



## **Pegasus Scholarship to Melbourne, Australia, 2007**

Rhiannon Lloyd

I am a barrister of nearly 5 years call specialising in Family Law, predominantly matrimonial finance, contact and residence disputes. I practice at The Chambers of Jonathan Cohen QC, 4 Paper Buildings, Temple, which is a specialist family law set. I came to the bar having achieved a first class honours degree in law (LLB) from The University of Wales Aberystwyth. I went on to study the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law in Holborn. I was lucky enough to be awarded a Major Bursary to undertake that course by the Inner Temple. I was called to the Bar in 2002 by the Inner Temple. I completed part of my Pupillage at a specialist matrimonial finance set, namely 1 Hare Court (The Chambers of Bruce Blair QC) then completed the rest of my pupillage at 4 Paper Buildings where I was awarded tenancy in 2003 and have remained.

The Pegasus Scholarship Trust runs a yearly scholarship competition open to all barristers under 5 years call from any of the four Inns of Court. They award a number of scholarships (approximately 5) in different areas of law giving young barristers the opportunity to experience legal practice and study outside of the jurisdiction of England and Wales. There is only one Family Law scholarship. Applicants complete an application form which outlines their CV, reasons for applying etc. They must also provide 3 references as to their academic ability. They are then short listed for interview by a panel of 3 of the trust committee members who are senior silks. Last year the Scheme also accepted incoming scholars to the UK from Australia, America, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Uganda and Nigeria.

The Scholarship I have been awarded (each one is different) was to fly out to Melbourne and remain for 3 months (August to November) working in the Family Court of Australia as an associate to the Chief Justice Diana Bryant. I am basically assisting her and her two other full time associates by sitting in Court, preparing pre-appeal summaries, judgments, orders and also doing legal research. However I am also doing research into and submissions on certain policy documents: for example the Family Court is currently compiling a submission to the Remuneration Tribunal as to the issue of parity of income as between judges of the Family Court and the Federal Courts. The Federal Court is seeking to break parity. I have prepared submissions on the standing of the Family Court and the work it does in the eyes of the international community as well as putting together a précis of the most difficult and interesting cases the Court has to deal with in order to demonstrate the work done. I have also recently prepared a draft response to a submission received by the Chief Justice which advocates amendment of s121 of the Family Law Act 1975 which prohibits the media from identifying parties and witnesses to proceedings in the Family Court. The Chief justice has also been interested in the approach that the UK courts take to some matters. In this respect for example I have prepared a briefing note to the Chief Justice on the approach taken by the courts of England and Wales in 'lack of reasons appeals' where there is authority to remit the matter back to the trial judge for further reasons.

I have been afforded the opportunity to travel with the Full Court out of Melbourne and to Sydney; I also went to Canberra to participate in meetings about the Remuneration Tribunal; there I got to observe the historic swearing in at the High Court of Justice Kiefel, and meet Justice Kirby. I have also been able to see a little bit of Australia in the process and I'm hoping to see a lot more before I go, having absolutely fallen in love with the country!

In the photo:

Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG High Court of Australia, Chief Justice Diana Bryant, Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia and Rhiannon Lloyd, Pegasus scholar to Australia and tenant at 4 Paper Buildings.