

ZOË DURAND - MEDIATOR & CONSULTANT LAWYER

Principal, Nationally Accredited Mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner & Lawyer

EXPERIENCE

Zoë Durand has a wealth of experience, having worked as a lawyer for 12 years, primarily specialising in family law in a private practice law firm. She is a 2019 APAC Insider Legal Awards finalist and recently authored the groundbreaking and highly publicised book *Inside Family Law*, recommended as a “must read” by The Honourable Peter Rose AM QC (former Family Court Judge). The book is on the recommended reading list for Family Law at several universities.

Prior to family law, Zoë worked at leading national and international commercial law firms (K&L Gates and HWL Ebsworth) giving her a financial acumen that is highly desirable in family law property matters. She has also worked as a Court Appointed Independent Children's Lawyer at Legal Aid, lending her an insight into the needs and perspectives of children, including in the most complex parenting matters.

From her experience in commercial firms, private practice family law and Legal Aid, Zoë has a way of connecting with diverse clients from all walks of life - from multinational corporate clients, to societies most wealthy, and also its most vulnerable individuals. In terms of legal issues, her broader experience also provides a distinct advantage in family law, where other areas of law often become relevant.

Zoë's other relevant experience includes:

Education

- Nationally Accredited Mediator, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP), qualified Collaborative lawyer.
- Masters of Applied Family Law (College of Law), Bachelor of Law Degree and Bachelor of Arts Degree (first class honours) from UNSW.

Employment

- Years of prior experience as a family lawyer in a large national personal services firm acting in family law parenting and property matters.
- Court Appointed Independent Children's Lawyer at Legal Aid.
- Volunteer at Youth Law Australia, providing legal advice to children.
- Previously worked at leading national and international commercial law firms K&L Gates and HWL Ebsworth.

Academic, Author & Speaker

- Author of *Inside Family Law*, containing interviews with Judges, Court experts, family consultants, barristers and other professionals and also firsthand experiences and children's stories.
- Hosts the *Inside Family Law* podcast (www.zoedurand.podbean.com)
- Authored family law case notes for the NSW Law Society Journal, reviewing the latest family law cases.
- Featured for her insights on the ABC, Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian, A Current Affair, 9 News, 10Daily, Mamamia, 9Honey, The NSW Law Society Journal and Lawyers Weekly.
- Frequent key note speaker on family law.
- Guest lecturer in family law at UNSW, Faculty of Law.
- *Inside Family Law* is on the recommended reading list at many Universities.

Organisations and memberships

- Founded Women's Nexus, a professional and business networking organisation for women, which has hosted talks from Judges and other leading Court experts.
- Member of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, the Women Lawyers Association of NSW, the Asian Australian Lawyers Association and the French Australian Lawyers Society.
- Zoë has Australian / Taiwanese Citizenship and French Permanent Residency. Her daughter and husband have French / Australian citizenship. She has a real life understanding of cross cultural issues in families.

Mediation Answers

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WHAT PEOPLE SAY

"Dear Zoe, I wanted to extend my debt of gratitude for your efforts today in assisting my client at the parenting and property mediation to achieve an outcome that (to my observation) all parties recognised was fair and just. You did so by treating each of the parties with respect, working with not only the parties but the lawyers. I feel that both clients felt they had been heard, and even where they struggled to express themselves your 'take out' was accurate and gratefully adopted.

Please be assured you made a positive difference to 2 people today and their 2 children. 4 people are now ready to enter the next chapter of their lives with optimism. Thank you.

Regards, Greg Parker"

- **Greg Parker**, Partner, Swaab Attorneys

"Dear Zoe, I write to extend a debt of thanks to you for the assistance that you have provided recently to two of my clients in Mediations. I note that one of those Mediations dealt with property issues and the other dealt with a complex parenting arrangement.

You attacked each of the disputes in a unique and well thought out way which showed the clients, and me, that you had not only read and understood the material presented to you but had also thought quite considerably about how you could assist the parties in resolving their matter and moving forward.

There are many Mediators out there who simply pick up a Brief, moments before the Mediation is to commence and it is refreshing that you have broken the mould in this respect and come willing to devote all of your attention, focus and knowledge to genuinely providing assistance.

Your calm and comical manner suits well to the Mediation environment and I will be sure to recommend your services to other Practitioners.

I wish you well in the development of your Mediation practice and I look forward to working with you in other matters, so that sensible solutions can be found for clients, without waiting for years in the Court system."

- **Amy Jenkins**, Partner, Russell Kennedy Aitken Lawyers

"There is no other book like *Inside Family Law*. This book is 'prime real estate' because of its range of practical knowledge from leading experts... in my opinion a copy of this book is a must for all institutions teaching family law, for family lawyers or those going through the process firsthand."

- **The Honourable Peter Rose AM QC**

former Family Court Judge, mediator, arbitrator and adjunct lecturer at Sydney University

"Zoë Durand has provided such an important resource for those going through the process looking for more perspective. I've been recommending *Inside Family Law* to all my friends."

- **Isabel Lo**,

journalist, founder of Media Diversity Australia and former producer for ABC and CNN International

"Hi Zoe, thank you for assisting the parties yesterday to resolve their property and parenting matters.

You structured the mediation in accordance with exactly what the parties needed to reach a resolution. You were personable and relatable with my client, empathetic where necessary but also straight down the line.

It was a pleasure working with you and I would not hesitate to recommend you as a mediator to any family law practitioner.

Kind Regards, Briony"

- **Briony Doyle**, family lawyer at Fox & Staniland Lawyers

"Thanks for today. You were really prepared and it was obvious you were on top of all the issues. I also appreciate you recognised the right time when there was a need to separate the parties. Thanks for being respectful with the clients and showing empathy. I will be using you again and recommending you to others."

- **Maria Monastiriotis**, Lawyer and Group principal, Nexus Lawyers

"Hi Zoe

Thanks again for the mediation yesterday. My client informed me that he felt comforted by your intake session with him in the lead up, and that seemed to make for a more open and trusting start to the day with you from his perspective.

There were some tense times there between the parties; but you managed to summarise the issues and defuse any tension seamlessly. I'm sure they are both relieved that all matters have now been resolved. Looking forward to working with you again!"

- **Courtney Mullen**, Lawyer and Director, Farrar Gesini Dunn, Canberra

"Zoë thanks for today. You did a really good job at identifying the issues in dispute and helping the parties reach agreement. The process allowed the parties to look at things from a different perspective. I was very impressed with your work and the process."

- **Audrey Diliberto**, lawyer, Bell Lawyers

"Thanks Zoe well done today. Good friendly approach pays dividends I think. Upon reflection I think your strength as a mediator is that in your approach at mediation it is not about you, but is about the clients."

- **Alan Taylor**, lawyer, North Coast law, Palmwoods, QLD