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## Alumni: Better Together

We love to stay connected with our alumni. We share the latest news from Hall & Wilcox.

### In this edition



### New Chair of Partners

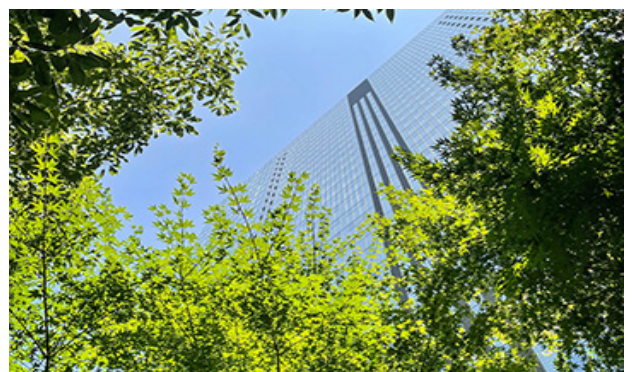
We are delighted that Emma Woolley is our new Chair of Partners – our first female Chair. Emma actively supports our vision and values (Hallmarks) and brings significant governance experience. We would also like to pay tribute to Mark Dunphy who had been in the role since 2015.

[Read more](#)

### ESG Report

As part of our commitment to the UN Global Compact principles, we are pleased to release our first ESG Report. It covers the steps we have taken in the areas of the environment, human rights, labour, governance and anti-corruption.

[Read more](#)





## Community partners: HalfCut

Find out more about one of our newest community partners, HalfCut, a social and environmental organisation that raises funds to save the Daintree.

[Read more](#)

## First Nations Pathway Program

We recently welcomed our first First Nations Pathway Program interns. Savannah Campbell and Christine Conn worked in our Brisbane office, while Aleisha Bailey worked in Newcastle. During their four-week internship, Savannah, Christine and Aleisha worked on a range of matters with exposure to real work on real files. Our First Nations Pathway Program is a paid program that runs for four weeks and provides Australian First Nations university law students with insight into life at Hall & Wilcox.

[Read more](#)



## Remembering Paul O'Donnell

Following the sad passing of our colleague Paul O'Donnell in August last year, we have established a prize in Paul's memory through the University of New South Wales. The 'Hall & Wilcox Prize – in memory of Paul O'Donnell' will be awarded for the best performing student across the year in Renewable Energy Law: Structuring and Financing Renewable Energy Projects'. The prize will be awarded for the first time this year, for the 2022 academic year. We think this is a wonderful way to remember and recognise Paul as a leader in this sector.



## Where are they now?

Andrew Fellowes and Emilie Foden, who both moved into in-house roles after they left Hall & Wilcox, share their career stories, the best advice they received and memorable moments from their time at the firm.

[Read more](#)



## Parkerville bushfire litigation

The High Court of Australia delivered a landmark judgment in favour of our clients in the long-running Parkerville bushfire litigation. Partners Matt McDonald and Liam Campion led our team, acting for a large group of insurers and their customers, who suffered substantial property damage losses in the inferno. The bushfire ignited when a privately owned timber power pole failed due to age, fungal rot and termite damage, bringing down a live conductor with it. The timber pole was more than 30 years old and had never been maintained, inspected or treated over the course of its life. Our clients sued the network operator (Western Power), its contractor (Thiess), as well as the person who owned the property and the pole. Our clients succeeded against all three.

[Read more](#)

## Deals snapshot

Our cross-practice teams have been busy working on a wide variety of matters. These include advising [Nostra Property Group](#) on its agreement to acquire Porter Davis's multiple dwelling business and complete up to 375 homes; [Spirit Super](#) on its joint acquisition of GeelongPort; [Breakthrough Victoria](#) (the Victorian Government's investment fund) on its \$5 million investment in FLAIM Systems; the owners of [ACA International](#) on its sale to Dachser; and Germany-based [Waldner group](#) on its acquisition of an Australian laboratory business.

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## Appointments

We are delighted to have welcomed a number of new partners to the firm over the past few months: [Sevan Gore](#) (Perth), [David Cooper](#) (Sydney), [McLane Edinger](#) (Perth), [David Chew](#) (Melbourne) and [Suzie Leask](#) (Newcastle).

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## New SCG Legal chair

Congratulations to Mark Dunphy, who has been appointed chair of global legal organisation SCG Legal, a worldwide network of 122 leading independent law firms from more than 60 countries. Mark has represented Hall & Wilcox within SCG Legal for more than 15 years and is the first Chair from the Asia/Pacific region.

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## Pro bono law reform project

Barbara Casado led a team of our lawyers on a pro bono law reform project to change outdated and offensive terminology in legislation related to disabilities.

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## Client Choice Awards

We were delighted to win two [2023 Client Choice Awards](#): Best Law & Related Services Firm (\$100-\$200m revenue) and Best Professional Services Firm (\$100-\$200m revenue). We were also a finalist as Best Provider to Financial & Insurance Services and Most Innovative Law & Related Services Firm.

These awards are really special to us. They are based on actual client feedback – more than 17,000 clients of professional service firms are surveyed across the market for these awards. They reflect our unwavering focus on providing the best possible client service and experience.

Thank you to all of our alumni that are now clients for their on going support.



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## Quick bites

We welcome back [Megan Cramp](#) and Monique Burr (nee Sterrenberg) to the firm. Megan re-joined our WA insurance team as a senior associate and Monique re-joined our Queensland statutory insurance team as a lawyer. If you or someone you know is wanting to progress their career at Hall & Wilcox, [check out our latest opportunities](#).

### Recent alumni moves...

- Alicia Bray, former corporate and commercial senior associate, joining MECCA Brands as a Legal Counsel.
- Adren Choon, former corporate and commercial lawyer, joining Visy as a Corporate Counsel.
- Natalie Clark, former general insurance lawyer, joining UnitingCare Queensland as a Legal Counsel.
- Rhys Davidson, former general insurance lawyer, joining Adica Insurance as a Legal Counsel & Compliance Officer.
- Cameron Dickson, former general insurance paralegal, joining the VIC Department of Transport & Planning as a Prosecution & Case review Manager.
- Christian Gaulke, former general insurance lawyer, joining NSW Environment Protection Authority as Senior Legal Officer.
- Adriana Giometti, former tax and commercial lawyer, joining PwC as a Director.
- Kim Grady, former work, health and safety senior associate, joining University of Sydney as the Chief Health and Safety Officer.
- Jim Maxwell, former commercial dispute resolution lawyer, joining Melbourne City Football Club as GM - Legal, Risk & Compliance.
- Andrew McArthur, former general insurance senior associate, joining the Washington County District as an Assistant District Attorney.
- Scott Meacock, former commercial dispute resolution special counsel, joining Gold Valley as CEO and General Counsel.
- Jung Hee Ryu, former corporate and commercial senior associate, joining Australian Retirement Trust as a Senior Legal Counsel.
- Zoe Solomon, former corporate and commercial special counsel, joining James Richardson Group as General Counsel
- Jamie Truong, former environment and planning lawyers, joining Suburban Rail Loop Authority as a Principal Lawyer.

Do you have any quick bites to share? Email us at [alumni@hallandwilcox.com.au](mailto:alumni@hallandwilcox.com.au)

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