



st mary's women

RACHAEL YOUNG ('00) Lawyer



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As a member of the Class of 2000, I shared the excitement of a new millennium with my fellow classmates, eager to see what the future would bring and what we could get from and give to it. St Mary's gave me a strong sense of self-worth, optimism about the power of good education and many lasting friendships, which would prove to be a strong source of support and inspiration.

After graduating, I travelled to South Africa for the World Schools' Debating Championships and my time debating in our host Soweto high schools opened my eyes to the privileged life and education I had enjoyed for the past five years. I tried not to forget this when I attended the University of Western Australia, completing my Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Political Science and International Relations, and my Bachelor of Laws with Honours, graduating in 2006. A highlight of my time at university was being able to travel to New Delhi, India, to research domestic and international human rights issues at the South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre. In particular, I studied the use of police powers in censorship and grew a greater appreciation for my ability at home to be able to speak my mind and debate ideas without fear of retribution. This appreciation directed my interests for the years after my time at UWA.

From 2007 to August 2017, I worked at the State Solicitor's Office, where I qualified as a lawyer, and I practised in civil litigation, administrative and constitutional law. Desirous of furthering my knowledge in public law, in 2011 I attended New York University to attain my Master of Law in International Legal Studies. I was admitted as a Transitional Justice Scholar, focusing my studies on the role of law in post-conflict societies. I was lucky enough to be granted the New York University International Law and Human Rights Fellowship, which funded me to intern with the Office of the Co-Prosecutors at the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. There I put the theories of transitional justice into practice and examined how the law operates in a mixed national and international system in the aftermath of the mass human rights atrocities that occurred in the 1970s in Cambodia. In August 2017, I joined the Bar and now practise from Fourth Floor Chambers in Perth.

