

Dr Nicola Maxwell Principal



Introduction

Nicola is a registered Trans-Tasman Patent Attorney of about 15 years experience. In 2013, Nicola moved to Queensland to manage the Brisbane office of one of Australia's top-tier law firms. She has now settled in Brisbane as her home. She is a Fellow of IPTA and a member of RACI.

Education and early career

Nicola has a BSc (Hons, Class I) in Chemistry with Law from the University of Essex, UK. After completing her undergraduate degree, she received a Herschel Smith scholarship to study for a Masters in the Management of IP Law at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London. She graduated with Distinction, and shortly afterwards was offered an Australian Postgraduate Research Scholarship to study towards a PhD in Applied Science, Chemistry. Her research was undertaken at the Ian Wark Research Institute, University of South Australia and focused on the development of novel materials comprising photo-responsive surface coatings for use in the reversible floatation of mineral particles. Her work won "Most Outstanding PhD Thesis (Ian Wark)". After her PhD, she was offered a role as a patent attorney, which required that she obtain the Australian equivalent of her British Master's degree (Master of Industrial Property (MIP) from the University of Technology, Sydney, (Drafting and V&I from the IPTA Academy)).

Technical expertise

With first-class credentials in science and intellectual property, Nicola specialises in the preparation and prosecution of patent applications in a variety of technology areas. Over time, Nicola has developed a focus on the interface between mechanical and chemical engineering related technologies, including the manufacture and supply of building and construction materials; explosives chemicals and mining services; agricultural technologies ranging from fertilizers to agricultural plastics, as well as mining and mineral related technologies. Nicola is also a patent analyst. In 2011, she spent 2 years with Thomson Reuters, using patent documents as a big data source. Nicola is now an Honorary Associate at UTS, and has published in the area of patent citation analysis.

Leadership and mentoring in the attorney profession

Nicola was for a few years an invited lecturer at the IPTA Academy's Drafting course (one of the courses aspiring trainees must pass in order to register as patent attorneys).

Other interests

Nicola also has a Graduate Diploma in Psychology and is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Psychological Sciences (Honours) at CQU. She is also a keen climber, and has recently completed an outdoor lead climbing course.