



LEGACY LAW

Protecting the assets in your family tree

## Smart Women and their role in developing Smarter Families

There has been an obvious attempt in recent times by business to catch up and pay attention (or more cynically lip-service) to the 50% of people who share the planet and identify as female<sup>1</sup>.

This is not an attempt to do that.

At Legacy Law, we have *always* treated our female clients as the power in a client. Not the power behind the throne but the power in the home.

We have done this based on experience (over 100 combined years having strong mother and female role models) and over 60 combined years in business negotiating with human beings.

While we try not to see gender, people have to deal with it all the time, in work, society and the home. People are treated differently.

We tell anyone who will listen that women are:

- Smarter— particularly in the context of what is happening in a family;
- Better organised – want something done? Give it to a busy woman;
- More likely to face discrimination;
- More likely to seek advice (or even directions);
- Better at building strong communities;
- Likely to live longer; and
- Historically undervalued and underpaid.

Women have until recently had less access to financial capital. This is changing with the rise of the female businesswoman and inheritances being left equally among a person's children. We do not mourn the decline of the archaic primogeniture concept.

To pay more attention to the male in this situation is frankly stupid, unprofessional and bad business.

We are seeing more women looking to protect their assets from obliteration in family law proceedings and as a result of commercial litigation.

There are also more subtle challenges such as the fragile male ego when he is not the main financial provider for a family.

Society can further emasculate a male partner of a public woman (see Jacinta Ardern's partner Clarke Gayford and others). Our house view is that society can be wrong and that smart families and their business are the backbone of our economy.

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<sup>1</sup> We have not had the same level of experience with the LGBTQI+ community although a number of our clients come from that community. We ask that people forgive our ignorance and respectful hesitance to talk about matters about which we have less experience.



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Our mentor Jay Hughes has seen how the rise of independently wealthy women lands in the world and we encourage you to read his article<sup>2</sup> on “Fiscal Unequals”.

The re-balancing of power and money in the hands of women is an inexorable fact that we are seeing in our practice and we engage smart women to help with this transition.

We see the empowering of strong and independent young women and the development of strong and respectful young men as a key to the continued positive growth of our society and we are here to help show you what other families do to foster good relationships among the rising generations.

We are pleased to introduce you to the two lawyers who recently completed their Practical Legal Training with us:

### Naomi McKeown – Lawyer

Naomi epitomises what I state above. She is that busy woman who needs to be uber-organised to get everything done. Balancing raising a family, completing a law degree (during lockdowns) and actively contributing to her local community needs at least that, not to mention just a little bit of grit. With her studies now complete, it is a commitment to our clients that is her new priority in the juggle.



<sup>2</sup> <https://jehjf.org/reflections-on-fiscal-unequals/>

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t 02 9188 3980 e [dgriffin@legacylaw.com.au](mailto:dgriffin@legacylaw.com.au) a Level 3, The Cooperage, 56 Bowman Street Pyrmont NSW 2009 | GPO Box 568 Sydney NSW 2001 w [www.legacylaw.com.au](http://www.legacylaw.com.au)

ABN 58 600 167 959

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**Veronica Peters** – Consultant Psychologist and Lawyer

Veronica Peters has joined us as a consultant to help us better serve our family clients. Veronica is a registered psychologist, has an MBA and is now a lawyer so we are tripling the IQ in the place. Veronica is an experienced psychotherapist and expert in family systems (she is one of Donal's teachers!) so our EQ is also on the way up.

Veronica loves dogs and has three dogs that she enjoys spending time with and learning from, since her three children have all grown up and moved out of home!

... and we are looking to work with more inspiring women who are fun to be with.



At Legacy Law, we believe the parts can be greater than the sum and are proud to share the important work we do with strong and smart women.

Please get in touch if we can assist you.

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