



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION

William Lee: The First Chinese -Australian barrister in NSW

Presented by:

Malcolm Oakes SC

Chaired by:

Trish McDonald SC

NSW Bar Association

Common Room

5.15pm Tuesday 30 May

1.5 HOUR SEMINAR

1.5 CPD POINTS IN THE

SUBSTANTIVE LAW STRAND

William Lee (1912-2010) was the first barrister of Chinese descent in New South Wales. He was admitted in 1938. His father (Philip) Lee Chun came to Australia in 1875 and became the controlling partner of the business *Kwong War Chong* which operated from about 1883 to the mid-1980s; from around 1910 out of 84 Dixon Street, Sydney. William Lee was a trailblazer, a man of determination and courage who qualified part time, took the risk of becoming a barrister, practised for 45 years and was involved in a number of important court cases. He was the only barrister of Chinese descent practising at the NSW Bar for many years. There are now at least 30 barristers of East Asian descent at the NSW Bar with two senior counsel and a State Coroner.

The presenter: Malcolm Oakes SC has an interest in Chinese-Australian history. His article on William Lee appeared in [2015] (Winter) *Bar News* 73.

THIS SEMINAR IS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE NSW
BAR ASSOCIATION

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

For more information, please contact Tiffany McDonald
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 Continuing Professional Development