

# Dr Maria Pozza

Solicitor, Lane Neave

PHD (Otago), M.INST (Distinction) (Otago), NZLP (NZCLE), BVC (ICSL), PGDIP  
Legal Skills and Research (ICSL/City London), LLB (HONS) (BCU)

D +64 3 372 6376

E maria.pozza@laneneave.co.nz



## Principal areas of practice

- Corporate and Commercial Law
- Commercial International Law
- Commercial Space Law
- Military Space Law
- Technology Law
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)
- Aviation Law

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## Professional work experience

Dr Maria A Pozza gained her PhD in Law and Politics at the University of Otago, specialising in Space Law and International Relations in December 2013, and accordingly graduated in May 2014. In 2013 Dr Pozza was awarded a visiting Lauterpacht Fellowship from the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at University of Cambridge, UK.

Dr Pozza was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor in New Zealand in 2014, she holds a Distinction Masters in International Studies from the University of Otago in 2010, completed the New Zealand Law and Practice Exams in 2009, was Called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 2005, completed her Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law in London where she also completed a post-graduate Diploma in Legal Skills and Research (whilst studying Arabic part time), and completed her LLB Law (Hons) in 2004.

Dr Pozza was recipient of the Inter-Pacific bar Association Award in 2016 and has been noted by AI Global Magazine as "The New Zealand Women in Law to Watch".

Her expertise has been called upon by a number of institutions, and she has been the recipient of the Peace and Disarmament Education Trust of New Zealand Award, the Claude McCarthy Fellowship, an Otago Postgraduate Scholarship, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Historical Research Grant, the Kennedy Grant (University of Otago), the



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New Zealand Political Studies Association Projects Grant, and a number of travel awards presenting as guest speaker at various public lectures, academic lectures, and international conferences.

Dr Pozza is often referred to by Media outlets as one of Australasia's foremost experts in Space Law and she is the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand Advisor on Space Law.

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### **Specific project involvement**

As a practitioner and an academic, Dr Pozza's areas of legal enquiry have expanded to include the laws of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's), Technology Law, and Aviation law, of which she has been actively involved within. She has worked for private clients and a number of public institutions. She is focused on developing her career within the fields of New Zealand Corporate Law, Space Law, UAVs, Technology Law, Public Law (Public International Law), Aviation Law, Foreign Direct Investment into New Zealand, International Tax Law, Banking Law, and Overseas Compliance.

Dr Pozza is the Official Space Law Adviser to (and a Member of) the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand;

She has gained valuable experience tutoring in all core fields of the Laws of New Zealand, Politics, History and Media Film and Communications whilst undertaking her PhD at the University of Otago.

Other interesting projects Dr Pozza has been involved within include:

Working as an Intern with Attorneys in Huntsville, Texas (USA) on death row cases. In this context she interviewed clients and witnesses, and drafted appeal applications.

Working in Kenya on a voluntary service basis with an Italian mission and actively participated in a number of community projects within the small town of Materi.

She has been both an external and sitting Moot Court Judge for 4 years on the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Competitions with the International Institute of Space Law.

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### **Committees and memberships**

- Otago Foreign Policy School;
  - Canterbury Women's' Legal Association;
  - New Zealand Law Society Council Member: Canterbury and Westland Branch
  - Canterbury Young Lawyers;
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- Spatial Engineering Research Centre UAV Forum;
  - Member of the International Institute of Space Law; and
  - Volunteer lawyer at the Citizens Advice Bureau.
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**Personal interests**

Dr Pozza has a keen interest in technology and outer space.

She is also interested in New Zealand Art and social justice.

In her spare time, Dr Pozza enjoys hiking, swimming, travelling, watching sports (especially cricket and rugby), and touring on her motorbike.

She is presently working on book publications relating to: Space Governance, International Law Pertaining to Arms Control in Outer Space, and New Zealand's developing Space Law.

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