

MARK TEDESCHI QC

Barrister

WARDELL CHAMBERS

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A highly esteemed Queen's Counsel, Mark possesses over 35 years' experience prosecuting some of the most complex and high-profile criminal trials in New South Wales.

Serving as the Senior Crown Prosecutor – the leader of the State's Crown Prosecutors – for 20 years, Mark was the Head of Chambers of 80 – 100 Crown Prosecutors and was responsible for their management and for the allocation of all criminal trial briefs. His experience also extended to prosecuting several high-profile political cases overseas.

Since joining Wardell Chambers in 2018, Mark has expanded his areas of practice to include both defending and prosecuting criminal matters, disciplinary proceedings, commissions and inquiries, inquests and general regulatory matters, including environmental law prosecutions. He has appeared in a wide range of jurisdictions, including the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal and the High Court of Australia, and was recently briefed in an Inquiry on behalf of the Government to make recommendations with respect to improvements in efficiency, transparency, fairness and consistency of one of its major departments. His professional interests now also extend to conducting mediations as a mediator.

Notably, Mark was appointed a Cavaliere (Italian National Honour) in 2009 and a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2013. He is a Visiting Professorial Fellow at the University of Wollongong, a Councillor at the State Library of NSW, a Trustee of Sydney Grammar School and a former Board Member of the National Art School in Sydney.

Mark has authored three true-crime books and has written numerous articles and delivered presentations on a variety of legal subjects. With an avid interest in photography, Mark has also been a successful exhibiting photographer for many years and his photography book entitled "Shooting around Corners" was published by Beagle Press in 2012.

Mark holds a Master of Arts (Business Law) from the City of London Polytechnic (now, London Metropolitan University) and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney.

APPOINTMENTS AND ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE

- 1988 Appointed Senior Counsel
- 1977 Called to the Bar of New South Wales
- 1974 Admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- 1975 Master of Arts (Business law): City of London Polytechnic (now, London Metropolitan University)
- 1974 Bachelor of Laws: University of Sydney

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PRINCIPAL AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Criminal Law (Defence and Prosecutions)
- Commissions and Inquiries
- Inquests
- Disciplinary Proceedings
- Regulatory Prosecutions
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – present Senior Counsel, Wardell Chambers
- 1997 – 2018 Senior Crown Prosecutor for NSW
- 1990 – 1997 Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor
- 1983 – 1990 Crown Prosecutor

ACCOLADES

- Member of the Order of Australia (AM): 2013
- Appointed an Italian *Cavaliere* for services to the law and photography: 2009

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, New South Wales Bar Association
- Visiting Professor, University of Wollongong
- Councillor, State Library of New South Wales
- Trustee, Sydney Grammar School
- Former Member, Board of Directors, National Art School, Sydney (2009 – 2018)

PUBLICATIONS AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Mark has written several books, legal articles and manuals relating to commercial, environmental, criminal law and history. He has also written three true-crime books and was the co-ordinator of a team of Crown Prosecutors who wrote and edited a Crown Prosecutors Manual

He has also delivered hundreds of papers to legal associations, community groups, charitable organisations, university student groups, photographic societies and has given many talks about his three true-crime books throughout Australia

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SELECT CASES

Mark has prosecuted many of the most complex and high-profile trials in Australia between 1998 and 2018. A selection of these cases is provided below.

Name of accused	Description of trial
Ivan Milat	The “backpacker murders” case. Milat was convicted of the murder of seven young backpackers, many of them overseas visitors, whose bodies were found in the Belanglo State Forest. One of Australia’s worst serial murderers. My cross-examination in this case has been the subject of a book ‘R v Milat: A Case Study in Cross-Examination’ by Dan Howard (LexisNexis), 2014.
Phuong Ngo	Assassination of John Newman MP, a sitting member of Parliament, by a political rival. The only political assassination in Australia’s history.
Chiew Seng Liew & Phillip Choon Tee Lim	Murder of Australia’s most prominent heart surgeon, Dr Victor Chang, in a botched extortion attempt in a suburban street of Sydney.
Tim Anderson & Evan Pederick	Hilton Hotel bombing trials. The explosion of a bomb outside the Hilton Hotel in Sydney during a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting caused three deaths. Two accused, both members of the Ananda Marga, were charged with the bombing. One confessed to the bombing and went to trial on a purely legal issue, and then gave evidence against the other, who was convicted at trial but acquitted on appeal.
Kathleen Folbigg	Convicted of killing her four babies, originally thought to have died from SIDS. Only after her fourth baby died did a full police investigation start. A case with numerous complex medical issues to exclude a host of possible natural causes of death.
Sef Gonzales	A young man convicted of murdering his parents and sister in their suburban Sydney home in order to inherit his parents’ wealth. He alleged they were victims of Asian crime gangs or that it was an anti-Asian hate crime and he raised two false alibis.
Dr Suman Sood	Australia’s first illegal abortion trial in over 30 years, in which the doctor was charged with negligently causing the birth of a foetus at 24 weeks gestation.
Gordon Wood	The death of Caroline Byrne at the Gap in Sydney’s eastern suburbs was considered as suicide for many years but was subsequently reinvestigated by police. The accused was a member of a group of young men who worked for controversial stockbroker, René Rivkin. Wood was convicted by a jury of the murder of Caroline Byrne but acquitted on appeal.

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Keli Lane	Keli Lane was convicted of the murder of her two-day-old baby. Nobody was ever found, and none of her family or friends or her partner knew that she had been pregnant or had delivered a baby. The case centred around evidence of motive, opportunity, and numerous lies which she had told as to the whereabouts of the baby, as well as evidence of the adoption of two other children.
Walter Marsh	Walter Marsh, a former Marine from the United States, was convicted of the murder of Royal North Shore Hospital nurse unit manager Michelle Beets on the front steps of her home in Chatswood. Mr Marsh blamed Ms Beets, his former supervisor, for giving him bad references, leading to his failure to get further employment.
Simon Gittany	Mr Gittany was convicted of throwing his Canadian girlfriend to her death from the 18th floor of a Sydney city apartment block.
Robert Xie (2015)	Robert Xie went to trial charged with the murder of five members of his wife's extended family. After a nine-month trial, the jury was unable to reach a verdict. Another prosecutor subsequently obtained a conviction.
Adeel Khan	Mr Khan deliberately blew up his Rozelle shop, causing the deaths of three people who lived in residential premises above his shop and next-door. This was a case of murder by reckless indifference to human life.
Amirah Droudis	Amirah Droudis was the partner of Man Haron Monis, the man responsible for the siege at the Lindt Cafe in Sydney. At Mr Monis's instigation, Ms Droudis murdered Mr Monis's ex-wife by repeatedly stabbing her and setting her body alight. This was to get around a family law order that had granted the victim custody of their two children.
Dr Brian Crickitt	Dr Brian Crickitt, a medical practitioner, was charged with the murder of his wife by injecting her with an overdose of insulin. He had a girlfriend with whom he had discussed marriage. Due to the oversight of the pathologist who conducted the autopsy, there was no cause of death determined.

Mark has also prosecuted several high-profile political cases overseas, including:

Fiji

- In 2006, Mark conducted the prosecution of the former Prime Minister and Military Commander of Fiji, Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, in the High Court of Fiji on charges of inciting mutiny. The mutiny occurred in 2000 soon after the violent coup by George Speight and a group of Fijian soldiers. The mutiny was ruthlessly suppressed and resulted in many deaths of serving soldiers. This trial was complicated by the fact that it took place during the 2006 military takeover of Fiji by Commodore Bainimarama

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- In 2004, Mark conducted the prosecution of the Vice-President of Fiji and four other prominent people, including the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, a Government Minister and two other prominent citizens, in the High Court of Fiji. They were charged with taking treasonous oaths of office as rebel President and Ministers during the violent coup by George Speight in 2000. After convictions of four of them, Mark returned to represent the State in their appeals to the Fiji Court of Appeal where their convictions were confirmed

Tonga

- In 2002, Mark provided advice to the Solicitor General of Tonga on a high profile and sensitive prosecution of a prominent Member of Parliament on a charge of sedition

East Timor

- In 2001, Mark provided a lengthy written advice on international criminal law to the UN Prosecutor General of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (Mr Mohamed Othman) on the criminal liability of persons alleged to be responsible for the deaths of five journalists at Balibo during the Indonesian invasion of East Timor in 1975