

Friday 8 March 2024

7.40am	Registration
8.15am	Welcome to Country
8.25am	Opening remarks Presenter: Rebecca Fogerty , President, Queensland Law Society; Partner, Jasper Fogerty Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld
8.30am	Attorney-General’s address Presenter: Jimmy Sullivan MP , Assistant Minister for Justice and Veterans Affairs Chair: Rebecca Fogerty , President, Queensland Law Society; Partner, Jasper Fogerty Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld
8.40am SL	Chief Justice’s address Presenter: The Honourable Chief Justice Helen Bowskill , Chief Justice of Queensland Chair: Rebecca Fogerty , President, Queensland Law Society; Partner, Jasper Fogerty Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld
8.50am SL	Keynote address Presenter: The Honourable Chief Justice Debra Mortimer , Federal Court of Australia Chair: Rebecca Fogerty , President, Queensland Law Society; Partner, Jasper Fogerty Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld
9.45am	Morning tea

PLE - Practical Legal Ethics | PMBS - Practice Management and Business Skills | PS - Professional Skills | SL - Substantive Law



SYMPOSIUM

10.10am	1A PROPERTY	1B COMMERCIAL	1C CRIMINAL	1D PERSONAL INJURIES	1E FAMILY	1F SUCCESSION
	UPDATE	HOT TOPIC	HOT TOPIC	ADVANCED	EARLY CAREER LAWYER	UPDATE
	SL	PS SL	PS SL	SL	PS SL	SL
	<p>State of Play: Property Law updates</p> <p>Join us for a year in review for Property Law in Queensland. This session will examine recent key developments in property case law and legislation.</p> <p>Presenter: Simon LaBlack, Legal Practitioner Director, LaBlack Lawyers Pty Ltd; Accredited Specialist (Property Law) – Qld</p> <p>Chair: Rukshana Sashankan, General Manager – Practitioners, Property Exchange Australia Ltd (PEXA)</p> <p>Chaired by Major Partner PEXA</p> 	<p>Unfair Contract Terms for small businesses – practical drafting implications for lawyers</p> <p>While commercial practitioners will be familiar with the new laws for Unfair Contract Terms (UCTs) for small businesses, many will still be grappling with the practical implications for lawyers.</p> <p>Our presenters will delve into UCTs in a practical drafting context, including what lawyers need to update when drafting their own precedents (standard lease terms, conditions and terms of credit application, standard form contract, etc), costs agreements as well as in advising and preparing documents for clients.</p> <p>Presenters: Peter Mills, Special Counsel, LawSolve Kathryn Finlayson, Partner, Minter Ellison</p> <p>Chair: Dr Paul O’Shea, Principal, O’Shea Lawyers; Adjunct Professor, TC Beirne School of Law; Member, Queensland Law Society Banking and Financial Services Law Committee; Member, Queensland Law Society Competition and Consumer Law Committee</p>	<p>Protected counselling developments</p> <p>This session provides insights into the latest procedural developments related to Protected Counselling Communications (PCC) in Queensland.</p> <p>Participants will gain an understanding of the existing sexual assault and counselling framework, including an exploration of the definitions and motivations underpinning current restrictions on accessing PCC material in criminal cases.</p> <p>Presenter: Brittany White, Principal, Fuller & White Solicitors; Member, Queensland Law Society Criminal Law Committee</p> <p>Chair: Bridget Cook, Senior Policy Solicitor, Queensland Law Society</p>	<p>Vicarious liability in the aftermath of Schokman – when can an employer be liable?</p> <p>In 2023, the High Court handed down its judgment in CCIG v Investments Pty Ltd v Schokman [2023] HCA 21, an important decision dealing with the scope of vicarious liability in the employment context.</p> <p>This session will provide a rundown on this often misunderstood doctrine, with the presenters sharing their thoughts on what it looks like post-Schokman with reference to practical examples.</p> <p>Presenters: Chris Murphy, Special Counsel, Cooper Grace Ward; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee Jess Byrne, Senior Associate, Cooper Grace Ward</p> <p>Chair: Cameron Seymour, Partner, Mullins Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee</p>	<p>Objections to subpoena – fundamentals</p> <p>We take the time to brush up on some of our essential skills. A session designed to build confidence, we will go through the subpoena and objection process to ensure that when you need to object, you’re getting it right.</p> <p>Presenters: Sarah-Jane MacDonald, Legal Practitioner Director, MacDonald Law; Councillor, Queensland Law Society; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld Samantha Bolton, Director, Pippa Colman & Associates; Councillor, Queensland Law Society; Member, Queensland Law Society Practice Management Course Committee</p> <p>Chair: Jesse Hill, Senior Legal Professional Development Executive, Queensland Law Society</p>	<p>State of Play: Succession Law updates</p> <p>Dissect recent crucial decisions such as disentitling conduct and legislative updates, ensuring you stay well informed about the most current developments.</p> <p>Presenter: Kirsty Gothard, Barrister, Queensland Bar</p> <p>Chair: Scott Whitla, Partner, McCullough Robertson</p>



SYMPOSIUM

11.10am	2A PROPERTY	2B COMMERCIAL	2C CRIMINAL	2D PERSONAL INJURIES	2E FAMILY	2F SUCCESSION
	HOT TOPIC	UPDATE	EARLY CAREER LAWYER	UPDATE	ADVANCED	HOT TOPIC
	SL	SL	PMBS PS SL	SL	PMBS SL	SL
	<p>Leasing and implications of the new Property Law Act</p> <p>Get up to date with the latest in leasing including consequences of the unfair contract terms regime and the new <i>Property Law Act 2023</i> (Qld).</p> <p>Presenter: Marianne Lloyd-Morgan, Partner, McCullough Robertson</p> <p>Chair: Adam Rodwell, Client Renewal Manager, LEAP Legal Software</p> <p>Chaired by Track Partner LEAP</p> 	<p>State of Play: A year of work health and safety cases under the spotlight</p> <p>The session will focus on recent cases related to psychosocial hazards at work.</p> <p>The presenters will consider these cases in light of the <i>Code of Practice: Managing psychosocial hazards at work</i> and discuss exemplary management of psychosocial health and safety risks in the workplace.</p> <p>Presenters: Harold Downes, Partner, Mills Oakley</p> <p>Adrianna Loveday, Executive Lead Psychosocial Safety and Transformation, Sentis</p> <p>Chair: Elise Humpherys, Legal Professional Development Executive, Queensland Law Society</p>	<p>Immigration law for criminal lawyers</p> <p>Immigration issues for criminal lawyers involve navigating the complex intersection of criminal and immigration law.</p> <p>These cases often require an understanding of the potential immigration consequences of criminal charges, such as deportation, inadmissibility, or visa revocation, and require strategic legal defence to mitigate or avoid such consequences while addressing the criminal charges at hand.</p> <p>Join our accredited specialists as they cover the essentials for practitioners in this space.</p> <p>Presenter: Victoria Lenton, Director and Principal Lawyer, Lenton Migration; Accredited Specialist (Immigration Law) – Qld; Deputy Chair, Queensland Law Society Migration Law Consulting Committee; Member, Queensland Law Society Access to Justice/Pro Bono Law Committee</p> <p>Chair: Nick Dore, Managing Principal, Fisher Dore Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Criminal Law Committee</p>	<p>State of Play: A case law year in review</p> <p>A review of cases from the last twelve months capturing developments in legislation.</p> <p>Presenters: Travis Schultz, Managing Partner, Travis Schultz & Partners; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld; Queensland Law Society Senior Counsellor</p> <p>Beth Rolton, Partner, Travis Schultz & Partners; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld</p> <p>Chair: Belinda Hughes, Director, Hughes and Lewis Legal; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee</p>	<p>State of the Nation: The operation of the FCFCOA</p> <p>The Deputy Chief Judge will provide an important, relevant and timely update as to the Court's operations across the country.</p> <p>Presenter: The Honourable Deputy Chief Judge Patrizia Mercuri, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)</p> <p>Chair: Samantha Bolton, Director, Pippa Colman & Associates; Councillor, Queensland Law Society; Member, Queensland Law Society Practice Management Course Committee</p>	<p>Navigating current risks to avoid pitfalls in Succession Law practice</p> <p>A practical and hands-on session designed to step delegates through recent risk scenarios and to highlight some trending issues to be wary of in practice.</p> <p>Presenters: Leyton Cronk, Senior Risk Solicitor, Lexon Insurance Pte Ltd</p> <p>Emma-Jane McNicol, Senior Risk Solicitor, Lexon Insurance Pte Ltd</p> <p>Chair: Scott Hay-Bartlem, Partner, Cooper Grace Ward</p>
12.10pm	Lunch					



SYMPOSIUM

1.05pm	3A PROPERTY	3B COMMERCIAL	3C CRIMINAL	3D PERSONAL INJURIES	3E FAMILY	3F SUCCESSION
	ADVANCED	EARLY CAREER LAWYER	UPDATE	EARLY CAREER LAWYER	HOT TOPIC	ADVANCED
	SL	PLE PS SL	SL	PLE PS SL	PS SL	SL
	<p>Drafting off-the-plan contracts in today's market</p> <p>In a time of revised unfair contract terms provisions of the ACL, fundamental changes to Sunset Dates and an unpredictable property market, learn tips and tricks on how to properly advise developer clients and draft accurate off-the-plan contracts.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Ian Hazzard, Partner, McCullough Robertson</p> <p>Despina Priala, Director and Legal Practitioner, Priala Legal; Member, Queensland Law Society Property and Development Law Committee</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Billy Dent, National Sales Director – Commercial Property, First Title Insurance</p> <p>Chaired by Track Partner First Title</p> 	<p>Where is the line of advice?</p> <p>In this session, our experts will discuss how to guide a client in today's complex and risk averse commercial environment.</p> <p>Our panel will work through a practical scenario applying solicitors' obligations and best practice tips to demonstrate how practitioners can safely ensure they are fulfilling their role as lawyers, leaders and the expectation of 'commercial' in commercial law.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>David Bowles, Special Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society</p> <p>Suzanne Brown, Director and Principal Solicitor, McKays Solicitors; Accredited Specialist (Business Law) – Qld</p> <p>Lee Xue Ding, Managing Partner, Lee and Associates Accountants</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Colin Lee, Founder & CEO, Inspire Realty</p> <p>Chaired by Track Partner Inspire Realty</p> 	<p>State of Play: Fresh from the court</p> <p>Our practitioners will take you through some of the most significant authorities to come from the higher courts in 2023-2024.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Renae Kirk, Barrister, Queensland Bar</p> <p>Elise Sargent, Barrister, Queensland Bar</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Rémy Kurz, Barrister, Queensland Bar</p>	<p>Workers' Compensation offences</p> <p>This session will explore the types of offences that can be committed against the <i>Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003</i> (Qld) including fraud, engaging in a calling and the provision of false or misleading information.</p> <p>The session will also cover an insurer's mandatory reporting obligations and an employer's obligations following a workplace injury.</p> <p>Presenters will review recent important case law to provide guidance on key concepts.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Scott Falvey, Principal, McInnes Wilson Lawyers</p> <p>Louise Robinson, Director, Workers' Compensation Prosecutions Unit, Workers' Compensation Regulatory Services, Office of Industrial Relations</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Trent Johnson, Partner, Travis Schultz & Partners; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee</p>	<p>How children are involved in technology-facilitated coercive control</p> <p>Technology plays a growing role in our everyday lives and the dynamics of domestic violence. Parenting is an important context for this abuse.</p> <p>Technology-facilitated abuse often escalates at separation as abusers lose other avenues of control. This talk presents findings from a world-first study of children's involvement in technology-facilitated coercive control to inform domestic and family violence practice.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Associate Professor Molly Dragiewicz, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Griffith University</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Hayley Stubbings, Senior Policy Solicitor, Queensland Law Society</p>	<p>Death & Taxes – traps to avoid</p> <p>Taxation of deceased estates is complex with potential repercussions leading to the executor becoming personally liable to the deceased's outstanding tax. Discover the traps and strategies to sidestep pitfalls when dealing with various aspects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • navigating trust taxation • managing the tax administration of deceased estates • dealing with cross-border issues • selling the deceased's principal place of residence • planning for succession of businesses • planning for superannuation payouts <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Joanne Casburn, Special Counsel, Hamilton Locke</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Sonia Smith, Special Counsel, Legal Policy, Queensland Law Society</p>



SYMPOSIUM

2.05pm	4A PROPERTY	4B COMMERCIAL	4C CRIMINAL	4D PERSONAL INJURIES	4E FAMILY	4F SUCCESSION
	EARLY CAREER LAWYER	ADVANCED	ADVANCED	HOT TOPIC	UPDATE	EARLY CAREER LAWYER
	SL	PMBS SL	PS SL	PS SL	SL	PS SL
	<p>Practical tax tips for property transactions and contracts</p> <p>Explore some practical tax issues (and tips for managing those issue) that arise during the course of property transactions. You will gain insights that will enhance your ability to navigate tax issues that impact property transactions and contracts with confidence and better advise your clients. Topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contingency payment and earnouts in real property transaction avoiding double duty landholder duty and trust acquisition/surrender duty trust to beneficiary duty exemptions GST basics taxing matters for foreigners <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Taryn Hartley, Principal, McInnes Wilson Lawyers; Member, Queensland Law Society Revenue Law Committee</p> <p>Tom Walrut, Senior Associate, Cooper Grace Ward; Member, Queensland Law Society Revenue Law Committee</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Colin Lee, Founder & CEO, Inspire Realty</p> <p>Chaired by Track Partner Inspire Realty</p> 	<p>Corporate restructuring – taxation and duty considerations with available exemptions</p> <p>In recent years, there has been a trend towards operating businesses through companies, causing many to look at ways to cost effectively restructure.</p> <p>Our panel will take you through real-life examples of restructuring where exemptions have been successfully applied.</p> <p>This session, valuable to even the most senior of practitioners, will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> benefits and taxation implications of restructuring stamp duty implications and exemptions transfer of business assets and rollover options tips for rollover agreements <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Lloyd Stanger, Director, McKays Solicitors</p> <p>Elizabeth Allen, Special Counsel, Macpherson Kelley</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Matthew Hudson, Associate Director, SV Partners</p>	<p>DNA – We trust the "who" but the courts want to know "how"</p> <p>With continued advancements in DNA, the justice system is increasingly asking science to determine "how" the DNA got there.</p> <p>This session will walk you through a laboratory report to gain familiarity and discover areas for potential challenge. In addition, you will be introduced to new methodologies being implemented to address the question of "how".</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Helen Roebuck, DNA Expert Witness, Roebuck Forensics</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Bridget Cook, Senior Policy Solicitor, Queensland Law Society</p>	<p>Navigating NIISQ and NDIA claims</p> <p>A practical guide for undertaking steps in the claim process.</p> <p>In this functional session, our panellists will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary statistics The interaction between NDIS and NIISQ NDIS refunds and compensation reduction amount (CRA) NDIS funding of NIISQ TCS needs Tricky issue – care claims <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Ross McConaghy, Partner, Jensen McConaghy Lawyers, Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee</p> <p>Meghan Rothery, Barrister, Queensland Bar</p> <p>Greg Spinda, Special Counsel, Travis Schultz & Partners; Chair, Queensland Law Society Practice Management Course Committee</p> <p>Kassandra Squire, Director, Legal Services and Claims, National Injury Insurance Agency, Queensland (NIISQ Agency)</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Paul O'Neill, Senior Business Development Manager, Equity Trustees (now incorporating Australian Executor Trustees)</p> <p>Chaired by Track Partner Equity Trustees</p> 	<p>State of Play: Fresh from the court</p> <p>Our practitioners will take you through some of the most significant authorities to come from the higher courts in 2023-2024.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Jeffrey Bunning, Barrister, Queensland Bar</p> <p>Blake Hatchman, Barrister, Queensland Bar</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>The Honourable Justice Paul Howard, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)</p>	<p>Tips from the bar – preparing and presenting evidence in succession</p> <p>In this practical session, receive tips and guidance on preparing and presenting evidence in Succession Law matters before the court.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Karen Gaston, Barrister, Queensland Bar; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Sharon Sangha, Professional Development Solicitor, Queensland Law Society</p>



SYMPOSIUM

3.05pm Afternoon tea						
3.25pm	5A PROPERTY	5B COMMERCIAL	5C CRIMINAL	5D PERSONAL INJURIES	5E FAMILY	5F SUCCESSION
	SPOTLIGHT	SPOTLIGHT	SPOTLIGHT	SPOTLIGHT	SPOTLIGHT	SPOTLIGHT
	PS SL	PS SL	SL	PS SL	SL	SL
	<p>Taking agriculture seriously: Why every lawyer must understand the crucial role agribusiness & food plays in all practice areas</p> <p>Are you a property lawyer looking to be better equipped to serve clients with rural land holdings and agricultural interests?</p> <p>Join our agribusiness experts and learn to effectively navigate the complexities of rural property transactions and disputes and how this industry affects the future of all Australians.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Brian Healey, Global Agribusiness Co-Lead, K&L Gates; Chair, Queensland Law Society Water and Agribusiness Law Committee</p> <p>Caitlin McConnel, Senior Associate, Clayton Utz; Member, Queensland Law Society Water and Agribusiness Law Committee</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Wendy Evans, Partner, Clayton Utz</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Stuart Giles, Head of Strategic Partnerships – APAC, TorFX</p> <p>Chaired by Track Partner TorFX</p> 	<p>Dispute resolution revised</p> <p>Commercial lawyers begin with the 'end in mind' when drafting documents, often catering for dispute resolution processes. Practitioners also find themselves involved at the start of a dispute, having to dabble in advising on matters, making 'formal' offers and reaching settlements.</p> <p>This session will cover considerations when drafting dispute resolution clauses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mediation vs arbitration vs expert determination how to proceed if the parties cannot agree on the appointment of the independent person formal offers key principles and considerations for drafting Deeds of Settlement in commercial disputes <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Matthew Williams, Barrister, Queensland Bar</p> <p>Suzanne Brown, Director and Principal Solicitor, McKays Solicitors; Accredited Specialist (Business Law) – Qld</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Natasha Milne, Managing Director, Forensic & Litigation Consulting, FTI Consulting</p> <p>Chaired by Track Partner FTI Consulting</p> 	<p>Critical updates: Legislative review</p> <p>In this session we consider the changes brought about by the <i>Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023</i> (Qld) as well as other important legislative updates in your practice area.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Caroline Marco, Consultant Crown Prosecutor, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Jesse Hill, Senior Legal Professional Development Executive, Queensland Law Society</p>	<p>Permanent stays in sexual abuse claims rebutted</p> <p>This session will discuss the landmark High Court decision of GLJ and how this decision will impact claims for abuse victims.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>The Honourable Justice Elizabeth Wilson, Supreme Court of Queensland (Trial Division)</p> <p>David Cormack, Barrister, Queensland Bar</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Eduardo Cruz, Director, Corney & Lind Lawyers Pty Ltd; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee</p>	<p>Under the microscope: Legislative review</p> <p>In this session we consider the latest changes to the <i>Family Act 1975</i> (Cth). We will consider changes to the presumptions of shared care responsibility and other significant legislative updates for your practice area.</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Alexandra Moles, Partner, Mills Oakley; Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Hayley Stubbings, Senior Policy Solicitor, Queensland Law Society</p>	<p>The bank of mum and dad</p> <p>A session on loans covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> what constitutes a loan presumption of gift where money passes from parent to child loan repayable on demand – statute of limitations issues asset protection – against family law proceedings, against bankruptcy strategies to increase asset protection surrounding parent/child loans how to deal with loans in the estate plan different approaches to appropriate documenting of loans and gifts <p>Presenter:</p> <p>Patrick Ellwood, Director, Clover Law Pty Ltd; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Sharon Sangha, Professional Development Solicitor, Queensland Law Society</p>



SYMPOSIUM

4.25pm	Short break
4.30pm	Justice in the age of artificial intelligence: The challenge and opportunity for lawyers Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming how governments and companies make decisions. The challenge for lawyers is to adapt to this revolutionary change. Lawyers also have a unique opportunity to ensure that AI is developed and used in ways that uphold human rights. Presenter: Professor Ed Santow , Industry Professor and Director, Policy and Governance, Human Technology Institute, University of Technology Sydney Chair: Rebecca Fogerty , President, Queensland Law Society; Partner, Jasper Fogerty Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld
5.25pm	Closing remarks Presenter: Rebecca Fogerty , President, Queensland Law Society; Partner, Jasper Fogerty Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld
5.30pm	Close
5.30–7.30pm	Symposium by Night networking drinks

FEATURE SPEAKERS



The Honourable Chief Justice Deborah Mortimer

Federal Court of Australia

In April 2023, Debbie Mortimer was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia. Chief Justice Mortimer is the fifth Chief Justice and the first female Chief Justice of the Federal Court. She was previously a judge of the Federal Court since 2013.

Prior to her appointments, Chief Justice Mortimer was a member of the Victorian Bar and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2003. Her practice included public law, anti-discrimination law, extradition and environmental law, and in all areas she acted for both applicants and respondents, for and against government, in state and federal jurisdictions including in the High Court.

Chief Justice Mortimer remains a Senior Fellow at Melbourne Law School, a member of the Advisory Board of the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies at Melbourne Law School, and a member of Board of Advisers for the Public Law Review.



Professor Ed Santow

Industry Professor and Director, Policy and Governance, Human Technology Institute, University of Technology Sydney

Ed Santow is the Director – Policy & Governance at the Human Technology Institute (HTI), and Industry Professor – Responsible Technology at the University of Technology Sydney. His areas of expertise include human rights, technology and regulation, public law and discrimination law.

From 2016-2021, Ed was Australia's Human Rights Commissioner, where he led the Commission's work on AI & new technology; refugees and migration; human rights issues affecting LGBTIQ+ people; national security; and implementing the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.

Ed is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Human Rights and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and of the NSW Government AI Review Committee. He is a patron of the Refugee Advice + Casework Service and a Fellow of the Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion at UTS.



The Honourable Chief Justice Helen Bowskill

Chief Justice of Queensland

The Honourable Helen Bowskill was sworn in as Chief Justice of Queensland on 22 March 2022, having served as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland from 10 July 2017, and as the Senior Judge Administrator of the Supreme Court of Queensland from 24 August 2021. Her Honour previously served as a Judge of the District Court of Queensland from 10 November 2014, in that capacity also sitting as a Judge of the Children's Court of Queensland and the Planning and Environment Court.

Her Honour holds the degree of Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) from the Queensland University of Technology and was awarded the University Medal in 1995. Her Honour served as the Associate to the Honourable Justice Drummond of the Federal Court of Australia in 1996 and completed articles of clerkship with Minter Ellison in 1997. Her Honour was admitted as a solicitor in January 1998, and as a barrister in July 1998.

She commenced practice at the private Bar in Brisbane in July 1998. Her Honour took silk in November 2013. As a barrister, she practised widely in public, administrative and commercial law areas, with a particular focus on native title law. Her Honour is the Chair of the Judicial Council on Diversity and Inclusion.



The Honourable Justice Paul Howard

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)

The Honourable Justice Paul Howard graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from QIT in 1986. He was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in November 1986 and practised as a solicitor before being called to the Bar in October 1990.

In July 2007, His Honour was appointed to the Federal Circuit Court of Australia. In April 2021, His Honour was appointed as a judge of the Family Court of Australia – now the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia – Division 1.

From 2007, His Honour served on the Executive of the LAWASIA Family Law Section – including as Chair of the Section. His Honour has presented at LAWASIA conferences across Australasia. Justice Howard is currently a member of LAWASIA’s Judicial, Family Law, and Constitutional and Rule of Law Sections.

In 2017, His Honour was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and attended the Federal Judicial Center in Washington DC as a Visiting Foreign Judicial Fellow.



The Honourable Deputy Chief Judge Patrizia Mercuri

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)

Deputy Chief Judge Mercuri was appointed to the Melbourne registry of the Federal Circuit Court in September 2017. In September 2021, her Honour was elevated to Deputy Chief Judge (General and Fair Work) (Division 2) of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

Her Honour presides over both family law matters and general federal law matters, including migration, fair work, child support and human rights matters. Prior to her appointment, her Honour practised extensively in industrial, discrimination and employment law.

SPEAKERS

Elizabeth Allen

Special Counsel, Macpherson Kelley

Elizabeth is a Special Counsel at Macpherson Kelly. She acts for a wide range of private, corporate and high-net-worth individuals (HNWI) with a primary focus on tax structuring and tax dispute work, concentrating on the delivery of outcomes and solutions that give her clients the confidence to keep doing what they do best.

Elizabeth also acts for clients on various commercial matters including business sales and acquisitions.



Michael Beirne

Principal, Barclay Beirne Lawyers

Michael is the principal of Barclay Beirne Lawyers which he commenced in 2001. His main areas of practice include insolvency and reconstruction, dispute resolution and a range of commercial and transactional matters including business acquisition and sales, advising on business structures, and business compliance.

In 2016, Michael achieved Queensland Law Society Specialist Accreditation in Businesses Law, having previously achieved QLS Specialist Accreditation in Personal Injuries Law.

Michael has a special interest in the professional and ethical obligations of the profession. He was a Queensland Law Society Senior Counsellor in 2013 and provides voluntary support to the legal profession.



Samantha Bolton

Director, Pippa Colman & Associates

Councillor, Queensland Law Society

Member, Queensland Law Society Practice Management Course Committee

Samantha has been practising in Family Law for almost 15 years and is a Director at Pippa Colman & Associates on the Sunshine Coast.

Samantha is a member of the Independent Children's Lawyer Panel and Separate Representative Panel for Legal Aid Queensland. She practises in all areas of Family Law, however has a particular interest and a high level of experience in complex parenting matters.

Samantha also enjoys contributing to the profession and has over the last decade held positions with the Sunshine Coast District Law Association, the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland, the Sunshine Coast Rugby Judiciary, and the Suncoast Community Legal Service Committee.



Suzanne Brown

**Director and Principal Solicitor, McKays Solicitors
Accredited Specialist (Business Law) – Qld**

Suzanne is a Director and Principal Solicitor at McKays Solicitors and an experienced and well-respected commercial lawyer.

She has numerous awards and accolades to her name, including notably in 2020 being one of the five finalists for the QLS's Outstanding Accredited Specialist Award; previously being named as one of the Courier Mail's 20 under 40 Business Leaders in Queensland; has received awards from Lawyers' Weekly (including being the first in history to win 2 categories in a year) and when she completed her QLS Business Law Specialisation course, was honoured as the highest achiever by the Chief Justice.

Suzanne is also a sought-after company director, having held a number of Board positions in both the public and private sectors (including for a health service for Qld Health and Government Owned Corporation for ports). She currently sits on the Board of the Resources Centre of Excellence Ltd (METS and resources sector).



Jess Byrne

Senior Associate, Cooper Grace Ward

Jess is a Senior Associate in the insurance team at Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers. She has worked, almost exclusively, in Personal Injury Law since 2016, with the majority of her experience in the workers' compensation and CTP spheres.

Jess has managed (or assisted with) claims on behalf of a number of insurers from initiation through to appellant proceedings, including claims involving primary mental injuries, cross-jurisdictional issues and multiple parties.



Joanne Casburn

Special Counsel, Hamilton Locke

Joanne is Special Counsel at Hamilton Locke, specialising in tax dispute resolution and litigation, including recent disputes involving trust issues, tax anti-avoidance provisions, restructures, superannuation payments for independent contractors and director penalties. She also provides tax advice on issues involving family groups and private businesses, including succession planning.

Joanne has over 30 years of experience, with 10 years as a former ATO Assistant Commissioner, who was responsible for the leadership of the private wealth audit teams in Queensland and the small and medium audit teams across Australia. Joanne was involved in the ATO's strategic litigation program and provided advice on complex tax issues involving individuals such as deceased estates.

Joanne was recognised in 2020 as a finalist in The Tax Institute's SME Tax Adviser of the year awards. She is also a State Councillor for the Queensland Branch of The Tax Institute and a regular speaker at Taxation Institute conferences.



David Cormack

Barrister, Queensland Bar

David is a barrister who has been practising since 2003 and a legal practitioner since 1993. He is experienced in personal injuries, occupational health and safety, industrial relations, employment law, mental health, mediations and restorative practices.

He is a past contributor to The National Work Health and Safety Law and Court Forms, Precedents & Pleadings Qld (Insurance; Discontinuance & Dismissal / Principles & Practice) subscriptions (LexisNexis) and created a free app for calculating future losses of income.

David also volunteers with Prison Fellowship Australia Limited and is President of the Queensland Christian Lawyers Society.



Leyton Cronk

Senior Risk Solicitor, Lexon Insurance Pty Ltd

As part of the Risk Team at Lexon Insurance, Leyton assists in the development of risk management tools and publications and is a presenter of Lexon's Risk workshop series for insured practices. Prior to joining Lexon, Leyton practised extensively as a solicitor, with a particular focus on financial services, disputes and litigation, and restructuring. Leyton has a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of Business (Accountancy) from QUT and a Master of Laws from UQ.



Eduardo Cruz

Director, Corney & Lind Lawyers Pty Ltd; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee

Eduardo was admitted as a solicitor in November 2004 and has worked exclusively with a culturally diverse client base since 2002. He is extremely motivated to utilise his versatile legal training and experiences to assist members of our community that have limited access to and/or knowledge of the legal and social system. His professional and life experiences have moulded him into a versatile and resourceful professional. Through his legal practice and life experiences he contributes to the development of a better society.

Eduardo has been involved with the Queensland Law Society's Accident Compensation and Tort Law Committee since 2017. He is actively engaged in procedural and legislative reform across motor vehicle accident insurance, workers' compensation, public liability insurance and historical sexual abuse claims. Before joining Corney & Lind to lead its compensation team, he worked in a national firm as part of its insurance team and worked for WorkCover Queensland managing a section of its common law division.



Nick Dore

Managing Principal, Fisher Dore Lawyers Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld Member, Queensland Law Society Criminal Law Committee

Nick was admitted to the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2002 after completing a two year articulated clerkship in Criminal Law. He then commenced work for a prominent criminal law firm and in 2006 commenced his partnership with Terry Fisher and formed Fisher Dore Lawyers.

In 2010, Nick obtained the Highest Achiever award when undertaking the Criminal Law Accredited Specialist assessment in Queensland. He now practises exclusively in Criminal Law.



Associate Professor Molly Dragiewicz

Criminology & Criminal Justice, Griffith University

Associate Professor Molly Dragiewicz is an internationally award-winning criminologist who studies violence, gender, technology, and family law. Her research is focused on domestic violence and technology and post-separation abuse.

Molly won the 2019 Saltzman Award for Contributions to Practice from the American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime; the 2018 Domestic Violence Prevention Leadership Award from the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast; and the 2017 Robert Jerin Book of the Year Award for 'Abusive endings: Separation and divorce violence against women' from the American Society of Criminology Division on Victimology.

Molly is a current member of the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board.



Wendy Evans

Partner, Clayton Utz

Wendy is a Partner in the Environment & Sustainable Development team at Clayton Utz, Brisbane. A previously practising town planner, Wendy identifies as a town planning lawyer and is driven every day in her work by town planning outcomes.

Wendy is the current Queensland board member for, and Fellow of, the Planning Institute of Australia. Wendy sees her role as being part of various teams charged with the responsibility of creating sustainable and liveable places and spaces for all.



Patrick Ellwood

Director, Clover Law Pty Ltd; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee

Patrick is a lawyer with over a decade of experience assisting high-net-worth individuals and family business owners. He is the founder of Clover Law, an Australian law firm specialising in tax structuring, estate planning, superannuation and asset protection.

Patrick is a regular speaker for a range of private and professional bodies and is a published author of a number of legal textbooks.

Patrick is passionate about helping individuals and business owners grow their wealth and achieve a successful transition of their legacy to the next generation.



Scott Falvey

Principal, McInnes Wilson Lawyers

Scott holds a Bachelor of Laws from Bond University and a Master of Health and Medical Law from the University of Melbourne. He has also undertaken further studies in negotiation, leadership and mediation at the Harvard Law School in the United States.

Scott has been admitted as a solicitor in Queensland for 30 years and is currently serving as a Principal within McInnes Wilson's Insurance team. He has advised and represented employers, insurers and regulators on compensation entitlements, reviews, and appeals. Scott has investigated fraudulent claims under each of Queensland's injury regimes. He has prosecuted persons who have offended against the workers compensation and motor vehicle regimes.

Scott previously co-authored the the Law Book Company's '*Queensland Workers Compensation Law Manual*'.



Kathryn Finlayson

Partner, Minter Ellison

Kathryn is a dispute resolution specialist, with a particular focus on competition, regulatory and administrative law matters for regulated industries. Kathryn has particular experience in regulatory investigations and enforcement matters having acted for a number of major clients under investigation by the ACCC and other regulators and in subsequent Tribunal and Court proceedings. Kathryn is the Deputy Chair (Brisbane) of the Competition and Consumer Committee of the Law Council of Australia.



Rebecca Fogerty

President, Queensland Law Society; Partner, Jasper Fogerty Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld

Rebecca is the President of Queensland Law Society. She is partner at Jasper Fogerty Lawyers and practises exclusively in criminal defence and domestic violence law. Rebecca is an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law and the immediate past Chair of QLS' Criminal Law Committee. In addition to her role as a Councillor, Rebecca sits on the QLS Executive and Financial and Risk Management Committees. She is recognised as a leading Queensland Criminal Lawyer in the Doyle's Guide.



Karen Gaston

**Barrister, Queensland Bar
Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee**

Karen is a barrister in private practice and brings nearly 18 years of litigation experience as a solicitor to her practice at the bar.

Karen is particularly interested in estate litigation with a broader commercial focus, such as those concerning rural partnerships, trusts, and equitable remedies, such as undue influence and unconscionable conduct. She has conducted many family provision applications (FPAs), solemn form probate applications, will construction and interpretation applications, cy pres, and statutory will applications and other "classical" Succession Law actions.

Karen recognises the value of alternative dispute resolution, especially in family-based disputes. She has undertaken the Bond University mediation course and was one of the first succession lawyers to undertake training in collaborative law at UTS in Sydney in 2008. The '2023 Doyle's Guide' ranked Karen as "Leading" in the category of Wills and Estates Litigation Junior Counsel.



Stuart Giles

Head of Strategic Partnerships – APAC, TorFX

Stuart has over two decades of experience in the financial services sector, encompassing lending, investments, and corporate advisory for private individuals and corporate entities. He has oversight of TorFX's business development activities and strategic partnerships throughout Australasia, working closely with partners from the legal, tax and accounting, wealth, investments, funds management and property sectors. Stuart works closely with legal firms and professionals in delivering tailored foreign exchange solutions to assist in streamlining and optimising international (cross border) settlements for both private and commercial transactions.



Taryn Hartley

Principal, McInnes Wilson Lawyers
Member, Queensland Law Society Revenue Law Committee

Taryn is a Principal in McInnes Wilson Lawyers' Corporate, Tax and Revenue Advisory Group. She has more than 20 years' experience advising clients on commercial and property transactions and the tax and duty issues arising from them. She works with privately owned clients as well as larger public and listed entities.



Scott Hay-Bartlem

Partner, Cooper Grace Ward

Scott and his team specialise in assisting clients and their other advisers including accountants and financial planners with tax and superannuation (particularly SMSFs) advice; estate planning, administration and disputes; family businesses, business structuring; business succession arrangements; asset protection and restructuring. Scott has a particular interest in how these areas intersect with self-managed superannuation funds and the impact of and on these structures.

Scott is the Chair of the SMSF Association, having joined its board in July 2019. Scott is a SMSF Specialist Advisor™ with the SMSF Association, a Chartered Tax Adviser, a member of the Society of Trust and Estate practitioners. Scott chairs the Cooper Grace Ward Diversity and Inclusion Group and its ARCUS sub-group, and is the leader of the firm's Private Client Commercial group.

Scott been selected by his peers for inclusion in the 16th Edition of Best Lawyers in Australia in the practice areas of: Superannuation Law, Trusts and Estates, Wealth Management / Succession Planning Practice and Commercial Law. He was named the 2016 Brisbane Wealth Management/Succession Planning practice 'Lawyer of the Year' and the Superannuation 'Lawyer of the Year' for 2019, 2022 and 2024.

Scott has been listed in 'Doyle's Guide' for Queensland Estate Planning lawyers as a pre-eminent practitioner.



Belinda Hughes

Director, Hughes and Lewis Legal
Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee

Belinda is the co-founder and director of personal injury and insurance law startup, Hughes and Lewis Legal. Hughes and Lewis was designed to be different. To capitalise on technological advancements, be flexible and nimble in its delivery of legal services and to always have a human-centred approach in its dealings.

Belinda practises in the area of workers' compensation, having acted as both an in-house solicitor and as a legal panel lawyer for WorkCover Queensland.

Elise Humpherys



Legal Professional Development Executive, Queensland Law Society

Elise is a senior educator with over 25 years' experience in the education sector. She served as an educator, deputy principal, principal, supervisor and advisor in schools and colleges, before moving into learning and development in registered training organisations and QLS.

Elise holds the qualifications of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education, Master of Education (Technology), and is currently completing a Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Laws online with the University of New England (UNE).

Elise is passionate about facilitating learning to support lawyers, through continuing professional development. She has a particular interest in education and health service provision in regional/remote Australia. Elise also has a particular interest in Work Health and Safety.

Trent Johnson



Partner, Travis Schultz & Partners Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee

Trent is a partner at Travis Schultz & Partners and leads their Brisbane office. He practises in all aspects of personal injury litigation, including motor vehicle accident, public liability, workers' compensation, asbestos/dust and child abuse claims. He is a long-term member of the Australian Lawyers Alliance and past president and former volunteer of the Suncoast Community Legal Service.

Simon LaBlack



Legal Practitioner Director, LaBlack Lawyers Pty Ltd; Accredited Specialist (Property Law) – Qld

Simon practises exclusively in Property Law in Queensland. In 2017, he became one of the few Accredited Specialists in Queensland Property Law. Simon assists organisations and private clients in all property law related matters including property acquisitions and disposals, commercial property matters including leases, developments, transactions and disputes, subdivisions and compulsory acquisition matters. He acts as a specialist consultant to the profession and as a Court-Appointed Statutory Trustee for Sale.

Victoria Lenton



Director and Principal Lawyer, Lenton Migration Accredited Specialist (Immigration Law) – Qld Deputy Chair, Queensland Law Society Migration Law Consulting Committee Member, Queensland Law Society Access to Justice/Pro Bono Law Committee

Victoria is the Director and Principal Lawyer of Lenton Migration Law, an immigration law firm based in Brisbane. She is one of only six Accredited Specialists in Immigration Law in Queensland.

Victoria has a unique background for an immigration lawyer, with the benefit of a 13 year career with the Department of Home Affairs, including over six years on overseas diplomatic postings in South America and Africa.

In addition to her legal work, she lectures in human rights and anti-discrimination law at the University of Southern Queensland and in migration law topics through the Migration Institute of Australia.

Victoria is a member of the Law Council of Australia Migration Law Committee. She maintains a strong involvement in pro bono migration work, with a particular focus on persons with a disability.



Sarah-Jane MacDonald

Legal Practitioner Director, MacDonald Law; Councillor, Queensland Law Society Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld

Sarah-Jane is a strong advocate of practice in the regions, having practised in the Toowoomba region for the entirety of her legal career, and continues to serve on the Downs and South West Queensland Law Association.

Sarah-Jane was admitted to the Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia in 2014, after completing her Bachelor of Laws. Sarah-Jane is a qualified parenting co-ordinator and assists parents navigate their post-separated coparenting relationship. For Sarah-Jane, working with people is the crux of why she has continued to work in the Family Law sphere since her admission.

Sarah-Jane also provides pro bono legal advice to vulnerable women through the Women's Legal Service Qld. She has been recognised for her community involvement by being previously awarded the Regional Young Citizen of the Year Award.



Caroline Marco

Consultant Crown Prosecutor, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Caroline holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland. She was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2003. Since then, she has worked almost exclusively at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) (Qld) as a Crown Prosecutor and gained advocacy experience in a diverse range of cases before all Courts, including the Mental Health Court, the Court of Appeal and High Court. She has conducted complex and high-profile criminal trials in the Supreme Court and represented the ODPP in over 90 appeals before the Court of Appeal.



Ross McConaghy

**Partner, Jensen McConaghy Lawyers
Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld
Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee**

Ross has been admitted as a solicitor for some 30 years and has practised exclusively in Personal Injuries Law, predominantly acting for statutory insurers in the defence of Compulsory Third Party and Workers' Compensation claims.

He is a Queensland Law Society Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) (Highest Achievement Award – 2005) and has been a member of the QLS Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee for over 23 years.

Ross is a partner of Jensen McConaghy Lawyers, a firm which he co-founded in 1999.



Caitlin McConnel

**Senior Associate, Clayton Utz
Member, Queensland Law Society Water and Agribusiness Law Committee**

Caitlin specialises in agriculture & food legislation, water law, food security policy and frameworks, and climate-related litigation. She works across practice groups nationally in relation to the role agriculture plays in respect of natural capital markets, ESG investment opportunities & risk, and agrivoltaics.

Caitlin has a Master of Laws specialising in agriculture and the role climate change, food, and water security plays in the context of national security in Australia. In December 2023, Caitlin was selected as a finalist in the 2024 Zanda McDonald Award. Caitlin is an advocate for youth in agriculture, and mental health & wellness in the legal and agricultural sectors.

Caitlin holds roles as chair and member of various committees such as the Future Farmers Network, the National Farmers' Federation Young Farmers' Council, and the Agribusiness Australia Queensland State Council.



Emma-Jane McNicol

Senior Risk Solicitor, Lexon Insurance Pte Ltd

Emma-Jane was admitted to practice in 1998 and holds a Bachelor of Law and Arts. She has worked in both private practice and in-house for major financial institutions. Her focus in work has always been to minimise risk for her clients within the required legal and regulatory framework.



Natasha Milne

Managing Director, Forensic & Litigation Consulting, FTI Consulting

Natasha Milne assists lawyers get to the crux of financial issues in disputes. She specialises in commercial litigation, insurance, negligence, family law and estate matters.

Natasha is an accredited Forensic Accounting and Business Valuation Specialist and a Managing Director of Forensic and Litigation Consulting at FTI Consulting, where she prepares expert reports and provides independent expert witness or consulting expert services.

Natasha has over 20 years' experience in the accounting industry. For the past 16 years, she has specialised in forensic accounting, litigation support services and the quantification of economic loss and damage. She is also a guest lecturer in the forensic accounting courses at Queensland University of Technology, and a member of the national CAANZ Forensic Accounting Committee.

Natasha was the winner of the Australian Accounting Awards Accounting Consultant of the Year 2021 and 2022.



Alexandra Moles

**Partner, Mills Oakley
Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee**

Alexandra co-manages Mills Oakley's Brisbane Family and Relationship Law practice. Alex has over 18 years of experience practising exclusively in Family Law. Her philosophy is simple – highly personalised, commercial and direct advice. She is a people person who is committed to her clients obtaining the earliest possible resolution of the legal issues arising from the beginning or end of a relationship.

Alex places emphasis on ensuring her clients understand all of their options and can make an informed decision in often stressful and difficult circumstances.



Paul O'Neill

Senior Business Development Manager, Equity Trustees (now incorporating Australian Executor Trustees)

Paul is a highly respected industry professional with particularly specialised experience and understanding in the field of Health and Personal Injury services and the ongoing Management and Administration of Compensation award damages.

Paul is the first point of contact for barristers and solicitors and then works closely with financial advice partners, case managers, allied health professionals and, of course, our clients and their families who have faced significant medical or personal injury.

With each unique situation, Paul makes exceptional effort to understand the client's circumstance and future outlook and, in doing so, assists in tailoring support strategies to adequately provide for daily and ongoing needs as well as the full spectrum of financial, lifestyle and social support a client might require.



Despina Priala

Director and Legal Practitioner, Pirala Legal Member, Queensland Law Society Property and Development Law Committee

Despina holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Bond University. She was admitted in 1994 as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court and has practised in property and commercial law on the Gold Coast for more than 28 years, predominantly in off the plan projects.

Despina was appointed as In-house Legal Counsel for Sunland Group Limited in 2004, overseeing all aspects of the construction and settlement of the iconic Q1 Tower, in addition to managing other projects on the Gold Coast, including Palazzo Versace, Circle on Cavill, Avalon, and Sunkids Child Care Centres.

In 2007 Despina established her own boutique legal practice, Priala Legal, offering a high level of legal expertise and personalised service in all aspects of property development law, off-the-plan contracts, residential and commercial land transactions. She also has substantial experience in the establishment, ongoing management and sales of manufactured home parks in Qld and NSW, and childcare centres.

An author of LexisNexis for all property modules in Queensland, Despina is also a member of the Hellenic Lawyers Association of Australia, the Southport Chamber of Commerce, and the Gold Coast District Law Association.



Dr Paul O'Shea

O'Shea Lawyers

Adjunct Professor, TC Beirne School of Law Member, Queensland Law Society Banking and Financial Services Law Committee Member, Queensland Law Society Competition and Consumer Law Committee

With more than 33 years' experience as a commercial lawyer, Paul has conducted numerous leading cases in consumer credit law and has advised governments, consumer groups and industry.

Paul has conducted many seminars and courses for the Queensland Law Society, state and federal governments and private agencies in Australia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei and China. He was also a senior lecturer at the TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland and continues to teach commercial and consumer law for the law school.

Paul has published widely and is the author of *'The Legal Environment of Business'*, published by Thomson Reuters, and *'Credit, Consumers and the Law'*, published by Routledge of London. A former Australian Financial Complaints Authority and Financial Ombudsman Service panel member, he has served on the boards of statutory authorities, industry-based dispute resolution schemes, and private corporations.



Helen Roebuck

DNA Expert Witness

Helen is a practising DNA expert witness with over 20 years courtroom experience throughout Australia and select international jurisdictions. Helen proffers authoritative oral and written expert testimony in predominantly indictable matters including murder, sexual assault, firearms and drugs matters, in a clear, straight-forward and persuasive fashion.

As a Senior Forensic Biologist, Helen is actively involved in both the scientific and legal communities, including participation as an Industry Fellow at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) bringing significant crime scene, laboratory, academic and jurisdictional experience. Far from stagnant, forensic science is a continuum of development which seeks to contribute meaningfully to the justice system.

Helen is an active speaker, and is passionate to further knowledge and engagement between the scientific and legal fields, to the betterment of judicial outcomes.



Beth Rolton

Partner, Travis Schultz & Partners Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld

Beth is a partner at Travis Schultz and Partners and leads their Cairns office. Beth has predominately practised in personal injury litigation since her admission as a solicitor in Queensland in 2010.

Beth has been accredited by the Queensland Law Society as a Personal Injury Specialist and received the Highest Achiever Award in 2018. As well as her qualifications in law, Beth holds a Bachelor's degree in Education and spent a number of years teaching Legal Studies and Visual Arts to secondary students before embarking on her career in law.



Sharon Sangha

Professional Development Solicitor, Queensland Law Society

A Canadian abroad, Sharon came to Australia in the pursuit of further tertiary education after completing an undergraduate degree in psychology. Starting out studying medicine, Sharon found her calling in the legal profession and completed her law degree in regional Townsville. After being admitted as a solicitor in 2018 and period of private practice, her passion for education and learning led her to joining the Professional Development team at the Queensland Law Society in 2020.

At QLS, Sharon implements programs to support and empower legal professionals throughout their career in legal practice. Through her education and career journey, Sharon has developed a particular interest in the utilisation of psychology to support wellbeing in the legal profession.



Rukshana Sashankan

General Manager – Practitioners, Property Exchange Australia Ltd (PEXA)

Rukshana joined PEXA in 2017 having held roles as a property lawyer and various other leadership roles in Legal and Operations. She plays an instrumental part in evolving the way property is transacted in Queensland. Rukshana represents and advocates for lawyers – guiding the QLD market through the ongoing digitisation of property settlements.

Rukshana has 18 years' extensive experience in senior operations and leadership roles, with a proven ability to lead teams, drive productivity and operational growth, lead change management and champion people leadership fundamentals. Further, Rukshana leads the national PEXA Partner Team, a group of experienced specialists, who support practitioners with education and training to transact online.

Rukshana's impact on the industry and the members at large is evident through her ongoing engagement and participation in industry and member-based events, as well as championing for worthy causes such as Diversity and Inclusion committees and mentoring with Deakin University's CREATE Program and Sisterworks.



Travis Schultz

**Managing Partner, Travis Schultz & Partners
Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld
Queensland Law Society Senior Counsellor**

Travis is the managing partner of Travis Schultz & Partners and has expertise as a commercial litigation and personal injury lawyer in the areas of workers' compensation, motor vehicle and public liability law. Travis' career has seen him become managing partner of an established firm and then continued to grow that entity to a total staff of 76 at the time it was sold in 2014. His current firm has grown from himself and three part-timers to a team of almost 60 in less than five years.

His service to the profession includes two terms as president of the Sunshine Coast Law Association, two years as a Queensland Law Society Councillor, life membership of the Sunshine Coast Community Legal Service, and many years serving on the Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee.



Cameron Seymour

**Partner, Mullins Lawyers
Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld
Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee**

Cameron was admitted as a solicitor in 1990. He has practised extensively in torts law and became an Accredited Specialist in personal injuries law in 1998. Cameron joined Mullins in 1999 where he has been a partner since 2000. He practises primarily in workers' compensation, public liability and compulsory third party claims.

Cameron has been a contributing editor to LexisNexis's looseleaf service Personal Injuries Queensland (Work Injuries) since 1999. He has sat on the Queensland Law Society Personal Injuries Conference Planning Committee (from 2004 to 2016), the Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation/Tort Law Committee (since 2011), and presented or chaired at various Queensland Law Society Symposiums. He also delivers seminars to clients and the profession on personal injuries law.



Greg Spinda

Special Counsel, Travis Schultz & Partners
Chair, Queensland Law Society Practice Management Course Committee

Greg is a Special Counsel at Travis Schultz & Partners on the Sunshine Coast. He practises in all aspects of personal injury law, with particular expertise in serious injuries, NDIS and NIISQ.

Greg holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Business (Management) degree from the Queensland University of Technology. Greg completed a Master of Laws (Health Law) degree at QUT via research focussed on the NDIS and NIISQ.

Greg is the immediate past President of the Queensland branch of the Australian Lawyers Alliance (ALA), a role he held for three years, and remains a committee member. He regularly engages with the various scheme regulators in Queensland and represents the ALA at stakeholder forums.



Brittany White

Principal, Fuller & White Solicitors
Member, Queensland Law Society Criminal Law Committee

Brittany is Principal and Legal Practitioner Director of Fuller & White Solicitors, a multi-office firm of solicitors based in Brisbane City and Cleveland practising in the areas of criminal law, traffic law, domestic violence, family law and child protection matters.

Brittany has worked exclusively as a legal practitioner in criminal law and related areas for over ten years, firstly undertaking criminal prosecutions work with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and the Queensland State Government before moving to private criminal defence in 2012. She co-founded Fuller & White Solicitors in August 2016.

Brittany is a member of the Legal Aid Industry Reference Group.



Scott Whitla

Partner, McCullough Robertson

As an accredited specialist in Succession Law, Scott specialises in all aspects of succession planning, estate administration and estate and trust litigation. He manages the McCullough Robertson's Estates and Private Client team, having been made a Partner in 2009. His clients include high-net-worth individuals, accountants, financial advisers and other legal firms and their clients. Scott is also a qualified mediator.



SYMPOSIUM

MAJOR PARTNERS



TRACK PARTNERS



EXHIBITORS

