



Jann Gardner

Born in Scone, Jann moved to Newcastle to undertake her schooling.

She completed an Arts/Law degree at the University of Sydney in 1983 and commenced work at Sparke Helmore in 1984.

She worked for several other firms in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley before travelling overseas throughout 1989/90. On her return to Newcastle, Jann completed a Master of Business Administration in 1995 at the University of Newcastle.

She was made a partner at Sparke Helmore in 1996. Between 1999 and 2002 Jann worked in the Sydney office of Sparke Helmore, commuting back to Newcastle on weekends.

Coinciding with the move to Honeysuckle, Jann returned to Sparke Helmore's Newcastle office as Managing Partner in 2002, to manage 165 lawyers and support staff.

Jann specialises in insurance work, acting for several leading national insurers based in Sydney and Brisbane. She is a skilled negotiator and has an expertise in insurance fraud claims.

Jann is a member of the Australian Insurance Institute, the Australian Women's Business Network, both the NSW and Newcastle Law Societies and the Graduate Management Association of Australia.

Sparke Helmore is a recognised equal opportunity employer and has been cited as the Employer of Choice in 2004 and 2005 by the Commonwealth Equal Opportunity of Employment for Women Agency, has been a finalist in the HR Awards for Employer of Choice in 2003 and 2004 and won the Law Society Award for the Best Equal Opportunity Employer for a Large Firm in 2004. This has largely been due to its introduction of flexible work practices and hours, provision of 12 weeks paid family leave and its merit based promotional criteria, which Jann was instrumental in designing.

In order to enhance the position of females in the workplace, Jann has been a mentor for many years to a number of solicitors throughout Sparke Helmore, has established a support group for female lawyers in the Newcastle office, and has provided assistance for Women Lawyers initiatives in Newcastle.

Since her recent move to live in East Maitland, Jann has become involved in the Women's Network – Hunter, following her invitation to speak in early 2005.