

Statement of Alastair Grigor - Response to request for Statement to Royal Commission

I would have met Ms Gobbo as a first-year employee solicitor at Galbally Rolfe in late 2000 or early 2001. Ms Gobbo was regularly briefed by their office.

Ms. Gobbo was proficient at brief analysis, drafting chronologies and drafting and appearing upon the return of summons primarily in relation to indictable matters in the magistrates' court. Many of the summons related to prosecution disclosure and were directed to the Chief Commissioner of Police.

Ms. Gobbo was often retained upon applications for bail. She was a well-respected and competent advocate.

Ms Gobbo had a good rapport with the clientele, had extensive knowledge about their cases and with whom they associated.

She conveyed a vocal hatred of Victoria police and their practices. This attitude endeared herself to clients. She was, on the face of it, hard-working, dedicated and achieved excellent results.

Queens counsel often requested her as their junior counsel. Ms. Gobbo's analysis and knowledge of complex cases, coupled with her ready availability made her indispensable to many.

Ms. Gobbo would have direct dealings with clients independent of a solicitor. It was not unusual for her to refer to having socialised with clients.

By the time I opened my own office in 2006 Ms. Gobbo was the junior barrister of choice at Galbally Rolfe and regularly retained by many of the most reputable criminal law firms in Victoria.

I retained Ms. Gobbo mostly in relation to applications for bail, county court pleas in mitigation and to analyse large and complex briefs. I cannot recall her ever doing criminal trial work as the sole advocate. I retained her as junior counsel to queens counsel for a number of trials. Her chambers were located in Crockett Chambers on level 7 amongst the most highly regarded criminal barristers in Melbourne.

Ms. Gobbo would attend criminal law functions at the Celtic Club and the criminal law congress in Bali Indonesia. She was gregarious and social.

My last dealing with Ms Gobbo would have been 4-5 years ago where she referred me a client Sargon Barkho, the brother of Richard Barkho, [REDACTED] Apart from her referral, she had little if any involvement in the case as I retained alternate counsel. I cannot recall having any dealings with her for a 4-5 years prior to that referral.

Ms. Gobbo's relationship with Victoria police was confirmed in media reports of her wearing a wire to covertly record Paul Dale. Rumours had previously circulated around the profession. I cannot provide specifics.

I was astonished to learn not only that Ms. Gobbo was a registered informant, but given recent media reporting, the extent of her assistance. The precise number of cases and the extent of her involvement jeopardising the right of an accused to a fair trial and impartial representation I have no knowledge.

I have no knowledge of the conduct of past or current members of Victoria police touching upon the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.



Alastair Grigor

9 May 2019