



Katrina Dawson Award

BAR ASSOCIATION

Background

Katrina Dawson was a much loved member of the NSW Bar where she excelled. She came to the Bar in February 2005 at the age of 28, having achieved the highest mark in the bar exams and after practising as a solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jacques. She developed a successful and varied practice while always maintaining a quiet humility, and earned a well-deserved reputation as a future leader of the profession. Tragically, she was killed during the Lindt Café siege. She is profoundly missed, not just for her extraordinary legal talent and her remarkable intellect, but also for the person she was. Her joy for life was infectious and she genuinely cared about others. She was committed to pro bono work and the quality of life at the Bar. She always had time for her family and her friends, as well as her younger colleagues, many of whom she guided and mentored before and after they joined the Bar. In her honour, the Katrina Dawson Award seeks to encourage women to practise at the NSW Bar.

More information can be found in the Autumn 2015 edition of Bar News:
https://www.nswbar.asn.au/docs/webdocs/BAR_NEWS_2015_-_AUTUMN.pdf

Eligibility

The Award is open to women who have passed the NSW Bar exam and committed to enrolling in a Bar Practice Course within 18 months of winning the Award.

Criteria

Applicants for the award should:

- Have excellent academic qualifications, including all necessary legal qualifications;
- Have a track record in legal employment, for example as a solicitor, an associate to a judicial officer or community legal centre;
- Be able to demonstrate leadership skills in the community;
- Have an interest in participating in and fostering life at the NSW Bar;
- Provide a statement as to how the funds granted would assist the applicant in commencing at the NSW Bar;
- Provide the names and contact details of at least two referees.

Value

The award pool will have a minimum value of \$12,000. The award committee may determine to split the sum and provide an award to more than one person. The award committee may choose not to make an award. Payment of the award will be structured in the following manner: one third will be payable at the commencement of the Bar Practice Course; one third at the end of the Bar Practice Course; and one third 3 months after completion of the Bar Practice Course.

Procedure

Applications for the Award will be assessed by a representative of the NSW Bar Association and a representative of the Katrina Dawson Foundation.

Applications can be made at <https://nswbar.asn.au/forms/katrina-dawson-award/>

APPLICATIONS OPEN 22 July 2025
APPLICATIONS CLOSE 8 August 2025