

Fiona McLay

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Summary

I help law firms transform how they work and deliver value to their clients. After 25 years working across the legal industry in top tier, mid tier, small firm, a NewLaw firm and in-house, I have an insider's view of how firms across the industry are actually using (or not using) tech.

As the founder of McLay Legal Consulting, I have helped over 50 law firms and legal departments to improve their processes, systems, and adoption of tech tools. I also provide tech training and education, tailored to the specific needs and goals of each team.

I keep up with emerging technology and translate the tools into practical use cases that my clients can understand. I provide strategic guidance to move improvement projects from contemplation to implementation.

Experience



Consultant and Tech evangelist

McLay Legal Consulting

May 2023 - Present (11 months)

I help owners of law firms make better use of technology so they can get back to enjoying their work and run a streamlined and profitable business.



Teaching Fellow

The College of Law Australia

May 2022 - Present (1 year 11 months)

Teaching Fundamental Legal Technologies, College of Law, Legal Business Management



Consultant - Legal Project Management

King & Wood Mallesons

Jul 2021 - Jun 2023 (2 years)

Implementation of new matter planning software nationally. Brought innovative and creative approaches to the challenge of engaging users.



Managing Counsel Wealth Dispute Resolution

MLC Australia

Sep 2019 - Jan 2021 (1 year 5 months)

Advising on resolution of financial services disputes in court and AFCA. Managing complex responses to regulatory notices. Advising on complex remediation of events financial services advice and financial service products.



Special Counsel

Harris Freidman Lawyers

Sep 2007 - Apr 2018 (10 years 8 months)

Acting for individuals and business owners in a wide range of commercial litigation matters and in disputed estates. Working closely with my clients and their financial advisers I proactively attempted to achieve a commercial outcome to resolve the dispute. When an early negotiated resolution was not available, I prepared cases in the Federal Court, NSW Supreme Court, NSW District Court, NSW Local Court, NCAT and other tribunals.



Senior Associate

Sparke Helmore Lawyers

Oct 2001 - Aug 2007 (5 years 11 months)

Commercial Litigation in a broad range of matters for corporate clients including defending negligence claims against professionals and advising insurers on insurance policy coverage issues.



Senior Associate (from January 2001)

Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Dec 1994 - Sep 2001 (6 years 10 months)

Commercial litigation including specialising in acting for defendants to professional negligence claims on the instructions of professional indemnity insurers and medical defence organisations.

Education



The College of Law Australia

Graduate diploma of Legal Business

2019 - Jun 2021

Designed for any professional aspiring to lead a law firm or legal department or to consolidate their current leadership role. Covering Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Operational Excellence and Technologies shaping legal services



University of Sydney

LLB/B.Ec, Law, Economics (Accounting)

1991 - 1995

Licenses & Certifications



LPM Launch Pad Certificate in the Fundamental Skills of Legal Project Management - LPM Institute



Josef Designer & Builder - Josef

Skills

Change Management • E-Learning • Generative AI • Prompt Engineering • Employee Training • Strategic Thinking • Project Stakeholder Management • Analytical Skills • Legal Technology • Stakeholder Management