

INFRASTRUCTURE WOMEN IN FOCUS



WIN NZ is open to women of all levels working in infrastructure and has been established to grow the visibility of women in the infrastructure sector. Every month we will be profiling a different woman working in a different part of the sector. If you would like to be involved, please answer the questions and send your picture through to [Natasha](#).

We'd like to introduce Ariana as our next Woman of Focus. In addition to her role at Kensington Swan, Ariana also sits on the WIN Advisory Board.



ARIANA STUART
SENIOR ASSOCIATE

KensingtonSwan *

1. What company or organisation do you work for and what is your role there?

I am a Senior Associate in Kensington Swan's Construction and Major Projects Team, based in Auckland. Kensington Swan is one of New Zealand's most respected construction and infrastructure law firms. We have advised on major projects throughout New Zealand, the South Pacific, Australia and further afield internationally. We advise on establishment and procurement, project advice and dispute resolution.

2. Tell us about your career background and how you got to this position/role?

My career has been very diverse - I completed my joint law and arts degrees in 2008, and mid-GFC. Roles were very hard to obtain – so I decided to do an LLM in 2009 focusing on international commercial arbitration, cross-border insolvency, resource management and natural resources. Following that, I spent 18 months as a criminal and immigration solicitor. I realised a love for dispute resolution in this role but that I preferred more commercial matters. I then spent two years with another major NZ law firm in their Construction and Property team – where I developed a passion for infrastructure, especially front-end advice on establishment and procurement and project advice, adding this to my dispute resolution experience. I moved to Kensington Swan in 2013 and now focus on construction and infrastructure.

3. Tell us about a project are you currently working on and why it interests you?

As a lawyer, I cannot talk about specific projects (given commercial sensitivities and privilege). Currently, my favourite "areas" within the industry are quite varied in nature – these being construction bonds (including procuring, calling of the bonds and injunction calls) and social infrastructure projects. The first captures my attention because of the often fast-paced and highly academic nature (living on adrenaline and caffeine), and the second due to its social nature – the way in which commercial entities strive to provide infrastructure 'for good'.

4. What's the hardest job you've ever done and why?

Each role has had for me its own unique challenges, as does every project or matter – and I always enjoy a challenge!

5. Can you think of one example where your "diversity" has materially affected the outcome of a work situation or project, either positively or negatively?

For me, my diversity in the sector comes in a few forms, I am young, female, and have had Type-1 diabetes for over 30 years (diagnosed as a toddler). Whatever situation I am in, I strive to provide a different perspective on this basis and challenge the 'status quo'. This has led to me building a more diverse network within the industry, and developed some very strong relationships, giving me access to exciting opportunities.

To learn more about opportunities for a career with Kensington Swan please [click here](#).

Or alternatively, you can contact [Ariana](#).

