

Andrew Boe

Executive Portfolio



Advocate | Writer | Executive Producer | Strategic and Legal Adviser

Persuasion | Storytelling | Cultural and Narrative Integrity | Judgement

Fine lines may need to be drawn
Polemic arguments will often be raised
Institutional forces will at times resist self-reflection
Reasonable minds can differ
Power differentials must be noticed
Each stakeholder must be given their space

Ultimately, the truth matters – even where it hurts

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Portfolio Overview

Each significant chapter of Andrew Boe's career has begun with listening. For almost four decades, he has worked with people and institutions at moments when facts are contested in a forensic setting, consequences are serious and the story matters.

That work has taken different forms: legal advice, courtroom advocacy, documentary in film, scripted television, publishing and strategic advice.

What connects those forms is not a profession but a method.

Andrew's [legal career](#) provides the structure and frame behind the work: skills in examination of evidence; habits of clarity, restraint and responsibility developed inside courtrooms, across communities and public institutions. His writing and screen work carry those skills and habits into different forms and forums, for different audiences.

[Legal website](#)

At a glance

SCREEN	Writer and Executive Producer of the feature documentary <i>2.6 Seconds: Death in the Desert</i> ; Legal Reviewer on See-Saw Films' forthcoming ABC production <i>The Great White</i> .
PUBLISHING	Author of <i>The Truth Hurts</i> , non-fiction book published by Hachette Australia in August 2020. Debut novel <i>SKIN</i> scheduled for publication in 2027
FIRST NATIONS	More than three decades working alongside First Nations clients, families and communities in major public-interest, coronial, criminal and appellate matters.
LEADERSHIP	Founder of the Lawyers' Information Network and the Law and Justice Institute; Chair of the Organising Committee for the 2018 International Criminal Law Congress.
NATIONAL REACH	Almost 37 years in continuous legal practice, with work in every Australian State and Territory and appearances in the High Court of Australia.
CORE VALUE	The ability to bring together creative judgment, factual rigour, legal precision, cultural sensitivity, institutional knowledge and calm decision-making.

Executive Biography

Andrew Boe is an advocate, writer, executive producer and strategic and legal adviser. His work explores how people live within institutions, how power is exercised and how difficult stories enter public understanding.

Across documentary, scripted television, publishing and public-interest advisory, he brings careful research, narrative judgement after almost four decades of [legal practice](#).

Andrew is the Writer and Executive Producer of the four-part documentary series [2.6 Seconds: Death in the Outback](#), selected for its world premiere in the Primetime program at the Toronto International Film Festival 2026. He has also provided legal and editorial advice to Blackfella Films on projects including *Deep Water – The Real Story*. As Legal Reviewer on [The Great White](#), a See-Saw Films production for ABC Television, he worked with writers and producers on the dramatic architecture of courtroom and domestic and family violence storylines, proposing legally credible alternatives while preserving dramatic intent.

His first book, [The Truth Hurts](#), was published by Hachette Australia in 2020. Drawing on a lifetime in criminal justice, it examines First Nations deaths in custody, domestic and family violence, child protection, institutional failure and the human consequences of legal decision-making. His debut novel, *SKIN*, is scheduled for release in 2027.

Andrew commenced [legal practice](#) in 1989, first as a solicitor and solicitor advocate and, since 2009, as a barrister. He has appeared in every Australian state and territory and in the High Court of Australia. Much of the work has involved First Nations people, women subjected to prolonged domestic violence, children, vulnerable defendants and families seeking accountability from state institutions.

He has also created and led initiatives beyond practice: founding the Lawyers' Information Network in 2000; establishing the Law and Justice Institute in 2014 and serving as its Vice-President until 2018; convening a seminar on diversity and representation in the profession; and chairing the organising committee for the 2018 International Criminal Law Congress, attended by more than 230 participants from Australia and New Zealand.

[Legal Resume](#)

[Legal Website](#)

Professional Identity

Understanding before judgement

Andrew's work is best understood as one continuous practice.

The medium changes. The discipline does not.

For almost four decades, he has listened to people describe defining moments in their lives: in courtrooms, in remote communities, in interview rooms and in writers' rooms. The responsibility has remained consistent: understand the story before attempting to tell it. In legal practice, the audience is a court. In publishing, it is the reader. In screen production, it is the viewer. The form changes, but the central task remains: to present complicated human experience truthfully, accessibly and with emotional and intellectual force. The legal career provides the judgement behind the work. It has trained Andrew to test evidence, recognise what is missing, distinguish certainty from assumption and remain calm when facts and consequences are contested.

Stories rarely change the past. They can change how the past is understood. Sometimes that is enough.

Leadership philosophy

Andrew leads by preparing thoroughly, listening closely and being clear when a decision is required. His style is collaborative, direct and calm. He values clarity of purpose, disciplined decision-making and respect for the expertise of others, whether working with creative teams, senior executives, governments, lawyers, community representatives or people whose lives are being represented.

Difficult stories require courage, but courage is not a licence for carelessness. The strongest work combines ambition with factual rigour, creative freedom with responsibility, and institutional confidence with a willingness to listen.

Professional values

Integrity	Making decisions that remain defensible under scrutiny.
Judgement	Knowing when to decide, when to ask another question and when uncertainty must remain visible.
Cultural respect	Recognising that authority over a story is not the same as ownership of another person's experience.
Courage	Engaging directly with difficult subjects, powerful institutions and contested public questions.
Collaboration	Building trust across disciplines, communities and organisations without blurring responsibility.
Rigour	Protecting creative work through evidence, careful analysis and precise communication.

Background and Perspective

Andrew was born in Burma (now Myanmar) and migrated to Australia as a young child with his parents and siblings after they fled the military junta that had taken hold of the country. His six children are Butchulla from K'gari. Those experiences of migration, skin tone, race, family and belonging have made questions of identity, language, history and institutional power personal as well as professional.

His career has developed across jurisdictions, communities and professional cultures. It has given him a practical understanding of how people are heard, misheard and represented, and an instinct for stories that are locally specific yet capable of wider resonance: family, belonging, state power, violence, loyalty, cultural misunderstanding, moral responsibility and the search for justice.

Cross-cultural and international experience

Through the Lawyers' Information Network, helped organise a rule-of-law conference in Rangoon and a workshop involving members of the Burmese Supreme Court.

Supported a professional program for Papua New Guinean women lawyers during a tour of Queensland courts and legal institutions.

Contributed to public discussion of refugee law and policy.

Worked across every Australian jurisdiction, adapting to different communities, institutions and procedural settings.

Writer and Executive Producer of *2.6 Seconds: Death in the Outback*, selected for its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2026.

First Nations Collaboration

For more than three decades, First Nations justice has been part of Andrew's life and work. His legal experience spans criminal and appellate advocacy, deaths-in-custody inquests, child protection, institutional reform, public communication and documentary development.

Some of the most important work of Andrew's career has grown from long relationships. In the Mulrunji matters, the subject of Chloe Hooper's [The Tall Man](#) and Blackfella Films' [screen adaptation](#), he represented the Doomadgee family for about a decade. In the Kumanjayi Walker inquest, he led a legal team for the Walker, Lane and Robertson families, including his daughter Greer Boe, and coordinated related representation involving the Brown family and Yuendumu community over five years, much of it pro bono. In [Munda v Western Australia](#), he was lead counsel in the High Court on First Nations disadvantage in sentencing.

For screen work, legal knowledge is only part of the value. Andrew understands the demands public storytelling places on families and communities, the tension between production schedules and cultural obligations, and the need to keep First Nations voices central.

Selected First Nations work

MATTER / INITIATIVE	WORK UNDERTAKEN
Mulrunji / Palm Island	Doomadgee family representation over a decade in the inquest and related litigation after Mulrunji's death in police custody.
Kumanjayi Walker / Yuendumu	Lead counsel in the inquest; legal-team coordination and sustained engagement with the Yuendumu community over five years.
Munda v Western Australia	Lead counsel in High Court sentencing work on First Nations disadvantage.
R v Kina	Work exposing cross-cultural misunderstanding and the need for culturally competent representation.
Payne v Deer	Litigation concerning Queensland's first Indigenous judicial officer, institutional power, racism, gender and judicial independence.

Approach to First Nations screen work

Engage early with families, community and relevant cultural authorities.

Listen first. Observe local customs and protocols before making assumptions.

Distinguish legal permission, editorial power and cultural legitimacy. Make informed consent and clear expectations part of the creative process.

Preserve participants' complexity and agency; do not reduce people to victims or evidence of institutional failure.

Make room for disagreement, cultural advice and community concerns without paralysing the work.

Screen Industry Experience

2.6 Seconds: Death in the Outback

ROLE Writer and Executive Producer

FORMAT Four-part documentary series

FESTIVAL World premiere, Toronto International Film Festival Primetime, September 2026

The documentary had to hold together a vast public record and the lived experience of the people most directly affected by Kumanjaya Walker's death. Andrew brought to that task five years of engagement with families and community through the coronial process, together with experience in First Nations justice, institutional evidence and public communication.

As Writer and Executive Producer, Andrew's contribution has included narrative architecture, research, factual analysis and stakeholder understanding. The work has required judgement about what the evidence can bear, what the families need the audience to understand and what should remain unresolved.

Darren Dale

[Blackfella Films](#) | [Director](#) | [Producer](#)

Professional relationships: *The Tall Man* | *Deep Water* | *2.6 Seconds: Death in the Outback*

On the series' selection for Toronto, Dale: "Thanks AB and of course without your care, intellectual muscle and commitment we would not be in this position."

Mark Atkin

[Uncut Pictures](#) | [Editor](#)

"It's impossible to overstate the importance of Andrew's contribution to the 2.6 Seconds - Death in the Outback series - both as a compelling interviewee, the writer distilling his unique insights into the story; and indefatigable involvement in the production of this documentary. Drawing on his decades of experience in the law and, in particular, his direct involvement in the extraordinary Kumanjaya Walker case, his script was a vital guide through the labyrinth-like process of constructing the story in the edit."

The Great White

PRODUCTION See-Saw Films

BROADCAST Forthcoming ABC Television production - 2027

ROLE Legal Reviewer | Cameo role

Andrew reviewed scripts and storylines involving criminal law, appellate procedure, domestic and family violence, coercive control, self-defence, courtroom practice and the legal treatment of companion animals. His task was not simply to check technical accuracy, but to preserve dramatic energy while ensuring that legal propositions, institutional language and courtroom behaviour remained credible.

He worked with writers and producers to find solutions: alternative dialogue, different narrative paths and forms of dramatic compression that remained legally possible. His experience in domestic and family violence cases also helped deepen the emotional and legal logic of the story.

He also appeared in a cameo opposite Hugo Weaving, playing a Local Court judicial officer dealing with a volatile witness in a courtroom scene.

Angela Littlejohn

Producer

Professional relationship: *The Great White*

‘Thank you so much, Andrew. You have gone above and beyond — very, very appreciative.

“Thank you for your cameo as the Local Court Judge last Saturday for Episode 4 of *The Great White*, and for all the prior legal research work you have contributed to the show.

Samantha Lang

Executive Producer | Director

Professional relationship: *The Great White*

‘Andrew has a brilliant sense of storytelling and razor-sharp understanding of the criminal justice system. That intersection proved invaluable when plotting the six episodes of the *The Great White*. His wealth of knowledge and understanding was a real value add to our TV series.’

Angela Betzien

Creator | Writer | Executive Producer

Professional relationship: *The Great White*

‘Thank you so much for your incredible perspective on our series so far. Your depth of insight has blown the writing team away and we very much appreciate your contribution.’ ‘Thank you again for your incredible review on episodes 3–6. So appreciated. I know that Episode 5 in particular has benefited from your insight.’

Andrew Anastasios

Writer | Screenwriter

Professional relationship: *The Great White*

‘Andrew Boe’s review was so helpful in shaping the legal argument in my episode in particular, and the detail he provided was unprecedented in my experience.’

‘Wow! That is so far beyond what anyone could reasonably expect of you. Awed and thrilled.’

Capabilities for Screen Production

Andrew's value to screen production lies in making complex material usable. He can enter a project at concept, treatment, script, production or pre-publication stage and calibrate advice to its creative purpose, audience and risk. The aim is not to make the work safer at the expense of its force, but to help it become more credible, responsible and clear.

Factual and legal research for documentary and drama.

Editorial and legal review of scripts, treatments and story architecture.

Defamation, contempt, privacy, court reporting and institutional risk.

First Nations engagement and culturally responsible process.

Rights, access, consent and stakeholder strategy.

High-stakes interviews and work with vulnerable or traumatised participants.

Engagement with broadcasters, government, communities and public-interest stakeholders.

Crisis, reputation and public-communication advice.

Working with creative teams

Andrew begins by identifying the dramatic objective. He then separates errors that would damage credibility from compressions an audience will accept and risks that require a different narrative path. Advice is given in clear production language and, where useful, with replacement dialogue or a workable structural alternative.

Working Together

Andrew contributes where careful judgement strengthens creative work. The contribution may be research, story development, editorial review, legal advice or strategic counsel. The objective remains constant.

Strengthen the work.

Protect its integrity.

Respect the people whose stories are being told.

Questions he can help resolve

What is the strongest version of this story that the facts can bear?

Can the same dramatic outcome be achieved without unnecessary legal exposure?

Whose consent, authority or cultural approval is required, and whose trust must be earned?

How should a production respond when participants, institutions or public events change during development?

What must remain confidential, and what can responsibly be placed in the public domain?

Publishing and Public Storytelling

The Truth Hurts

PUBLISHER Hachette Australia

PUBLICATION DATE 11 August 2020

[The Truth Hurts](#) turns legal experience into public storytelling. Through the cases and people Andrew encountered during his career, it examines First Nations deaths in custody, domestic and family violence, child protection and the operation of legal and public institutions.

Written for a general audience, the book translates technically difficult and emotionally charged material without surrendering accuracy or nuance. It reflects the same discipline Andrew brings to documentary and scripted work: listen closely, test the account and resist simplification.

The Truth Hurts reviews

“It lacks nothing but a kill switch ... [Boe’s] book is painstakingly built on matters of fact that are deeply relevant to every Australian alive in 2020 ... wired with over 30 years of microscopic observations from the legal coal face.”

— Trent Dalton, *Weekend Australian Magazine*

“The Truth Hurts is an unflinching exploration of the fault-lines in our justice system by an outsider who found his way in. With forthright and uncompromising focus, Boe, now a barrister, spares no one, including himself, in this thought-provoking and at times brutal account.”

— Chloe Hooper, *author of The Tall Man*

Writing and commentary

Andrew has written and spoken publicly on criminal justice, First Nations justice, media responsibility, hate speech, domestic and family violence, institutional accountability and professional reform. His work includes legal and professional publications, conference papers, commentary for industry audiences, and longer-form non-fiction and creative projects.

[NSW Bar Association Journal](#)

[University of Queensland Pandoras Box](#)

[Griffith University](#)

Themes across the work

Justice and the unequal exercise of power

Race, culture and institutional misunderstanding

Domestic and family violence

Deaths in custody and public accountability

The treatment of children and vulnerable people

The ethics of representation

Law, media and the making of public memory

Executive Leadership and Governance

Andrew's leadership has often taken the form of building what was missing: a network, an institute, a national congress or a team capable of carrying a difficult matter over years. That work has required strategy, practical organisation, stakeholder trust and decisions made under public scrutiny.

Selected leadership experience

Lawyers' Information Network (LiNK)	Established in 2000 to promote rule-of-law issues and address Indigenous social disadvantage through legal and public-interest work. Initiatives included programs in Burma, engagement with Papua New Guinean women lawyers and public work on refugee law and policy.
Law and Justice Institute	Established in 2014; Vice-President until 2018. Created a platform for collaboration across the profession and public engagement on law and justice.
Diversity in the law programme	Convened and presented a seminar in the Queensland Banco Court examining the careers of Deng Adut and Tony McAvoy SC and broader questions of representation and professional development.
International Criminal Law Congress 2018	Chaired the Organising Committee for a four-day Congress in Byron Bay attended by more than 230 participants from Australia and New Zealand, including judicial officers, practitioners, academics and public figures.
Complex professional practice	Led teams and junior counsel in major appellate, coronial, criminal and public-law matters across Australia; coordinated multi-jurisdictional representation in sensitive public-interest proceedings.

Leadership strengths

Setting a clear purpose and carrying it through to delivery.

Working across creative, legal, government, institutional and community settings.

Managing disagreement without losing momentum or relationships.

Representing organisations credibly in public and professional settings.

Supporting emerging practitioners and multidisciplinary teams.

Balancing ambition, resources, risk and reputation.

The Judgement Behind the Work

Andrew's legal career provides the judgement behind his work in screen, publishing and public-interest advisory. Almost four decades of advocacy have trained him to absorb complex records, test competing accounts, recognise what is missing and make clear decisions when facts and consequences are contested.

He has worked as a solicitor, solicitor advocate and barrister; appeared in every Australian jurisdiction and in the High Court; and conducted major criminal, appellate, coronial, public-law and civil matters. The work has demanded close factual analysis, precise communication, calm under scrutiny and an awareness that institutional decisions alter real lives. That experience is not a separate credential attached to the creative work. It is the method within it.

[Legal Résumé](#)

Selected areas of authority

AREA	APPLICATION TO SCREEN AND STORY
Criminal and appellate law	Testing evidence, structure, motive, credibility and consequence through serious trials, appeals, jury issues and High Court advocacy.
Coronial and institutional accountability	Tracing how systems act, fail and account for themselves in deaths-in-custody, policing and public-administration matters.
Domestic and family violence	Understanding coercive control, prolonged abuse, self-defence and the gap between lived experience and institutional interpretation.
Media and public communication	Defamation, contempt, court reporting, reputational risk and the presentation of contested public issues.
Human rights and public law	Judicial independence, constitutional limits, child protection, vulnerable clients and institutional integrity.
National practice	Working across different laws, procedures, professional cultures and communities throughout Australia.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Andrew can distinguish between a creative risk that is manageable, one that requires structural change and a technically safe response that would unnecessarily weaken the work. He then explains the issue in language a creative team can use.

Career Chronology

1965–1969	Born in Rangoon, Burma; migrated to Australia with his family in 1969.
1989	Completed a Bachelor of Laws at Queensland University of Technology; admitted as a legal practitioner by the Supreme Court of Queensland.
1990–1994	Sole practitioner; developed a criminal, public-interest and appellate practice.
1994–2004	Partner in a Brisbane law firm; senior responsibility for complex litigation and organisational management.
2000	Established the Lawyers' Information Network.
2004–2009	Sole practitioner; continued national litigation and advocacy.
2005	Accredited Criminal Law Specialist in Queensland; served on the Queensland Law Society Criminal Law Specialist Accreditation Committee.
2009–present	Barrister with a national practice across criminal, appellate, coronial, public-law and public-interest matters.
2012	Accredited specialist appellate counsel, Legal Aid NSW.
2013 onward	Committee and professional service in criminal law and First Nations-related work within state and national Bar organisations.
2014–2018	Established the Law and Justice Institute and served as Vice-President.
2018	Chair, Organising Committee, International Criminal Law Congress.
2020	<i>The Truth Hurts</i> published by Hachette Australia.
2026	Writer and Executive Producer, <i>2.6 Seconds: Death in the Outback</i> , selected for the Toronto International Film Festival; Legal Reviewer, <i>The Great White</i> .

Selected Legal and Public-Interest Work

High Court and appellate advocacy

Appeared in High Court matters including *BBH v The Queen*, *Munda v Western Australia* and *Smith v The Queen*, together with other appellate and public-law proceedings.

Judicial independence and institutional power

Representation in *Payne v Deer* and related litigation concerning judicial independence, transfer powers, gender bias, systemic racism, bullying and the proper limits of judicial administration.

Domestic violence and cultural competence

Work in *R v Kina*, *R v Lane* and *R v MacKenzie* concerning prolonged abuse, self-defence, sentencing and the consequences of cultural misunderstanding.

Deaths in custody

Representation of families in the Mulrunji and Kumanjayi Walker matters through coronial and related proceedings extending over many years.

Public-interest initiative

Successful judicial review in *Boe v Criminal Justice Commission* concerning statutory responsibility for government oversight of funding for key criminal-justice institutions.

Complex stakeholder environments

Work with families, community leaders, governments, police, prosecutors, courts, broadcasters, producers, publishers and media in highly contested settings.

Education, Admissions and Professional Standing

Education and admission

Bachelor of Laws, Queensland University of Technology, 1989.

Admitted as a legal practitioner by the Supreme Court of Queensland, December 1989.

Called to the Bar, 2009.

Specialist recognition

Accredited Criminal Law Specialist, Queensland, 2005.

Accredited specialist appellate counsel, Legal Aid NSW, 2012.

Professional memberships

Queensland Bar Association.

New South Wales Bar Association.

Victorian Bar — Associate Member.

Selected professional service

Queensland Law Society Criminal Law Specialist Accreditation Committee.

Queensland Bar Association Criminal Law Committee.

New South Wales Bar Association First Nations Committee.

Australian Bar Association First Nations Committee and Criminal Law Committee.

[Legal Resume](#)

[Legal Website](#)

Andrew Boe continues to write, develop documentary and scripted projects, advise organisations and collaborate with people seeking thoughtful approaches to complex stories.

Every project begins in the same place:

***Listen carefully.
Observe without assuming.
Research and prepare thoroughly.
Test what the evidence can bear.
Respect complexity and nuance
Explain clearly.
Write with restraint and candour.
Be kind and remain curious.***