






Program

7.30am	Registration	
8am	Welcome to Country and opening remarks	
	Presenter: Cliff Kroesen , President, Gold Coast District Law Association; Partner, Kroesen & Co Lawyers	
8.15am	QLS President's remarks	
	Presenter: Chloé Kopilović , President, Queensland Law Society; Director, FC Lawyers; Member, Queensland Law Society Innovation Committee	
8.25am	Opening address	
	Presenter: Her Honour, Judge Jodie Wooldridge KC , District Court of Queensland	
	Chair: Chloé Kopilović , President, Queensland Law Society; Director, FC Lawyers; Member, Queensland Law Society Innovation Committee	
8.40am	Model litigants – all of us!	
	The model litigant principles are one of the most misunderstood concepts in the legal profession. Some private solicitors see them as a mandate that government lawyers should simply surrender straight away, whereas those in government often regard the model litigant principles as an unnecessary inconvenience.	
	In truth, the model litigant principles largely replicate broader duties that all officers of the court owe, and can in fact be a guide to a more productive and resolution-based way of dealing with disputes. In this session we will explore the ethical obligations of those acting for and against government, and how these principles can lead to better outcomes for both.	
	Presenter: Shane Budden , Special Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society	
	Chair: Cliff Kroesen , President, Gold Coast District Law Association; Partner, Kroesen & Co Lawyers	
9.30am	Trade marks in the Metaverse	
	The boundaries are blurring between physical and virtual reality as the decentralised Metaverse evolves and businesses are finding registration of a trademark locally does not guarantee protection of their interests and brand. This session will explore the threats and opportunities in developing a Metaverse jurisdiction and how to adapt to the virtual world for both protection of your own and your client's brand, to ensure coverage across all major markets.	
	Presenter: Hayley Tarr , Member, Queensland Law Society Competition and Consumer Committee	
	Chair: Cliff Kroesen , President, Gold Coast District Law Association; Partner, Kroesen & Co Lawyers	
10am	Morning tea	



10.20am

TRACK 1A

Third parties in Family Law – when, how and why

The *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) and attendant Rules set out the obligations for practitioners who are considering joining third parties to proceedings. This session will traverse those sections of the Act and the Rules that practitioners must have regard to and the considerations around whether or not to join third parties.

Presenter: Simone Fraser, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: Damira Hidic, Practice Leader and Managing Director – Gold Coast, Australian Family Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld; Member, Gold Coast District Law Association



TRACK 1B

Class actions in the regions

A discussion of the class action regime in the Federal Court, lessons from running a large, high profile class action from a regional practice and the impact that access to justice through the regime can have on the lives of those affected.

Presenter: Jerry Tucker, Associate, Bottoms English; President, Far North Queensland Law Association

Chair: Anna Morgan, Personal injuries lawyer; Member, Gold Coast District Law Association



11.20am

TRACK 2A

Practical advocacy skills

Upgrade your advocacy skills and obtain practical guidance as you work through an example scenario dealing with trial preparation, written and oral submissions.

Presenters:

Andrew Fraser, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Phil Looney KC, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Luke Tonge, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: Joeline Nel, Associate Director, McLaughlins Lawyers; Member, Gold Coast District Law Association



TRACK 2B

Unpacking franchise law: a wide lens view

Delve into the latest developments in franchise law and gain valuable insights into the opportunities and challenges that exist in the world of franchising. Suitable for all levels, this session will equip you to succeed in the dynamic world of franchising and cover:

- Recent changes to the Franchise Code
- New franchising penalties introduced in 2022
- The bigger picture in franchising

Presenter: Helen Kay, Managing Director, Rise Legal Business Lawyers

Chair: Sandra Pepper, General Manager, Education, Queensland Law Society



12.20pm

Lunch



1pm

TRACK 3A

Employment law: issue spotting

Employment law has a far reach into many practice areas, from criminal, commercial, M&A, to insurance. It is a minefield of overlapping state and federal rights and obligations, with obscure provisions that can easily catch out unsuspecting practitioners. In this session, we review some of the traps and pitfalls to watch out for.

Presenter: Kerry Gibb, Director, Kerry Gibb Workplace Law

Chair: Erin Mitchell, Director, Potts Lawyers; Vice President, Gold Coast District Law Association



TRACK 3B

Navigating the changing landscape of off-the-plan contracts

With a volatile economy and uncertainty in supply chains impacting the property development sector, this session will consider the challenges and risks when navigating off-the-plan contracts, including:

- Frameworks of contracts
- "Termination of convenience" clauses
- Unfair contract provisions
- Application of recent case law

Presenters:

Despina Priala, Director and Legal Practitioner, Priala Legal; Member, Queensland Law Society Property and Development Committee

Michael Lawrence, Barrister Queensland Bar

Chair: Cassandra Humphries, Manager Practitioner Services, Qld/Vic, Sympli

Session Partner



2pm

TRACK 4A

Intersection of domestic violence and criminal legislation

Stay up to date on recent legislative changes in the domestic and family violence space and understand how they impact criminal law practice and your ethical obligations as a practitioner.

Presenters:

His Honour Magistrate Cameron McKenzie, Magistrates Court of Queensland

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

Chair: Brooke Limmer, Director of Client Engagement, LEAP

Session Partner



TRACK 4B

Succession stories from the front line

We welcome our expert presenters who will share some recent experiences and offer practical guidance in response, focusing on:

- Estate planning and before death provisions for children
- Key taxation issues for deceased estates

Presenters:

Bryan Mitchell, Principal, Mitchells Solicitors; Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee

Ian Raspin, Managing Director, BNR Partners; Chair, STEP Australia

Chair: Guy Neilson, Solicitor, Evans Brandon Family Lawyers; Treasurer, Gold Coast District Law Association





3pm **Afternoon tea**

3.20pm **Family Law Amendment Bill 2023**



This session examines the changes proposed to be made to the law of parenting after separation by the Family Law Amendment Bill 2023, with a focus on the significant changes removing the presumption of “equal shared parental responsibility” and the related provisions considering specific care-time arrangements.

The debate about the Bill raises broader questions relevant to all practitioners, about how we draft laws that affect a broad cross-section of the public. Should laws be written only for the judges deciding cases that go to trial or also give guidance to the wider community of professionals involved in helping resolve parenting arrangements after separation, such as lawyers, mediators, or counsellors?

Presenter: Professor Patrick Parkinson AM, Emeritus Professor, TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland

Chair: Grant Dearlove, National Legal Practice Director, Australian Family Lawyers

The Australian Relationships Report: Love, Marriage, and Divorce in a Modern Nation

Learn more about the trends and factors impacting modern relationships in contemporary Australian society. This report draws on the latest Census data and research to examine the landscape inside and outside the courtroom relating to coupling, divorce and legal relationships, which will help you to better understand societal drivers and enable you to better support your clients.

Presenter: Grant Dearlove, National Legal Practice Director, Australian Family Lawyers

Session partner: **Australian Family Lawyers**

4.20pm **From the Commissioner’s desk: current and emerging issues**



Hear directly from the Commissioner, Legal Services Commission, Queensland as she shares updates on the regulatory issues pursued in upholding professional standards over the last 12 months and the strategic focus looking forward for the next year.

Presenter: Megan Mahon, Commissioner, Legal Services Commission, Queensland

Chair: Cliff Kroesen, President, Gold Coast District Law Association; Partner, Kroesen & Co Lawyers

5.20pm **Closing remarks**

Presenter: Cliff Kroesen, President, Gold Coast District Law Association; Partner, Kroesen & Co Lawyers

5.30pm **Close**

5.30pm **Networking drinks | Event Centre Gallery**



Presenters

Shane Budden

Special Counsel, Ethics QLS
Ethics and Practice Centre,
Queensland Law Society



Shane is a Special Counsel Ethics in the QLS Ethics and Practice Centre / QLS Solicitor Support Pty Ltd, and provides ethical guidance and instruction to practitioners. He contributes significantly to the QLS Journal Proctor, both through his regular column and by authoring feature articles.

Shane was admitted in 1992 and worked in general practice with a focus on criminal law, before moving to in-house work, initially with the Ipswich City Council internal legal team.

Prior to joining QLS he headed up the internal legal team at the Queensland Building Construction Commission/Queensland Building Services Authority and was Chair of the Society's Government Lawyers Committee.

Grant Dearlove

National Legal Practice
Director, Australian Family
Lawyers



Grant is the National Legal Practice Director of AF Legal Group, which includes Australian Family Lawyers, Watts McCray, AFL Withnalls, and AFL Kordos, bringing the expertise of Australia's leading family law firms to a national client base.

For 28 years Grant has been a lawyer and company director owning, leading, and growing companies at 'C' suite level combining both strategic business, investment, and legal competencies.

Grant has a Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws, Master of Business Administration, a Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance, and is a Graduate of the Institute of Company Directors. Grant is a Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and studied leadership of professional service organisations at Harvard University. Grant is a solicitor of the Supreme and High Courts of Australia, a member of state law societies in which AFL practises, and is a court appointed mediator. Grant has been widely published over his career and has spoken at national and international conferences on all legal matters.

In addition to his role at AFL Grant is a company director on the boards of several commercial and non-profit companies across Australia.

Rebecca Fogerty

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



Rebecca is the Vice President of Queensland Law Society. She is partner at Jasper Fogerty Lawyers and practices exclusively in criminal defence.

Rebecca is an Accredited Specialist in criminal law and currently the Chair of QLS' Criminal Law Committee. She is the Queensland member for the Professional Standards Councils.



Andrew Fraser

Barrister, Queensland Bar



Andrew is a Barrister at the Queensland Bar. Since being called to the Bar in 2008 Andrew has developed a broad civil practice and regularly appears as an advocate in applications, trials, appeals and mediations.

Andrew's particular expertise is in the law of succession and has appeared on a range of estate and trust matters in the District Court, Supreme Court and Court of Appeal in Queensland including provision applications, will construction matters, informal will applications, charitable trust matters and applications by trustees for directions.

In 2020 and 2021, Andrew was named in *Doyle's Guide* as one of Queensland's preeminent junior counsel in Queensland and leading junior counsel in Australia for Wills & Estates Litigation.

Andrew is a nationally accredited mediator and has chambers in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

Simone Fraser

Barrister, Queensland Bar



Simone has been admitted as a legal practitioner since 2007 and commenced practice at the Bar in 2013.

Simone regularly appears in the Federal Circuit Court and Family Court and has experience in High Court leave applications. She practises primarily in the area of family law and is a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, a nationally accredited mediator and a nationally accredited family law arbitrator.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Simone was an Associate to Justice Philippides of the Supreme Court of Queensland and worked in private practice. Simone subsequently spent several years working in-house before returning to private practice as a solicitor.

Simone was the recipient of the Vice Chancellor's Scholarship from Bond University where she completed a Bachelor of Laws with Honours and a Bachelor of International Relations. She also holds an MBA which she completed at the European School of Management, Paris.

In 2019, Simone was named in *Doyle's Guide* as a recommended junior counsel in Queensland for family law, parenting and children's matters and family law mediation.

In 2020, Simone was again named in *Doyle's Guide* as a recommended junior counsel in Queensland for family law and parenting and children's matters.

Between 2019 and 2023, Simone was one of the Counsel Assisting to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Simone has chambers in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast.



Kerry Gibb

Director, Kerry Gibb
Workplace Law



Kerry is a QLS Workplace Law Accredited Specialist who has 30 years' experience both as an HR Manager and lawyer. Kerry represents employers in a variety of industries in the public, private, and not for profit sectors. Kerry is also a non-executive Director having worked on a variety of Boards in the education and training sphere. In 2022 Kerry left her position as Partner a local top-tier firm to begin her own practice. Her experience on all sides of the table allows her to deliver practical, real-world advice.

Damira Hidic,

Practice Leader and Managing
Director – Gold Coast,
Australian Family Lawyers;
Accredited Specialist (Family
Law) – Qld; Member, Gold
Coast District Law Association



Damira Hidic is a Principal Lawyer and Practice Leader of the Australian Family Lawyers practice on the Gold Coast. She has practiced as a lawyer specialising in family law since 2003. Damira is an Accredited Family Law Specialist, a Nationally Accredited Mediator, a Collaboratively Trained Lawyer.

Kassandra Humphries

Manager, Practitioner
Services, Qld/Vic, Sympli



Kassandra has over 15 years' experience in the conveyancing industry. Prior to joining Sympli, she worked as a property lawyer predominantly handling cottage, commercial, rural and off the plan conveyancing transactions. Kassandra understands the needs of Queensland conveyancing lawyers and is motivated to champion their interests. She uses her expertise in conveyancing to help deliver an easy-to-use e-settlements platform built by practitioners, for practitioners.



Helen Kay

Managing Director, Rise
Legal Business Lawyers



Helen is an exceptional and accomplished commercial and franchisee lawyer, with a wealth of legal expertise under her belt. With a distinguished career in top-tier firms in the UK and Australia, along with owning her legal practice and leading multiple commercial practices, she has risen to become a prominent figure in her industry. As the Managing Director of Rise Legal Business Lawyers, Helen's legal advice is sought after by both franchisers and franchisees. Her unmatched experience and proficiency make her a preeminent authority in her field.

Her Honour Judge Jodie Wooldridge KC

District Court of Queensland

Her Honour Judge Jodie Wooldridge KC is a graduate of the University of Queensland - Bachelor of Laws. In 2003 her Honour completed the Bar Practice Course through the Queensland University of Technology and was a recipient of the James Archibald Douglas Prize. Her Honour was admitted as a barrister in Queensland in 2003 and took silk in 2020.

Her Honour was employed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Qld) from 2000 until 2010 and again from 2011 to 2022. Her Honour served on several occasions as the acting Deputy-Director, and once as the acting Director of the Office. For a period from 2010 to 2011 her Honour was employed with the Northern Territory Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

In 2019 her Honour was a member of the Special Joint Taskforce into fraudulent sub-contractor non-payment in the building industry. From March until June 2022, her Honour was the Acting Work Health and Safety Prosecutor for Queensland.

Judge Wooldridge KC was appointed a Judge of the District Court of Queensland on 20 June 2022. Her Honour was also appointed a Judge of the Childrens Court of Queensland on 8 July 2022 and as a Judge of the Planning and Environment Court on 2 September 2022.

Chloé Kopilović

President, Queensland Law
Society; Director, FC
Lawyers; Member,
Queensland Law Society
Innovation Committee



Chloé is a director of FC Lawyers leading its Wills and Estates team. Shortly after admission in 2013, Chloé found her passion in succession law and went on to complete her Masters in Applied Law (majoring in Wills and Estates). Chloé enjoys the confidence of fellow practitioners and clients in relation to her expertise in the field.

Chloé has served on the Council for the last 6 years and has been a member of the Executive Committee for the past 2 years. She also serves on the Finance and Risk Committee. Chloé passionately believes in the legal profession and its traditions.

Outside the law, Chloé is a director of the charity, Uniforms 4 Kids and committee member of the Australasian Council of Women and Policing.



Cliff Kroesen

President, Gold Coast
District Law Association;
Partner, Kroesen & Co
Lawyers



Cliff is the Director of Kroesen & Co. Lawyers and a Legal Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force Reserves. He has a keen interest in the future of the legal profession.

Cliff worked exclusively in litigation before branching out into general practice with a focus on Succession and Criminal Law. Cliff has strong rural ties and has many farming clients.

Michael Lawrence

Barrister, Queensland Bar



Michael is a barrister at the private bar practising in commercial, family and criminal law. Michael is glad to assist Despina Priala in providing this presentation on important issues in property law.

In his spare time, Michael enjoys acting in theatre.

Philip Looney KC

Barrister, Queensland Bar



Philip was first called to the Bar in 1996 and took silk in 2012. He has had a diverse practice with his current focus being on Family Law, tax litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution. Philip has been recognised as a leading Queensland Senior Counsel in *Doyle's Guide* in the area of Family Law since 2015. Philip is a member of 19 Inns Chambers in Brisbane and French Quarter Chambers on the Gold Coast.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Philip had a 14-year career as a Chartered Accountant with extensive experience both in Australia and overseas. He practised mainly in the insolvency, corporate and forensic accounting areas working mainly for KPMG or its predecessor firms.

In addition to being a Family Law arbitrator, Philip is a nationally accredited mediator and acts as such in family and commercial disputes. Philip is a member of The Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators and served as its Queensland Board Member in 2020 and 2021.

Philip is currently the Queensland Barrister representative member of the FLS Executive of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia.



Brooke Limmer

Director of Client
Engagement, LEAP



Brooke is the Director of Client Engagement. With 19 years' experience in the legal industry, she has experience as a lawyer as well as as a practice manager. This experience has provided Brooke with an in-depth understanding of the challenges faced by law firms. She is passionate about the adoption of technology to improve productivity which in turn increases profits, and works with the team to ensure that LEAP firms are getting the most out of the software.

Megan Mahon

Commissioner, Legal
Services Commission,
Queensland



Megan Mahon was appointed the Legal Services Commissioner for Queensland in October 2019. Megan has a Bachelor of Laws with Honours and was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1996 after completing five year Articles. Megan is a Past President of the Queensland Law Society and a former Executive Director of the Law Council of Australia. Having had a distinguished career in private practice for more than 20 years, Megan's contribution to the profession has often been recognised, with highlights including being awarded the QLS 2017 President's Medal, the WLAQ 2009 Woman Lawyer of the Year and by her appointments as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.



Magistrate Cameron McKenzie

Magistrates Court of
Queensland



Magistrate McKenzie was appointed a magistrate of the Magistrates Court of Queensland in 2019 and has been sitting in the Southport and Beenleigh Specialist Domestic & Family Courts for the last three years.

His Honour is a current member of the Supreme Court of Queensland Rules Committee, which oversees the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules and the Legal Admission Rules. He is also a current member of the Magistrates Court Domestic and Family Violence, Civil Law, Judicial Wellness and Conference Planning Committees.

Prior to his appointment, his Honour practised in the areas of commercial litigation and insolvency and was a partner at DibbsBarker, Gadens and DWF. Before gaining partnership, his Honour spent a decade at NortonRoseFulbright where he progressed from Articled Clerk to Senior Associate.

Whilst a solicitor he held positions as:

- Deputy Chair, Law Council of Australia Business Law Section Insolvency & Restructuring Committee
- Chair, Queensland Law Society Insolvency & Restructuring Committee
- Chair, Queensland Law Society Domestic & Family Violence Committee
- Member, Queensland Law Society Alternate Dispute Resolution Policy Committee
- Board Member, Appeal Costs Fund Board (State Attorney General appointment)
- Member, Insolvency Practitioner Registration and Disciplinary Committee (Federal Attorney General and Minister for Finance appointment)

His Honour was also a Queensland Law Society Approved Mediator, Nationally Accredited Mediator, Registered Farm Debt Mediator and Franchise Code Mediator.

Bryan Mitchell

Principal, Mitchells
Solicitors; Accredited
Specialist (Succession Law)
– Qld; Member, Queensland
Law Society Succession
Law Committee



Bryan works almost exclusively in the area of wills and estates and trusts, including estate planning, elder law, estate administration and estate disputes. He has a special interest in helping parents of children with a disability, with their estate planning.

Bryan was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1992 after completing degrees in Commerce and Law at the University of Queensland and articles of clerkship. Since then he has completed post-graduate study at QUT and the College of Law in the areas of estate planning and wills and estates generally.

More recently Bryan and the firm Mitchells was recognised again by his peers in the influential *Doyle's Guide* in the following categories:

- 2022 Leading Wills, Estates & Succession Planning Lawyers – Queensland
- 2022 Leading Wills & Estates Litigation Lawyers – Queensland
- 2021 Leading Wills & Estates Litigation Lawyers – Australia.

Bryan is a regular public speaker and has had the privilege of presenting in various parts of Australia, Hong Kong and London. He was one of the early members of the Queensland Branch of STEP and presently serves as Chair for STEP Australia. Bryan has also been a Fellow of the Tax Institute for a number of years.



Erin Mitchell

Barrister, Queensland Bar



Erin Mitchell is a director and senior criminal lawyer at Potts Lawyers. She practises exclusively in criminal, traffic and domestic violence law. She was previously a student of the Innocence Project and now holds a seat on Griffith University's Innocence Project Executive Committee and Advisory Board as well as working with the students. Erin is Vice-President of the GCDLA Committee, having been a committee member since 2016 and is heavily involved in planning events for the members including the GLAD Mentoring Program, as she strongly believes that friendships within the profession are key to a happy career.

Anna Morgan

Personal injuries lawyer;
Member, Gold Coast District
Law Association



Anna is a personal Injuries lawyer, passionate about the pursuit of justice and is dedicated to assisting clients to achieve solutions and outcomes through pursuing their legal rights and remedies. She previously worked at Evolve legal, and spent more than eight years at Maurice Blackburn Lawyers (acting for injured clients) and 12 years at Minter Ellison Gold Coast (acting for insurers).

Guy Neilson

Solicitor, Evans Brandon
Family Lawyers; Treasurer,
Gold Coast District Law
Association



Guy Neilson is a Solicitor at Evans Brandon Family Lawyers. Guy was named as a Family Law Rising Star in the Doyles Guide for 2021 and 2022. In addition to being a proud member of the Evans Brandon team, Guy is currently the Treasurer of the Gold Coast District Law Association and regularly volunteers at My Community Legal.



Joelene Nel

Associate Director,
McLaughlins Lawyers;
Collaborative Family Lawyer
and Mediator; Member,
Gold Coast District Law
Association



Joelene is an Associate Director at McLaughlins Lawyers on the Gold Coast. She has worked exclusively in all areas of family law and domestic violence for nearly 20 years.

Joelene values the importance of contributing to the community and does this through various avenues such as mentoring early career lawyers and volunteering at My Community Legal Centre and Women's Legal Service Queensland. Joelene has been a committee member of the Gold Coast District Law Association (GCDLA) since 2015 and is involved in running the GCDLA mentoring programme as well as organising other professional development and networking events. Joelene is an advocate for wellness and has served on the QLS Wellbeing Working Group; she encourages people to practise wellness—both personally and professionally.

**Professor Patrick
Parkinson AM**

Emeritus Professor, TC
Beirne School of Law,
University of Queensland



Patrick Parkinson AM is an Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of Queensland, where he was Dean of Law from 2018 – 2021, and Special Counsel with Watts McCray Lawyers, part of the AFL group. Professor Parkinson is a specialist in family law, child protection, law and religion and the law of equity and trusts. His family law books include *Australian Family Law in Context* (8th ed, 2023), *Family Law and the Indissolubility of Parenthood* (2011) and *The Voice of a Child in Family Law Disputes* (with Judy Cashmore, 2008). Professor Parkinson served from 2004-2007 as Chairperson of the Family Law Council, an advisory body to the federal Attorney-General, and also chaired a review of the Child Support Scheme in 2004-05 which led to the enactment of major changes to the child support system. He was President of the International Society of Family Law from 2011-14. Professor Parkinson is also the Executive Director of a new not for profit organisation, Publica (www.publica.org.au) concerned with strengthening families and relationships in Australian society.



Despina Priala

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



Despina 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 holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from Bond University. She is an Inaugural Law Graduate of Bond University from the Class of 1989 and maintains ties with the Alumni Bond University Association. 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, to offer clients a high level of legal expertise and personalised service. Despina has a proven track record in all aspects of property development law, off-the-plan contracts, residential and commercial land transactions whether acting for developers, buyers or sellers.. She also has substantial experience in the establishment, ongoing management and sales of manufactured home parks in Qld and NSW, and child care centres.

In 2021 Despina was recognised as reaching the milestone achievement of 25 years of membership with the QLD Law Society in recognition of her dedication and loyalty to the profession and the Society. Despina is a member of the QLS's Property and Development Law Committee, Hellenic Lawyers Association of Australia, the Southport Chamber of Commerce, and the Gold Coast District Law Association.

Despina is a radio personality and has a weekly radio talk show, Talking Law on Radio 97 Gold Coast, where Despina is able to provide a community service to listeners by updating them on the latest hot topics

Ian Raspin

Managing Director, BNR Partners; Chair, STEP Australia



Ian is the Managing Director of BNR Partners and has specialised in the taxation of deceased estates since 2000. He commenced his career in public practice in Tasmania working predominantly with SMEs, prior to 'migrating' to Australia in 1998 and commencing his career with BNR Partners.

Ian is a published author on estate taxation and a frequent presenter at both legal and accounting conferences and events. He also regularly provides in-house training sessions for legal firms and trustee companies, and consults with professional bodies, regulators, and the private sector on estate taxation issues.

Ian was a 2017 finalist in the Tax Institute of Australia's SME Tax Advisor of the Year Awards and the recipient of CPA Australia's 2016 Henry Fox Award for services to Public Practice.

Ian is a fellow of both CPA Australia, and of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, a Certified Tax Advisor of the Taxation Institute of Australia, a registered Practitioner of the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners and a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

He is a current member of CPA Australia Taxation Centre of Excellence and also sits on the Planning Advisory Committee for the College of Law.



Hayley Tarr

Principal, Tarr Law;
Member, Queensland Law
Society Competition and
Consumer Committee



Hayley is the director of Tarr Law, a boutique intellectual property law firm, which has, in the 3 years since it was founded, run matters against Instagram, JP Morgan, General Motors, Ferrari, Unilever and more.

Hayley is the QLS representative to the Attorney General's Appeals Costs Board and a mediator for the Queensland Supreme Court Scheme for Pro Bono Mediation of Claims Involving Self Represented Litigants.

As a registered patent and trademarks attorney, intellectual property lawyer, nationally accredited mediator, and attorney in the state of NY, USA, Hayley considers the Metaverse through the lens of her qualifications and experience, pondering the implications of this new frontier for us, as a country, a profession, as business owners and advisors.

Luke Tonge

Barrister, Queensland Bar



Luke was called to the Bar in 2021.

Before coming to the Bar, Luke practised as a solicitor exclusively in Family Law and domestic violence law. He has continued to practise in those areas at the Bar.

During his time as a solicitor, Luke gained recognition in the *Doyle's Guide* in the area of Family Law.

Luke appears regularly in contested interlocutory and final hearings.

Jerry Tucker

Associate, Bottoms English;
President, Far North
Queensland Law
Association



Jerry is an Associate at Bottoms English Lawyers in Cairns. Admitted in 2013, Jerry's practice is predominantly representative proceedings involving Indigenous clients and communities. Mostly notably, Jerry had the day-to-day carriage of the Stolen Wages Class Action, Australia's largest human rights class action, which settled in 2020 for \$190m.



ANNUAL GOLD COAST LEGAL CONFERENCE



Major Partners



Exhibitors

