

Curriculum Vitae

MARK TROWELL QC

Mark Trowell joined the independent Bar in Western Australia in 1989 after having been admitted to practice eight years earlier. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2000.

Despite some time in commercial and common law, he was ultimately attracted to the challenge of the criminal law.

That was mainly due to the freewheeling character of criminal lawyers who seemed to give all to the cause of those less able to defend themselves from the power and resources of the state.

He has been retained to act for many of the big names around town (including international art critic Robert Hughes, legendary Sydney nightclub identity Abe Saffron and iron-ore magnate Gina Rinehart), but has also, like the majority of criminal lawyers, been ever ready to take on the case of the little guy. He has also prosecuted criminal cases for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mark Trowell appeared as counsel for various persons called before a Royal Commission established in Western Australia in the early 1990's to investigate political and financial corruption. More recently in 2003-04, he appeared before another Royal Commission into alleged police corruption acting for a large number of police officers on behalf of the Western Australian Police Union.

In 2001-02, he was appointed to act as the observer for LAWASIA, the *Law Council of Australia* and the *Australian Bar Association* at the sedition trial in Malaysia of distinguished lawyer and parliamentarian Karpal Singh.

In May 2004, Mark Trowell was appointed as an observer for the Geneva-based *International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)* and the *Australian Bar Association* at the appeal before the Federal Court of Malaysia at Putrajaya of former deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim against his earlier conviction and sentence .

In 2005, he was asked by the Australian Government to assist Schapelle Corby with her appeal against conviction for an alleged drug importation into Bali, Indonesia. He also provided advice to the legal team of Scott Rush who was part of the group known as the "Bali Nine" arrested in Bali on charges of drug trafficking.

Throughout 2005-2006, in Perth and Sydney, he acted as counsel on behalf of the masters of foreign fishing vessels that had been seized by the Australian Customs for allegedly poaching the Patagonian toothfish in the Southern Ocean near Antarctica.

In fact, the Australian authorities chased one of the vessels, known as *FV Viarsa 1*, for three weeks over a distance of 7,000km across the Southern Ocean making it the world's longest sea chase. The Master and crew of the vessel were ultimately found not guilty. Mark was subsequently involved in negotiations at the *International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea* (ITLOS) in Hamburg on behalf of the owners of another vessel charged with similar offences.

In December 2006, Mark Trowell was appointed by the Australian Government to undertake a review of the legislation governing the *Australian Crime Commission* (ACC) and then provide a report to the Federal Minister for Justice so that it might be tabled in the Federal Parliament.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union appointed Mark Trowell to observe on its behalf criminal proceedings brought against former Commander of the Sri Lanka Army General Sarath Fonseka and leader of the opposition parties. He attended and reported on the several proceedings taking place at Colombo in June 2011.

In January 2010, Mark Trowell was asked to observe and report on the second sodomy trial of Datuk Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim in the High Court of Malaysia on behalf of LAWASIA, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), the Commonwealth Lawyers Association and Union Internationale des Advocats (UIA). He continued to observe the trial on behalf of the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union and LAWASIA until its conclusion on 9 January 2012.