

ELLE NIKOU MADALIN

BARRISTER & ARBITRATOR
LB, BA, LL.M (First Class Hons), FCI Arb

CURRICULUM VITAE

ADMISSION

- Admitted to the legal profession: 15 February 2012
- Signed the Bar Roll: 23 October 2014

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

- Fellow (Chartered Institute of Arbitrators): 2025
- Master of Laws (First Class Honours) (University of Melbourne): graduated 2021
- Bachelor of Laws & Bachelor of Arts (University of Melbourne): graduated 2010
- Victorian Education Certificate (Methodist Ladies College): graduated 2003

KEY AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Arbitration
- Commercial & Transactional Law
- Contract Law (including international principles of contracts)
- Corporations, Joint Ventures & Partnerships
- Doping
- Discipline & Misconduct
- Eligibility & Selection
- Employment & Industrial Law
- Human Rights
- Inquests, Inquiries & Investigations
- Integrity
- Media, Entertainment & Defamation
- Public & Administrative Law

PRACTICE SUMMARY

Elle Nikou Madalin has nearly fifteen years' experience in sports law; as an arbitrator, advocate, advisor and independent investigator. In that time, she has presided over and appeared before hundreds of sporting tribunals, both in first instance and appellate matters, in disputes concerning a wide range of sports. She has particular expertise in football disputes, being an area in which she has worked for the entirety of her career.

As an advocate and advisor, Elle has worked with and for parties across the entire sporting landscape; including governing bodies, government agencies, sporting clubs, athlete unions, and individual athletes and coaches. Her approach is informed by a practical understanding of sport from all perspectives. Her blend of legal expertise and experience spans all categories of sporting disputes including contracts and transactions; employment; integrity, discipline and misconduct; eligibility and selection; doping; human rights; and relicensing following sanction. She is also experienced in sporting matters involving geopolitical dimensions.

As an arbitrator, Elle offers strong legal and procedural knowledge (including proficiency in universally recognised principles of contract); careful, fair and efficient case management; excellent analytical and decision-making skills; and experience drafting logical, well-reasoned determinations and awards that conform with enforceability requirements. She is culturally sensitive, and regularly collaborates with practitioners from diverse jurisdictions and legal traditions around the world.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Australian & New Zealand Sports Law Association
- Commercial Bar Association

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EXPERIENCE

2014 TO PRESENT	BARRISTER & INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATOR VICTORIAN AND NEW SOUTH WALES BARS
2021 TO PRESENT	FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA – NATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION CHAMBER DEPUTY CHAIR & ARBITRATOR Sitting in both the original and appellate jurisdiction, including frequently as chair of the panel.
2025 TO PRESENT	VICTORIAN BAR COUNCIL – INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIR
2017 TO 2025	AFL PLAYERS’ ASSOCIATION – ARBITRATION PANEL ARBITRATOR
2020 TO 2022	VICTORIAN BAR COUNCIL – INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION COMMITTEE MEMBER
2018 TO 2022	COMMERCIAL BAR ASSOCIATION – SPORTS LAW SECTION SECRETARY
2020 & 2021	TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES – NATIONAL SELECTION PANEL CHAIR – WATER POLO

HISTORY OF LEGAL EMPLOYMENT PRIOR TO JOINING THE BAR

2012 TO 2014	PIPER ALDERMAN Lawyer – Commercial Litigation and Dispute Resolution
2011 TO 2012	MADDOCKS Graduate Lawyer & Lawyer – Commercial Litigation, Insolvency, Employment
2009	MIDDLETONS (NOW K&L GATES) Seasonal Clerk – Intellectual Property, Biotechnology & Capital Markets
2007 TO 2010	MIDDLETONS (NOW K&L GATES) Paralegal – Commercial Litigation

ATHLETE ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2-time Australian swimming gold medallist
- Australian swimming bronze medallist
- Four-time Australian swimming finalist
- Former holder of multiple State records
- 25-time Victorian swimming gold medallist
- 4-time Victorian swimming silver medallist
- Member of multiple teams at national and international competitions