



## MICHELLE ANTONIO

LLB, LLM

*“Positive and productive communication allows resolutions to evolve that may be unimaginable”*

### Mediation Approach

A former general counsel and senior dispute resolution expert, my 20 years' legal experience includes 15 years in commercial businesses across the energy, construction and mining sectors as well as holding senior roles in government. Practical and industry experience includes working on remote sites such as Gorgon's LNG project (Jetty & Civil) on Barrow Island, Inpex's Ichthys LNG project and Port Melville Tiwi Islands.

Having accumulated more than 100 hours' mediation experience as a legal professional, I can offer a creative and energetic approach that utilises the commercial interests of parties. My ability to resolve insurmountable disputes without the constraints and limitations of legal remedies can produce resolutions ranging from the assignment of insurance policies to securing future bids.

### Testimonials

*“Having worked with Michelle over many years, I can say that she has wonderful instincts as to how to settle difficult cases and then drive and tenacity to deliver settlements”.*

Peter Pether (Partner - King & Wood Mallesons)

*“Michelle brings a rare combination of unqualified intelligence and EQ to the problem solving environment. She is legally astute and technically proficient, while also demonstrating a natural understanding, honed through her broad experience in legal and corporate matters, of sub-surface impediments to problem solving. She is also incredibly hard-working and diligent. These attributes combine to provide a formidable mediator's toolbox.”*

Andrew Pascoe (Partner, Allens)

*“I have been involved with Michelle on several complex legal matters within the oil and gas industry along with the broader construction market. Michelle brought a high level of legal and practical knowledge to these matters that aided all parties involved in the issues. Additionally, she always remained detailed and inquisitive in her approach to the resolution of complex technical, commercial and legal issues. I would thoroughly recommend Michelle to both senior executives and non-executives.”*

Graeme Dunn (CEO & Managing Director, SCEE)

*“Michelle demonstrates a high level of drive and passion and shows an aptitude for bringing people together - qualities that she can draw upon to be an effective mediator.”*

Peter Lorbeer (Associate Counsel, Shell)

*“I have worked with Michelle on a number of complex legal matters and commercial negotiations. She not only has the legal knowledge, ability to understand and assess complex factual situations but also the ability to apply her knowledge and experience to the matter at hand and to deliver the best legal and commercial outcome for all parties involved in the dispute process. Her energy and enthusiasm is infectious to all those involved and I can strongly recommend her involvement for any disputes.*

Brad Davey (Managing Director, Leighton Asia)

## Qualifications

- 2023 National Mediation Accreditation – NMAS (Resolution Institute Sydney)
- 2017 IAMA Mediation Course (Melbourne)
- 2016 UNSW AGSM – Finance for Non-Finance Managers (Sydney)
- 2009 Master of Laws (University of Melbourne)
  - Dispute Resolution
  - Corporate Governance and Director Duties – WHS obligations
  - Advanced Construction Law
  - Workplace Health & Safety
  - Risk: Insurance & Allocation
  - Infrastructure Delivery: Public Private Partnerships
  - Principles of Construction Law
  - Construction: Principles into practice
- 2004 Admitted as Barrister and Solicitor (Supreme Court of Western Australia)
- 1999 Bachelor of Laws (University of Notre Dame – Academic Scholarship)

## Directorships/Memberships/Conference Presentations/Panels

- 2024 Law Society WA Mediation Panel
- 2024 Small Business Development Corporation Panel (WA)
- 2024 Legal 500 General Counsel Summit – Presenter (Sydney)
- 2023 Bond University Human Research Ethics Committee
- 2019 Australian Bar Association Conference – Presenter (Singapore)
- 2018 – 2020 Board Member – WA Disability Services Commission
- 2017 Australian Bar Association Conference (Sydney)
- 2016 – 2017 Board Member – Giving West
- 2014 – 2020 Australasian Corporate Business Integrity Council
- 2014 – 2015 International Bar Association Conferences (Tokyo and Vienna)
- 2006 – 2009 WA Law Society Councillor
- 2003 – 2005 Board Member – Identity WA (formerly Catholic Care)
- 2003 Soccer West (Now Football West) Board and Disciplinary Tribunal Member

## Professional Profile - Legal Strategist & Conflict Resolution Specialist

Admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor in Western Australia in 2004, I bring **two decades of legal experience** to the table. My journey includes **15 years in-house and 8 years as General Counsel** in ASX and SGX-listed companies, as well as in government entities. My key attributes include:

- **Strategic Mediation:** As a nationally accredited mediator (NMAS), I have a long legal history of adeptly handling complex multi-party claims in business and private practice.
- **Collaborative Leadership:** I've engaged with C-Suite executives, Board of Directors, and leadership teams across multifaceted corporate structures, including Public Private Partnerships, joint ventures (incorporated and unincorporated), alliance and special purpose vehicles.
- **Governance Excellence:** My unwavering commitment to integrity and confidentiality has earned me respect as a dedicated executive.
- **Effective Communication:** I am an articulate advocate who can simplify intricate legal concepts, ensuring seamless understanding across stakeholders.
- **Holistic Problem-Solving:** Meticulously organised, I offer technical and practical insights, aligning solutions with organisational goals.
- **Business Acumen:** Executive tenure in private, listed and government underscores my profound grasp of commercial and political dynamics, combined with legal experience allows a more holistic mindset.
- **Extensive Legal Expertise:** My expertise extends beyond specialised practice areas (construction, mining, oil & gas, maritime/port, and government) to cover M&A, IP, property, international expansion, employment law, agriculture, and anti-bribery and corruption.

- **Global Footprint:** My work has spanned the globe including Kuwait, Panama, Iran, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Africa, New Zealand, China, and the Middle East (Oman, Qatar, Sharjah, Dubai, Abu Dhabi), as well as Papua New Guinea and the Tiwi Islands.

## CV – Short Form Career Summary

### **CITY OF PERTH, General Counsel**

February 2021 – February 2023

Established inaugural legal services unit, strategically structuring and delivering legal support. Successfully implemented recommendations arising from a highly controversial and public 2-year public inquiry into the City of Perth. Led multiple mediations, conciliations and negotiations involving, spanning government infrastructure, construction, property, planning disputes, insurance and employment matters.

### **AUSGROUP LIMITED, Group Manager - Legal & Risk**

January 2018 – January 2021

Chief Legal Officer reporting directly to the CEO of SGX-listed entity. Led and guided a team comprising legal counsel, commercial and contract managers and administrators, industrial relations experts, insurance, compensation specialists, and risk advisors. Played a pivotal role in complex dispute resolutions, including Supreme Court Appeals Court cases as well as high-stake mediations involving Chinese and Australian mining and maritime/port matters.

### **SRG LIMITED, General Counsel**

September 2014 – December 2017

Overseeing the legal and insurance operations of SRG Limited and its international subsidiaries. Managed and effectively resolved litigation and disputes, including several large Supreme Court cases involving multiple parties, as well as negotiating the first enforceable undertaking for fatality in South Australia.

### **CPB CONTRACTORS PTY LTD, In-house Legal Counsel**

February 2009 – September 2014

Strategically managing a range of disputes and contentious matters including arbitration, adjudication, mediations and negotiations across the construction, mining and services entities – formerly known as Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd & Broad Group Holdings. Additionally, facilitated investigations and training in both areas of Code of Conduct and Anti-bribery.

### **PRIVATE PRACTICE**

Prior to moving into senior in-house legal roles, employed as a solicitor with a leading independent WA law firm.

## Project Experience

Beyond legal expertise, I bring invaluable insights into internal business operations. My role bridges the gap between the legal realm and the practical execution of projects, considering commercial imperatives. My understanding is informed by hands-on involvement in negotiations, disputes, contracts, and other legal aspects of significant projects ranging from small-scale initiatives to large endeavours.

Melbourne Water Eastern Treatment Plant  
Gorgon LNG project (Jetty & Civil) Barrow Island  
AFP Manly Training Centre  
Ord River Irrigation Expansion  
Perth Airport Terminal  
Waterbank Perth  
Talisson Lithium Project Greenbushes  
Karara Iron Ore  
Alluvion Building Perth  
Pinkenba Wharf Refurbishment Brisbane  
WACA sports stadium

Chevrans Wheatstone Project offshore  
Elizabeth Quay Waterfront Precinct and Bridge  
Kings Square Towers  
New Royal Adelaide Hospital  
INPEX's Ichthys LNG projects (onshore and offshore)  
Yara Pilbara Ammonium Nitrate Plant  
Port Melville Jetty, Fuel Tanks & Accommodation Camp  
Whyalla Steelworks/Refractory  
Karratha LNG Plant, Burrup Peninsula  
Tianqi Lithium Project Kwinana  
Perth City Deal Projects