promoting best international practice and better project outcomes.

Tina is a regular supporter and attendee at SOCLA functions, and a contributor to the SOCLA Brooking Competition, where she received the Highly Commended Prize three years in a row for her works on force majeure, ECI contracting and unconditional security and a Commended Prize for her paper on parent company guarantees.

She would like to give back to the industry, being more involved in thought leadership, knowledge sharing and networking programs, and therefore believes with her passion and enthusiasm for construction law she can make a meaningful contribution to the Board.

Michael Gibson



Michael Gibson is a current Director (Secretary) of the Society of Construction Law Australia, and has been actively involved in the Society since 2016 as Treasurer for the National Conference Subcommittee. Michael is a Contract Manager with Hansen Yuncken, a leading commercial building contractor.

With over 18 years construction experience Michael has completed numerous complex projects in a variety of sectors. Responsible for commercial management, Michael has delivered projects from inception to completion, administering various forms of contracts including public private partnerships, joint ventures, managing contractor, guaranteed maximum price, design and construct, early contractor involvement and traditional lump sum.

Michael renominates for a position on the Society's Board with a profound desire to support the development and growth of the Society. Subsequent to his involvement in the development of the Society of Construction Law Australia's inaugural Strategic Plan, Michael seeks to support the inception and execution of the plan commencing in 2023. As a Board member of the Society, he aims to pursue professional development opportunities in the area of construction law which will advance the capabilities of young construction professionals, bringing further awareness of the field to those representing the future of the industry. Additionally, he intends to encourage further involvement of building contractors in the Society in order to encourage the reciprocal sharing of knowledge between building contractors and legal professionals.

Sean Marriott



I am an experienced Engineer and Counsel in the Clifford Chance Perth office. I entered the law after my previous career as an Engineer.

I am a dual qualified lawyer (Australia and England & Wales), with 14 years of legal practice experience in London and Australia. I specialise in construction disputes in the energy and resources sector.

I am a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a Fellow of ACICA, and have also recently been appointed to the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR, which drafts and revises the ICC Arbitration Rules, Mediation Rules, Dispute Board Rules, Expert Rules etc. Many of the world's largest construction disputes are resolved under the ICC rules.

This year I co-authored, together with SoCLA colleagues, SoCLA's submissions to the Western Australian Government on the draft WA Security of Payment Regulations. Recommendations that I made were adopted by the Government and are now in force. I also presented at the SoCLA 2018 annual conference, and a SoCLA project disputes seminar, and have published literature on the SoCLA website.

I am nominating because I think the SCL makes a unique contribution to the Australian and worldwide construction industry, particularly its promotion of innovation and education, and as a forum for critical knowledge sharing in the industry. A key example is the widely adopted Delay and Disruption Protocol.

I believe that I have the experience and background to contribute to the advancement of SoCLA's goals, and if elected, I will work with other board members to grow the membership and profile of SoCLA in the industry.

Kirsty Mayer



When assigned my first articulated clerk rotation in Construction, Engineering & Infrastructure at Minters, I groaned.

Little did I know I would quickly love it and spend the next 20 years practicing law in the construction industry.

I am grateful to SoCLA for providing a (in fact, *the*) forum for our wonderful community to reconnect after collective reclusion. I apply for Directorship to support SoCLA to do more: to provide members more opportunities to connect, to develop more (and distinguishable) educative tools that enables agile and relevant support to industry, to actively engage stakeholders (using our unique ability, and *responsibility*, to influence and enable environmentally/socially responsible outcomes).

During my career, I have:

- worked in private practice and in-house;
- experienced a range of procurement models across diverse sectors; and
- represented several perspectives (contractor, subcontractor, joint venturer, alliance participant, designer).
- operated as sole counsel and grown and managed a team comprising 25 lawyers.

My diverse experience equips me to understand and represent the varied needs of our members.

I have also:

- gained extensive transactional experience leading commercial and legal work stream on several PPPs;
- supported establishment of the Singapore office and tenders in SE Asia;
- held roles as director/company secretary on Boards of ACCIONA and on its Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee;
- advised on safety incident investigations and regulatory engagement;
- led the Australian insurance function;
- assisted the Group mature through the acquisition of Geotech Group in 2017 and managed the Lendlease Engineering transaction in 2020.

As Group General Counsel/Company Secretary (Infrastructure, Australia/NZ) I manage an extended portfolio accountable for legal services, governance, insurance, corporate, regulatory/compliance and M&A.

This broad legal and management capability enables me to support SoCLA's strategy development and, importantly, its implementation.

It would be a privilege to help drive SoCLA's growth; I welcome the opportunity.

Kiri Parr



25 years ago I stumbled into construction law. I've gotten to do and see some very cool things - like going up the side of Marina Bay Sands in a construction elevator before they had built the swimming pool deck across the top (yes it was windy) and inspecting the insides of a leaking acid tank in oversized boots. Like you, I've also seen and experienced some not so cool things.

After decades in legal practice, both private and in-house (including 15 years as General Counsel of Arup), I changed direction to become an independent consultant, academic and speaker.

I am fascinated by the relationships between the law and the other elements that make up the construction industry and how they come together to give us the outcomes we are getting. And I think we can do better. I hope you do too.

The challenge I see for SOCLA and its members, is to engage in construction law, not because of the law itself, but because of its relationships to the other parts of the construction industry and what it collectively has the potential to achieve.

I've been active in the construction industry for a long time, from being past president of Consult Australia to currently being on the FIDIC Contracts Committee with responsibility for developing its first international standard collaborative contract model. I am no stranger to industry organisations and the level of effort it takes to participate in them at a high level.

I am nominating for the SOCLA board to further lend my voice and effort to support our industry get better outcomes. My experience on other boards, education programs and industry associations I believe will well support SOCLAs priorities and ambitions.