

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE5087

## French, Valerie

(1949 - )

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**Born** 22 February, 1949, Sydney New South Wales Australia

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**Occupation** Barrister, Judge, Lawyer

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### Summary

In 1975 Valerie French became the first woman to sign the Western Australia Bar Roll and became the first woman to practise as a barrister in Western Australia. From that time, French's professional appointments and legal career have continued to serve as a guide for women entering into the legal profession in Western Australia. Beyond her impact on the legal profession as a 'first' at the Bar, her substantive legal practice has also influenced Australian law and legal policy, particularly in the field of criminal justice.

Read more about Valerie French in our sister publication [The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia](#).

Valerie French was interviewed by Kim Rubenstein for the Trailblazing Women and the Law Oral History Project. For details of the interview see the National Library of Australia [CATALOGUE RECORD](#).

### Published resources

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Resource Section

Law, Kerwin, Hollie and Rubenstein, Kim, 2014,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0624b.htm>

#### Site Exhibition

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens, Trailblazing Women Lawyers Project Team, 2016,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/lawyers>

### Archival resources

#### National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Valerie French interviewed by Kim Rubenstein in the Trailblazing women and the law pilot oral history project \[sound recording\]](#)

### Author Details

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