

New solicitor at APJ Glen Innes

SARA Burnheim was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of New South Wales in July 2002 after completing a Bachelor of Commerce/Law through the University of New England in Armidale. Originally a country girl hailing from North Western NSW, she has practiced mainly in rural communities.

When returning to the law at the end of 2010 after travelling overseas for 12 months, Sara decided to specialise and her area of particular interest was family law. She felt that this was an area in which she could genuinely assist people who are going through a very emotional, and sometimes trying, time of their lives. She engaged in further studies and in October 2013 graduated from the College of Law with Master of Applied Law (Family Law).

Undertaking a Masters and specialising in Family Law for four years has equipped her with the additional expertise in areas including negotiations, trying to achieve an amicable settlement and proceeding to litigation through the courts if necessary.

Family law often does not limit itself to only one facet of law, as in the case of dividing separating parties' assets. It can involve property,

businesses, taxation issues and trusts just to name a few.

Sara's experience ranges from small asset pools to agricultural farms and businesses, from same sex and de facto relationships to marriages that span more than 50 years, and from families with one child to families with more than five children. All family law matters are individual and it is important to get the right advice from the start.

Since moving to Glen Innes and APJ Law, Sara continues to practise family law and also assists clients with Conveyancing, Wills, Probate and Commercial work. She has recently commenced a Graduate Diploma in Wills and Estates through the College of Law to assist in those broader issues.

Sara has many outside interests including tennis and gardening. Prior to arriving in Glen Innes she was involved with rugby clubs, garden clubs, a local radio station, mentoring of young high school students, political exchanges and was a participant in the Rotary Youth Leadership awards in Armidale.

She is community-minded and is looking forward to being a part of the Glen Innes community into the future.



□ Tackling the complex world of family law: New addition to the APJ Law team Sara Burnheim is well-practiced in family law for all shapes and sizes of families.

120 years of Abbotts

APJ Law had its genesis in 1876 when solicitor WJ Fergusson of Inverell opened a branch office in Glen Innes under the management of JA Boyd, who was not qualified to practice. Later in 1876, JA Boyd left for Sydney to take his examinations and was for a short time replaced by William Gibb, solicitor until WJ Fergusson relocated from Inverell to Glen Innes.

In December 1878 JA Boyd, now qualified, returned to the town to set up in his own account but shortly afterwards entered a partnership with his former employer under the firm name of Fergusson and Boyd.

By 1893, JA Boyd appeared to be practicing in the firm as a sole practitioner and in that year was succeeded by Norman McDonald who appears to have disposed of his practice to PP Abbott in 1894, 120 years ago.

PP Abbott continued in practice until 1932 when his eldest son DW "Doug" Abbott succeeded him. Doug Abbott was subsequently joined by his brother PM "Mac" Abbott shortly after World War II and they continued to practice in partnership over the ensuing decades, also joined by Doug's sons BD "Brian" Abbott and GL "Gordon" Abbott during the 1970s.

Brian opened a branch office in Armidale and relocated in early 1976 but remained a partner in the practice. In August 1977, Brian was

joined by MV "Mac" Jenkins while PC "Peter" Pardy joined the Glen Innes practice. Other solicitors and partners of the Glen Innes firm, HMS Gordon and JM Templeton, joined and left the firm during the 1970s, in the former's case to become fully engaged on the land and in the latter's case, relocating to practice in Grafton.

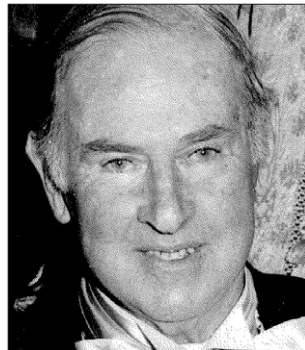
Peter Pardy was admitted to partnership in 1979 and Mac Jenkins in 1982. The firm became known as Abbott Pardy and Jenkins. Brian Abbott commenced to practice on his own accord as BD Abbott and Co in Armidale and Gordon on his own in Woolgoolga.

Various solicitors have joined the practice over the ensuing decades including Lachlan Wilson (1984-1987) and KJ "Keith" Stevenson (1987 - approx. 1989).

In 1994 Penny Waters joined the partnership and the practice expanded to Armidale. Peter Pardy relocated to that city to become the resident partner, Mac Jenkins remained in Glen Innes. Penny Waters travelled between the two offices.

In December 1999, the practice took over KA Brown and Associates in Inverell and in December 2000 merged with the Armidale firm of Tilbury & Co. Subsequently in July 2005, APJ also merged with the practice of Weaver Gentle and Harrison.

A number of lawyers includ-



□ Doug Abbott



□ Mac Abbott

ing Clayton Cross, Austin Rummery, Anthony Fox, Peter Shultz (who only just retired in 2014) and Penny joined Peter and Mac in partnership but by 2012 - with various partnership reorganisations, introductions and retirements - the partnership of APJ Law established its current configuration of four partners being Peter, Mac, Glen Kee and Peter's daughter, Anne Pardy.

In addition, the partners are currently ably assisted by Sharon Bowles, Special Counsel and solicitors Juliet Kaberry, Emalie Hurcum and most recently Sara Burnheim, with Sara having joined Mac in Glen Innes.

Although there is no member of the Abbott family currently with the firm, APJ Law looks forward to servicing the Glen Innes district and the New England region for another 120 years.



□ Part of the community: Sharon Bowles (Special Counsel), Mac Jenkins (Partner) and Sara Burnheim (Lawyer) continue the APJ Law tradition of community support.

Community contribution

LIKE many solicitors in country towns, the partners of APJ Law over the years have provided - sometimes with a greater and sometimes with a lesser degree of publicity - support to the community in various areas of community and social life.

For many years, Doug Abbott contributed to many organisations including the Glen Innes Hospital board, the Glen Innes P&A Society and, in his earlier years, to many sporting organisations and the local squadron of the Australian Lighthouse.

Doug's brother, sons and subsequent partners likewise made contributions to various organisations within the community, often on an honorary basis.

Mac Jenkins over his period as a solicitor and partner of Abbott Pardy & Jenkins, now APJ Law, has variously held and in some cases continues to hold positions of honorary

solicitor or member of the executive of organisations as varied as the Glen Innes P&A, now the Glen Innes Show Society (honorary solicitor and life member), board member of Glenwood Gardens until approximately 2002, honorary solicitor for Glen Industries, secretary of the local National Party branch in the early 1980s, member of the Glen Innes Masonic Lodge, president of New England Rugby Union in the early 1990s, honorary solicitor for the Town and Country Club to name but a few.

He was also a member of the original committee formed to establish the Law School at the University of New England and was a former president of the North and North West Law Society.

Service to the community continues to be a hallmark for the partners of APJ Law.

APJ embraces technology in law

WITH the history of APJ Law spanning more than 120 years, the law and the way in which a law firm operates has dramatically changed over time.

Do you remember a time when you would write a letter and await the post for a reply? Can you recall the typewriter, first-generation photocopiers or perhaps the introduction of the fax?

Or perhaps you may recall the dot matrix print or when you first opened an email account? For those that remain you may now Facebook, Twitter or email from your fifth-generation smart phone or tablet.

In many respects the law is all about information and knowledge. If you walk into APJ Law, as you may expect, you will see bookshelves covered with Commonwealth Law Reports, Australian Law Journals, the New South Wales Law Reports and the Australian Digest. Picking up these volumes widely-thumbed 30 years ago you would find a wealth of knowledge that nowadays can be Googled and searched, printed and highlighted all with the click of a button.

The law and the way in which a law firm operates has moved forward dramatically also. Technology has changed how we obtain access to information on a daily

basis. Undertaking a Google search may be one thing but introducing online conveyancing, online filing of Family Law and Probate documents into a law firm means that keeping up to date with technology is just as important as standing up when a judge is speaking to you.

And while search engines provide tools for access to information, the challenge is not just finding a Wikipedia entry but knowing if the information you are reading is valid, reliable and, more importantly, applicable. Only by being in the legal profession can you sift through the plenitude of information that the internet now contains.

Outside of information technology for legal resources are the changes to the way we communicate. In a rural community telephone, video conferencing, and internet-driven communications such as Skype provide links between professionals and their clients wherever they may be at the time.

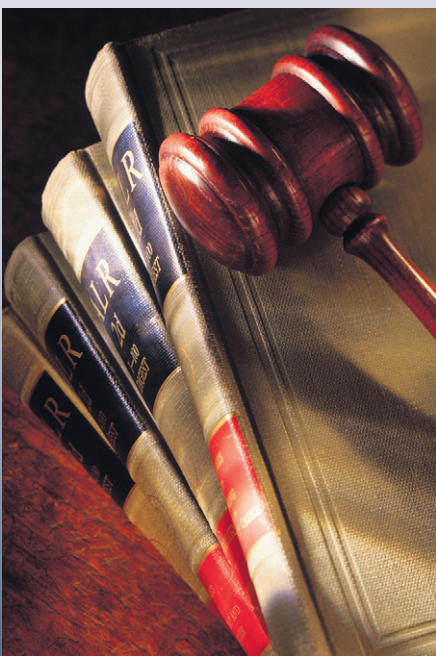
With years of multi-office management across significant distances, APJ Law prides itself as a firm that embraces technological advances as a doorway to new opportunities and will continue to meet the needs of its clients into the future.



□ **Changing the way we communicate:** APJ Law's Mac Jenkins, Sara Burnheim and Sharon Bowles are old hands but making the best use of modern technologies to provide excellent customer service.



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