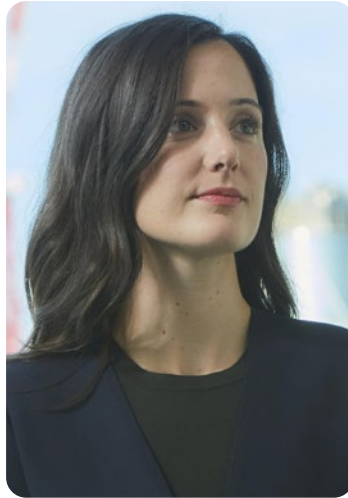


Editors' Note

ELI FISHER: Dear readers, welcome to the first edition of the CLB for 2023! For the third year running, CAMLA is pleased to be publishing a special edition that celebrates International Women's Day (**IWD**) by placing a spotlight on the many illustrious and diverse contributions of some of our industry's leading women. Building on the wonderful stories and advice contained in previous IWD special editions, we're pleased to again be sharing with you a series of short interviews from leaders from a range of backgrounds and experiences. Ash, could you tell me a bit about this year's IWD theme?



Ashleigh Fehrenbach



Eli Fisher

ASHLEIGH FEHRENBACH: My pleasure Eli. Today is a day to celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness about discrimination and take action to drive gender parity. The theme of this year's IWD is #EmbraceEquity. At its heart, equity is about actively supporting inclusion and diversity to collectively impact positive change, both in and outside the workplace. As Her Honour Justice Michelle Gordon AC KC so eloquently puts it, "(e)mbracing equity means accommodating people's differences, so that everyone is equally able to access the benefits of education, decide what matters to them in life, and take up one or more of the many opportunities we are lucky to have in Australia".

ELI: Wonderful, and who are we hearing from this year?

ASH: As you'll see from the cover page, it's an eclectic mix! We are celebrating the voices of brilliant women from the bench, the bar, private practice, in-house, executive roles, members of parliament, editors of national newspapers, CEOs and news presenters. Their collective experience cuts across a range of industries including media, communications, IP, advertising, government, fashion, privacy, entertainment and tech. I know you and I are deeply grateful for the overwhelming interest in this initiative, both from our interviewees and those who agreed to be interviewed. It's wonderful to see such a desire to promote and mark these achievements as part of IWD.

ELI: We are indeed, and it's clear that our readers are in for a treat with this incredible list of accomplished individuals. Were there any parallels, or things that surprised you when reading through the interviews?

ASH: Each interview tells its own unique story, but there are some common threads. What I loved was the number of interviewees who said that a key aspect that energised them about their work was surrounding themselves with good people. There has been a real celebration of the balance that flexible working arrangements afford us; but at the same time, we are hearing an emphasis on the value of face to face collaboration with colleagues. Sharing ideas and being able to mentor others in person is something to be grateful for.

Another thread of advice that came through was around seizing opportunities when they come along, despite facing what may be seen as a 'professional risk'. The ability for women to move through the professional world unconstrained is aided when, as both Sunita Bose and Katrina Rathie discuss, people open the door for others once they themselves are through. So many of the interviews contained in this edition are excellent examples of this.

ELI: Sound advice indeed. And it looks like many of our readers are keenly aware of the developments underway and on the horizon for privacy in Australia this year. We will be exploring these proposals and legislative changes throughout the year in the CLB. Is there anything else you want to add before our readers dive in?

ASH: Yes! A big thank you to everyone who gave their time to be featured, and to the Young Lawyers who conducted the interviews.

ELI: Seconded. Happy reading all!