



# ZMARAK ZHOUAND

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING LAW EXPERT OF THE YEAR AUSTRALIA

### PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Zmarak Zhouand is a highly regarded education and training lawyer with approximately 25 years' legal experience. As the Principal of **rto.legal**, he has built a practice dedicated to the unique needs of vocational and higher education providers across Australia. Zmarak is known for his considered, practical approach to regulatory compliance, dispute resolution, and commercial matters, guiding clients through an increasingly complex and dynamic legal landscape.

Through his work, Zmarak has made a significant contribution to the Australian education and training sector, helping providers address challenges while maintaining their commitment to delivering quality education and training. His professionalism, expertise, and dedication make him a strong candidate for the *Education and Training Law Expert of the Year, Australia* award.

#### Admissions and Education

##### Admissions:

- Admitted as a legal practitioner in New South Wales, Australia (31 August 2001).
- Admitted as an attorney and counsellor in New York, United States (15 August 2014).
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London (23 August 2017).

##### Education:

- Bachelor of Laws (Postgraduate), University of New England (2000).
- Bachelor of Arts (History and Law), Southern Cross University (1998).

#### A Measured Approach to Education and Training Law

Since founding **rto.legal** in 2019, Zmarak Zhouand has focused on supporting small and medium-sized Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and Higher Education Providers (HEPs). His practice assists clients in navigating the regulatory frameworks regulated by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

Zmarak is recognised for his measured, strategic approach to regulatory disputes, including compliance issues, registration renewals, and accreditation challenges. He prioritises practical solutions that enable education providers to meet their obligations while continuing to deliver high-quality learning experiences.

Zmarak regularly acts for clients in disputes with ASQA, TEQSA, and other regulatory bodies, including in the Administrative Review Tribunal, Federal Court, and Supreme Court. He has a proven track record of achieving positive outcomes in challenging circumstances.

In addition to regulatory disputes, Zmarak provides clear and pragmatic advice on governance, risk management, and intellectual property protection, enabling providers to focus on their core mission while meeting their legal and regulatory obligations.

#### Championing Australia's Training and Education Sector

Zmarak's practice empowers providers to navigate compliance and regulation confidently, allowing them to focus on delivering impactful learning experiences.

Beyond dispute resolution, Zmarak advises on business structuring, acquisitions, and sales. His understanding of sector-specific regulations ensures that transactions are commercially sound and legally compliant.

Zmarak is also committed to professional development and knowledge-sharing within the education sector. He delivers tailored training on compliance, governance, and risk management, equipping providers to proactively manage their obligations.

He has contributed to legal scholarship through published works on compliance in emerging markets and dispute resolution strategies. His writing reflects a nuanced understanding of the intersection between law and education, reinforcing his position as a trusted authority in the field.

### ABOUT RTO.LEGAL

#### Who We Are

At **rto.legal**, we specialise in serving the legal needs of RTOs and HEPs. We pride ourselves on providing high-quality, cost-effective, and timely legal solutions tailored to our clients' needs. We see it as an honour to assist clients during critical moments, treating their challenges as if they were our own.

Understanding the financial pressures on education providers, we offer competitive fees and flexible fee structures, including in disputes involving ASQA or TEQSA.

Our team prioritises building strong client relationships and delivering results-focused service. We take the time to understand our clients' businesses, ensuring that all matters are properly resourced and effectively managed.

#### Focus on Education and Training Law

Our practice is dedicated to supporting RTOs and HEPs in navigating Australia's stringent regulatory frameworks, including the VET Quality Framework, ESOS Framework, and HES Framework.

We represent clients during audits, contest regulatory decisions through merits or judicial reviews, and assist with documenting commercial arrangements with agents and business partners.

For institutions undergoing growth or change, we provide expert guidance on acquisitions, sales, and restructuring.

At **rto.legal**, we are committed to empowering education providers to thrive while managing the complexities of Australia's evolving regulatory landscape. Whether you're an established organisation or aspiring provider, we deliver the tailored guidance you need to succeed.



**RTO.  
LEGAL**  
SOLICITORS

#### ADDRESS

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