

This document has been redacted for Public Interest Immunity claims made by Victoria Police.  
These claims are not yet resolved.

## STATEMENT

I James Valos state as follows:

1. My full name is James Valos. I am admitted to practice as a lawyer in the State of Victoria.
2. I am the principal of the firm Valos Black and Associates.

Involvement/Association with Ms Gobbo

3. I first met Ms Gobbo when she was a solicitor with the firm Alex Lewenberg and Associates.
4. My recollection is that after practising with Lewenberg and Associates Ms Gobbo signed the bar roll and commenced practice as a barrister. I am unsure which year that was but my memory is that it was in the early 2000's.
5. Not long after Ms Gobbo commenced to practice my firm started to brief her to represent clients in criminal matters. I, and other members of my office briefed Ms Gabo in many matters including bail applications, Magistrates Court and County Court pleas as well as the general advice work.
6. Over the years I came to consider Ms Gobbo not only to be a trusted and very competent barrister representing my firm's clients but also a good friend.
7. As is common in the profession I had numerous discussions with Ms Gobbo about matters that I was involved in and sort her opinion, not on the basis of any retainer, but on informal basis as a friend and colleague.
8. Beyond our professional relationship, and through it our friendship, I did not socialise with Ms Gobbo outside normal working hours with the exception of catching up with her for coffee and a chat on weekends from time to time.
9. My recollection is that Ms Gobbo instigated these meetings.

How I learnt or suspected Ms Gobbo was providing information to Victoria Police

10. Through media reports around the time of the Paul Dale committal I, and indeed other members of the profession to whom I spoke, became aware that Ms Gobbo was to be called as a witness in that proceeding.

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11. If I recall correctly there were various articles published in the Herald sun at that time. Although Ms Gobbo was not named in those articles it became common knowledge amongst criminal practitioners that she was the person referred to in those articles.
12. To the best of my recollection I have not had any contact with Ms Gobbo since mid-2010.
13. Again if my memory serves me correctly in the early part of 2014 the Herald sun started to publish articles regarding "Lawyer X". From reading those articles it was clear to me, and indeed other members of the profession who practised in crime that the person referred to as "Lawyer X" was Ms Gobbo.
14. During the time that Ms Gobbo was briefed by my office I was never aware that she was providing information or assistance to any member of the Victoria police force nor was this suggested to me by any of my clients.
15. That said I should state that in respect of all of the matters in which Ms Gobbo was briefed by my office she acted competently and professionally and on the whole the clients were satisfied with the outcome she achieved.

Dated 27 May 2019

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James Valos

