

Criminal Law

Marc's background in Criminal Investigation and Police Prosecution has given him a detailed understanding of police procedure and the role of forensic and other physical evidence: precisely the type of evidence on which many criminal cases hinge. Marc is among a small and select group of solicitors in Australia who can claim not only this academic expertise but also practical experience, in addition to their training in law.

This unique background means that Marc has been involved in the investigation and conduct of more murder and attempt murder matters in the Courts than almost any other solicitor on the Central Coast. This knowledge flows through to and benefits clients, even those charged with less serious offences.

Marc is able to meticulously review all evidence gathered by police, from the calculations and determinations made by Accident Investigation Police to the detailed analysis of bloodstain evidence by Crime Scene Investigators. Marc is also trained in the use and interpretation of fingerprint evidence, and qualified in the forensic science used in cases of suspected arson.

Having served as both Crime Scene Examiner and Police Prosecutor, Marc is not only able to give you an insight into the evidence the police gather and the procedures they must follow, but is also able to explain how your case might benefit from those procedures, and the evidence police have collected.

The overlap between adult and children's criminal matters is significant. Marc has been just as successful in the area of children's criminal law as he has been in adult criminal jurisdictions. For this reason, Marc has regularly been sought out by anxious parents needing expert advice and skilled representation in Children's Court matters.



Family Law

Marc has been involved with Family Law since his time in the NSW Police Service. He understands how distressing such proceedings can be for everyone concerned. His approach is compassionate and supportive, and he will do everything he can to mitigate the trauma experienced by his clients and their families.

Marc's training with the Police Service has given him the negotiating skills to deal effectively with any potential aggression or intimidation from ex-partners or spouses. Marc's skills as a mediator means he is able to deal diplomatically with individuals involved in Family Law cases who may feel aggrieved or upset, diffusing potentially volatile situations rather than inflaming them.

In Marc's experience, proceedings in the Family Law Court can be especially daunting for those caught up in them. Since he appears regularly before this Court, Marc can provide expert guidance on any matter to be heard there. His expertise means you can be confident of the best possible outcome.

Marc also understands how rapidly expenses can mount up in Family Law matters, and will do everything he can to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum.



Advocacy

It is important that your legal representative have a deep understanding of the law, as Marc clearly does. But it is also important that the person representing you in court be an effective advocate: able to argue your case persuasively. Marc has an outstanding record as a public speaker, and an enviable record using these skills in court to the benefit of his clients.

This allows Marc to concentrate his energies on the running of your matter, confident he has the skills to present a compelling case on your behalf when the time comes to do so. Having an advocate who can eloquently explain your situation will ensure that Magistrates, Judges and Justices listen to the important issues that are canvassed, without being distracted by poor and rambling delivery.

During his years in CSI, Marc appeared many times as an expert witness in murder trials, and had to withstand gruelling cross-examination by some of NSW's most formidable Barristers and legal Counsel. This background, coupled with his experience as Police Prosecutor and Solicitor Advocate, has given Marc unrivalled expertise in the running of trials and hearings.

This combination of speaking skills and advocacy experience means Marc is qualified to undertake complex and lengthy hearings and trials, and to do so with a level of professionalism rarely equalled by his peers.

In his work as solicitor advocate, Marc appears regularly in the District and Supreme Courts of New South Wales. He also conducts Care and Criminal Proceedings in the Children's Court, represents clients in Family Court matters, and has a thorough understanding of procedures in the Coroner's Court. Marc has also appeared in the Criminal Court of Appeal, a domain normally restricted to barristers.

Advocating for his clients in these superior jurisdictions requires expertise not shared by solicitors whose work is limited to Local Court matters. This also means that, wherever your proceedings are heard, Marc can represent you.

Indeed, so skilled is Marc as an advocate that he is regularly sought out by other legal practitioners to represent their clients in court. This is something that Marc will continue to do at Riviere Law.

