

## Claire Palmer



The New South Wales Bar Association, in conjunction with the Katrina Dawson Foundation, has awarded Claire Palmer the inaugural Katrina Dawson Award. The Katrina Dawson Award is an annual award that was created to honour the memory of Katrina Dawson, who was a beloved member of the New South Wales Bar.

Katrina's colleagues will remember her for far more than her exceptional skills as an advocate. Perhaps most of all, she will be remembered as someone who made life at the bar so much the richer because of the friendships she forged and for the mentoring and assistance she provided to anyone who sought her out, as many did. It was this contribution that Katrina made to the bar and the extent to which she had a positive impact on those who had the privilege of knowing

her, that led the Bar Association's president, Arthur Moses SC, to suggest to the Katrina Dawson Foundation that the bar find a way to acknowledge and contribute to her legacy. To date, the Katrina Dawson Foundation has had as its focus the funding and mentoring of young women at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. However, when Moses pitched the idea that an award be created in Katrina's name, with the objective of encouraging women to commence their practice as a barrister, it was warmly embraced by the foundation. 'We have always been enormously grateful for the support members of the bar have provided to the foundation', said Nikki Dawson, the foundation's chief executive officer. 'The award has been funded entirely through the generosity of members of the New South Wales Bar and we are thrilled that the Bar Association was able to see the award all the way through from the initial idea of its being granted, to its first recipient.' The award, worth \$12,000, is open to women who have passed the New South Wales Bar exam and are committed to starting practice. This year's award was funded by donations made to the team of barristers that ran in the 2017 Sydney Half-Marathon. A four-person selection committee was formed to choose the inaugural recipient of the award. It consisted of Jeremy Stoljar SC and Sandy Dawson SC, both directors of the Katrina Dawson Foundation, as well as Anna Mitchelmore. Among other criteria, including excellent academic

qualifications and demonstrated leadership in the community, the selection committee was looking for applicants who were able to show an ability and desire to participate in, and foster life at the bar.

Claire Palmer very recently commenced her career at the bar, having participated in the September Bar Practice Course. She has joined the Sixth Floor, where she is reading with James Arnott and Ross Foreman. Immediately prior to coming to the bar, Palmer completed a DPhil at the University of Oxford as a Clarendon scholar. During her time overseas, Palmer also lectured in law and international relations and worked as an associate in the Supreme Court of Namibia. 'I am tremendously honoured to be the 2017 recipient of the Katrina Dawson Award', Claire said. 'It is a clear testament to Katrina's warmth, brilliance, and generosity of spirit that her colleagues and friends have contributed so generously to make this award possible. The objective of the award is to support women who decide, as Katrina did herself, to start a career at the bar. I am extremely grateful to the New South Wales Bar Association (and all those who have supported this award) for this exceptional opportunity.'

## Art Law

**Mr Shane Prince and Mr Brian Kelly leaving the Supreme court following *Save Our Rail NSW Inc v State of New South Wales by the Minister administering Transport for New South Wales* [2014] NSWSC 1875 (24 December 2014).**

The painting, by Emily Beckett, was entered in the Law Society's 'Just Art' competition.

