



Jessica Rippon

Founder & Director Construction Legal

Level 14,
111 Elizabeth Street,
Sydney NSW, 2000,
Australia

Qualifications

Masters of Construction Law (Hons) (LLM)
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)
Bachelor of Commerce (BCA)

Expertise

Building Reform
Property and Development Law
Major Infrastructure Projects
Construction
Dispute resolution

Executive Summary

Jessica has over 22 years in the property and construction industries and founded Construction Legal, a multi award winning firm, in 2018. Jessica has acted for a broad range of clients across both the government and private sectors, including NSW Building Commission, NBN Co, Deicorp, JQZ, Castle Group, Poly Global, Winten Property Group, Downer EDI and Growthbuilt. Her passion is to drive change in the NSW residential building sector by championing better regulation and quality construction.

Career History

2004–2014 Corrs Chambers Westgarth
2014–2018 Deicorp's General Counsel
2018–Current Construction Legal (Founder & Director)

Awards

2021 AFR's Fastest Growing 100 (Construction Legal)
2023 Winner - Top 100 Women in Construction (J Rippon)
2023 Finalist - Lawyers Weekly Thought Leader of the Year (J Rippon)
2023 Winner - Service Member of the Year – Chinese Building Association (Construction Legal)
2023 Finalist - National Association of Women in Construction – Business Women of the Year (J Rippon)
2024 Winner - Australasian Lawyers Top Boutique Law Firm 2024 in Construction and Infrastructure Law (Construction Legal)
2024 Winner - Australasian Lawyers Best Law Firms of 2024 (Construction Legal)
2024 Winner - UDIA NSW & OPTICOMM Women In Leadership Awards For Excellence 2024 (J Rippon)
2024 Winner - Australasian Lawyers Elite Woman Award 2024 (J Rippon)
2025 Winner - Australasian Lawyers Top Specialist Firm 2025

Memberships

- UDIA Building Regulations Committee
- National Association of Women in Construction
- Member of NSW Law Society
- Society of Construction Law

Property & Development highlights

Residential Building Projects: Acting for a range of tier 1 and tier 2 developers across a range of high-rise residential developments, mix-use developments and shopping centres. Work includes site due diligence, acquisitions, negotiating and assisting with contractual issues during construction and negotiating anchor tenant leasing transactions and bulk off the plan conveyancing.

Parramatta Square Redevelopment (\$2.7 billion): Jessica was one of the key legal advisors for City of Parramatta Council on the largest urban renewal projects in the country – Parramatta Square. Work included assisting with documentation and negotiation of the Riverside Theatre, Aquatic Centre, Discovery Centre, Civic Centre and Retail Towers. Jessica advised on all aspects of the project including tendering, project development agreement negotiations and contract administration and dispute resolution.

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Property & Development highlights

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Building Commission Reforms: Over the last five years, Jessica has been an active voice in the building industry supporting the Building Commission's initiative to implement trustworthiness in the building industry. She has held multiple appointments on committees and Ministerial Panels to advise Government on the introduction of decennial liability insurance in NSW as well as being an educator and keynote speaker on the reforms to all sectors of the residential property and construction industry.

Retirement Villages / Aged Care: Jessica has acted for developers in land acquisitions and development of retirement villages and aged care facilities and her experience covers the entire life cycle of these projects. This includes the initial stages such as: site due diligence; liaising with councils and surveyors for subdivision of land; joint venture & shareholder agreements; preparation & negotiations of put & call deeds; negotiating vendor by back options; and assisting with satisfying stringent development consent conditions. Subsequent legal activities have also been managed such as: building contracts; contracts for sale; negotiating with purchasers; creation of easements; assisting with road widening and civil works; and the consolidation of lots.

Other Major Project examples

Westgate Tunnel Project (\$1.2 billion): Acting for John Holland and CPB Contractors on the Westgate tunnel project was a major milestone in Jessica's career. Her involvement advising key executive managers on legal strategy and commercial risks in relation to claims against the State totalling worth hundreds of millions, as well as drafting of claims against the State for delay and disruption.

NSW Government's Rolling Stock Public Private Partnership (\$3.6 billion): Jessica acted for Downer EDI in the design and manufacture of the State's next generation suburban passenger trains for RailCorp (now Transport for NSW). Jessica's role included: day-to-day legal support over five years from bid phase through to design development and manufacturing; as well as completion of a six month secondment to assist senior executives at Downer on potential litigation. Notably, Jessica played a pivotal role in preparing and enforcing claims on behalf Downer totalling more than \$500 million which was subsequently settled with Railcorp through complex mediation.

Masters Home Improvement: Jessica acted for Woolworths Ltd in the establishment and roll out of their national residential building arm, Masters Home Improvement. Jessica advised on all aspects of building and construction including: securing a contractor licence for the national player in each state and territory; guiding executives on the legal landscape when dealing with consumers; and drafting construction contracts for the construction of their Masters stores. Jessica oversaw drafting all contracts with customers, suppliers and subcontractors as well as working with the marketing teams to ensure that advertising complied with building regulations. While Masters Home Improvement is no longer in existence, when it was in operation, it was the key rival to Bunnings at a national level and as such, the massive scale and complexity in delivering this initiative for Woolworths was one of Jessica's career defining moments.