

FAMILY LAW CONFERENCE



Recorded: 6 October 2023

10 hours | 1 CPD point per hour viewed



Program

59 min

Profession update: Family Law Amendment Bill 2023



The parenting order framework has been amended and the 'best interests' factors have been refined. This update will delve into the provisions that will change, including the circumstances in which the court can vary an existing parenting order. Learn about the amendments and how they impact your practice.

Presenter: **Alexandra Moles**, Partner, Mills Oakley; Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee

Chair: **Teigan Jones**, Director & Legal Partner, Wilsons Family Lawyers; Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee

58 min

Managing psychosocial hazards in your workplace



There is now a positive onus on employers to reduce, insofar as possible, the exposure to psychosocial hazards in the workplace. Our practitioner panel will discuss what harm reduction looks like in practices where vicarious trauma may be inevitable. Consider the changes that you could be implementing for your firm and yourself.

Panellists:

Gemma Sharp, Special Counsel, Cooper Grace Ward

Chair: **Samantha Bolton**, Director, Pippa Colman & Associates; Councillor, Queensland Law Society

55 min

TRACK 1A



Cyber Separate – Ensuring cybersecurity and digital integrity during separation

Join our cyber security expert as she goes through evidence ordinarily obtained in separation proceedings. She will take you through information security, monitoring and surveillance. You will learn about metadata contained in emails and pdfs. This session will consider safeguards for clients at risk of domestic family violence.

Presenter: **Nicole Murdoch**, Founding Director, EAGLEGATE Lawyers

Chair: **Adam Rodwell**, Client Renewal Manager, LEAP Legal Software

55 min

TRACK 1B



Financial agreements

As a topic, financial agreements is never far from the news. Clients may be wondering whether a financial agreement can be truly binding. While a completely watertight financial agreement might be a pipe dream, there are things you can do to increase their effectiveness.

This session examines the current approach of the family courts to financial agreements and how you can try to draft a financial agreement that sticks.

Presenter: **Phillip Sorensen**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Moderator: **Her Honour Judge Anne Demack**, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)

Chair: **Julie O'Reilly**, Director, William Buck

56 min

TRACK 2A



The role of mediators and lawyers in safely supporting parties through FDR

Our presenters take you through key considerations in supporting clients in dispute.

We will consider best practice prior to and during mediation, risk minimisation, trauma-informed practice, and the duties, roles and responsibilities of all parties in family dispute resolution.

Presenters:

Courtney Barton, Legal Practice Director, Barton Family Law

Kate Clark, Legal Director, Clark Mediation

Chair: **Jesse Hill**, Legal Professional Development Executive, Queensland Law Society

60 min

TRACK 2B



Protecting your client's settlement interests



Enhance your expertise in Division 7A (tax) matters for family lawyers. We will cover key updates and important considerations regarding liabilities and how you will need to untangle financial obligations and responsibilities to ensure you are protecting your clients' interests.

Presenter: **Wendy Miller**, Special Counsel, Damien Greer Lawyers; Senior Counsellor, Queensland Law Society; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee

Chair: **Monica Busine**, Financial Advisor, William Buck

64 min

TRACK 3A



Understanding narcissistic abuse

Author and counsellor Nova Gibson speaks about the features of narcissistic abuse and how abusers utilise systems and support networks to coerce and control relationships.

Presenter: **Nova Gibson**, Counsellor, Narcissistic Abuse Counselling Service

Chair: **Georgina Peereboom**, Legal Practice Director; Member, Queensland Law Society Future Leaders Committee; Member, Law Council of Australia, Young Lawyer Committee

42 min

TRACK 3B



Case update

A timely case update on some of the most relevant authorities to your practice in 2023.

Presenter: **Rebekah Bassano**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Adam Rodwell**, Client Renewal Manager, LEAP Legal Software

59 min

TRACK 4A

Domestic family violence – a shifting landscape



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

Presenter: **Magistrate Colin Strofield**, Magistrates Court of Queensland

Chair: **Jesse Hill**, Legal Professional Development Executive, Queensland Law Society

60 min

TRACK 4B

Digital assets in Family Law



We will deal with digital assets in a Family Law context, with a basic introduction to common types of digital assets such as cryptocurrency and the relevant regulatory framework in Australia, as well as practical tips for practitioners in Family Law with respect to disclosure, subpoenas, and the appointment of experts.

The session discusses recent authorities and looks to the future trends in the area.

Presenters:

Fraser Bax, Partner, Hopgood Ganim Lawyers

Damon Hatchett, Senior Associate, Hopgood Ganim Lawyers

Chair: **Simon Taylor**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

43 min

Domestic violence and checking your (legal professional) privilege



There has been an enormous shift in criminal practice regarding the expectations of a practitioner in the application of the Australian Solicitor Conduct Rules 2012. Our ethics solicitor will unpack what your obligations look like and how to safely navigate your legal professional privilege in the conduct of family matters and beyond.

Presenter: **Shane Budden**, Special Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society

Chair: **Samantha Bolton**, Director, Pippa Colman & Associates; Councillor, Queensland Law Society

Presenters

Courtney Barton

Legal Practice Director, Barton Family Law



Courtney is a family lawyer, conflict resolution specialist and the founder of Barton Family Lawyers.

Courtney has been working in family law firms since 2008. She graduated from the Queensland University of Technology with a Bachelor of Laws with Honours in 2009 and was admitted to the profession as a Solicitor in June 2011.

For the last fourteen years, Courtney has been working tirelessly to assist her clients to achieve certainty and a fresh start following separation.

Courtney has successfully supported thousands of people through their separation journey. Courtney strives to deliver the best practical outcome to each of her clients that makes a positive difference to their lives.

Rebekah Bassano

Barrister, Queensland Bar

Fraser Bax

Partner, HopgoodGanim Lawyers



Fraser is a Partner in the Family and Relationship Law team at HopgoodGanim Lawyers. He assists with all types of family law matters including complex property settlements, financial agreements, spousal maintenance, parenting and child support disputes.

Samantha Bolton

Director, Pippa Colman & Associates; Councillor, Queensland Law Society



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.

Samantha sits on the Queensland Law Society's Practice Management Course Committee, Professional Conduct Committee, and Finance and Risk Committee.

Shane Budden

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



As a Special Counsel Ethics in the QLS Ethics and Practice Centre/QLS Solicitor Support Pty Ltd, Shane 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.

Monica Busine

Financial Advisor, William Buck



Monica is passionate about helping women make smart and confident financial decisions. Throughout her career and specialisation in family matters, Monica observed that a female partner in a relationship would not actively partake in consultations with a financial advisor leaving the male partner to manage their joint interests. Her aim is to empower women to proactively manage their finances.

She offers strategic advice for clients considering starting a family, saving for their child's education, managing day-to-day cash flow and debt, financial planning, relationship separation, and wealth protection.

Kate Clark, Legal Director, Clark Mediation

Kate is a highly experienced mediator and lawyer and was recognised for her leading skills as a Family Law Mediator in the *Doyle's Guide 2023*.

She is the Legal Director of Clark & Associates Mediation Services and ACM Legal. Prior to running her own firms, Kate worked for leading family and criminal law firms in Brisbane. Prior to legal practice, she worked at the Family Court of Appeal and Queensland Law Reform Commission.

Kate holds a Bachelor of Laws and Behavioural Science, Psychology. She was admitted as a Solicitor in 2009, is a Nationally Accredited Mediator, an Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner and a Trauma-Informed Practitioner.

Kate has extensive mediation experience in interpersonal, community, workplace, corporate and government disputes.

In addition to her work in family dispute resolution, Kate is a leading practitioner in restorative justice and restorative engagement in Queensland, assisting parties resolve criminal and abuse matters, both recent and historical.

Her Honour Judge Anne Demack

Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)



Judge Demack was appointed as a Federal Magistrate at Brisbane in 2008. The Court became the Federal Circuit Court in 2013 and the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia in September 2021.

Judge Demack was formerly a barrister in private practice in Rockhampton. She holds degrees in law and in social work and had earlier worked as a social worker.

At the time of her appointment she was a member of the Children Services Tribunal, which was then the Queensland tribunal with responsibility for reviewing decisions made by the statutory child protection department, and had been a member of the Central Queensland parole board.

Judge Demack has a particular interest in parenting matters, child protection issues and parents being assisted with the resolution of their disputes.

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 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*.

Nova Gibson, Counsellor,
Narcissistic Abuse Counselling
Service

Damon Hatchett

Senior Associate,
HopgoodGanim Lawyers



Damon is a Senior Associate in the Family and Relationship Law practice team of HopgoodGanim Lawyers. Damon has practised in the area of family and relationship law for five years. Prior to this, Damon was an associate to a judge in the Federal Circuit Court of Australia (as it then was). Whilst his experience in family and relationship law includes both parenting and property matters, Damon is particularly interested in financial agreements, representation of high-net-worth individuals, and matters involving international elements.

He is an active member of the Family Law Practitioners Association of Queensland and is a continuing member of Queensland Young Lawyers, where he served as Vice-President in 2020. Damon graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and a Bachelor of Arts.

Jesse Hill

Legal Professional Development Executive, Queensland Law Society



Jesse comes to the QLS from private practice, where he worked exclusively in commercial litigation. Prior to his time in litigation, he worked in the Queensland Public Service in highly pressurised roles.

Jesse is acutely aware of many of the challenges faced by the legal profession both in the private and public sphere. He now seeks to equip legal practitioners with the tools and knowledge they need to thrive in practice.

Teigan Jones

Director & Legal Partner, Wilsons Family Lawyers; Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee



As a graduate, Teigan worked as the Legal Associate to the Honourable Justice Michelle May in the Appeals Division of the Family Law Court of Australia. Following admission to the legal profession in 2011, Teigan has practised exclusively within Family Law, building a highly focused expertise.

Teigan is comfortable working within the Court jurisdiction however works to keep families out of the system whenever practical – preferring to focus on negotiation, mediation and pragmatic, workable solutions for clients willing and able to avoid the delays and cost of litigation.

Teigan has completed her Masters of Applied Law (Family Law). She is a graduate fellow of the College of Law, and a member of the Family Law Practitioner Association, the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, and the Women's Legal Association of Queensland Inc.

Wendy Miller

Special Counsel, Damien Greer Lawyers; Senior Counsellor, Queensland Law Society; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee



Wendy holds a Bachelor of Laws and Arts, a Masters in Law and a Masters in Taxation Law. She has been a Queensland Law Society Accredited Specialist – Family Law since 2001, is an Approved Arbitrator and also a Chartered Tax Advisor.

Wendy specialises in complex financial and property settlements and identifying tax minimising opportunities to maximise financial outcomes presented by a marriage breakdown. She is expert in asset protection strategies and business succession planning in a family law environment.

Wendy is a member of the Family Law Practitioners' Association of Queensland and the Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators.

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.

Nicole Murdoch

Founding Director, EAGLEGATE Lawyers



Nicole Murdoch is a seasoned technology lawyer, the principal of EAGLEGATE Lawyers and an engineer with a wealth of experience at the intersection of law and technology. With a background in cybersecurity and information security, Nicole is uniquely positioned to address the complex issues arising in separation proceedings, particularly in cases involving domestic family violence and coercive control. She is passionate about safeguarding clients in vulnerable situations.

Nicole offers invaluable insights into the challenges and solutions available within the Family Court jurisdiction. She is a former director of the Australian Information Security Association (AISA), a graduate of the AICD and a Fellow of the Institute of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys of Australia (IPTA).

Julie O'Reilly

Director, William Buck



As a Director in the Business Advisory division, Julie has specialised knowledge in relation to the medical and dental industries, as well as family succession and asset structuring and is a divorce and separation specialist. Julie assists clients in all areas of general and specialist practices, assisting them with their tax and business advisory requirements, including establishment, structuring, asset protection, family wealth and growth strategies.

Georgina Peereboom

Legal Practice Director; Member, Queensland Law Society Future Leaders Committee; Member, Law Council of Australia, Young Lawyer Committee



Georgina practises primarily in the areas of Family Law and succession planning. Georgina was admitted as a Solicitor in the Supreme Court of Queensland in July 2021, after completing her Bachelor of Laws (Honours) / Bachelor of Business Management at the University of Queensland in 2020.

Georgina is passionate about working towards inclusivity and connection for early carer practitioners looking to engage their experience of life in the law.

Georgina is a strong advocate for the many different pathways available to legal practitioners during their career and believes that it is a privilege to be part of a profession which offers a career for life and something for everyone.

Georgina otherwise maintains an active role in her local community in her capacity as a Board Member of Community Management Solutions and Member of the Brisbane Racing Club's Member Advisory Committee.

Adam Rodwell

Legal Practice Advisor, LEAP



Adam joined LEAP's Legal Practice Advisory team after having practised law in private practice for four years, predominantly in the areas of Property and Commercial Law. Having personally experienced the various practical and technological challenges faced by clients, Adam is passionate about helping people leverage technology so that they can improve their adaptability and overall wellbeing in practice.

Adam enjoys demonstrating features and tools by LEAP that help people to effectively manage the various demands and time constraints in practice, and guiding clients through obstacles or objectives where the worlds of law and technology meet. His interest in continuous improvement means that he is regularly looking for new ways to further develop LEAP's features to boost productivity, efficiency, and user friendliness.

Gemma Sharp

Special Counsel, Cooper Grace Ward



As a special counsel in the workplace relations and safety team, Gemma brings over 15 years' experience providing advice on employment, industrial discrimination and health and safety matters. Gemma advises a range of clients across various industries, including transport, retail, , manufacturing, finance.

She provides guidance on issues such as compliance and duties under workplace health and safety legislation; enterprise bargaining, protected industrial action and bargaining disputes unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment; the operation of employment contracts and restraint of trade provisions; independent contractor and employee distinctions.

Gemma advises on award and enterprise agreement applicability and provisions; dismissal risks and strategies; management of ill and injured employees; workers' compensation claims; and general protections claims.

Gemma also advises religious organisations on complex church matters, and early childhood and educational institutions on education and child safety related matters and privacy law.

Phillip Sorensen

Barrister, Queensland Bar



Prior to joining the bar in December 2013, Phillip practised as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland for 27 years.

At the bar in Brisbane he now practises in:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution – Mediation
- Equity – Family Provision, Real Property, Trusts, Wills and Probate and Estate Litigation
- Family Law – Children, Property and Spousal Maintenance

Phillip has a special interest in the law relating to financial agreements and is the author of papers on this topic.

Magistrate Colin Strofield

Magistrates Court of Queensland



Magistrate Strofield was appointed as a Magistrate in March 2008. After a short period in the Brisbane Magistrates Court he transferred to the Charleville Magistrates Court for two years. In April 2011 he was transferred to the Holland Park Magistrates Court.

On 1 September 2015 he undertook the role of the Magistrate at the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court at Southport. He now sits in Brisbane.

Prior to his appointment Magistrate Strofield was the legal advisor to the Commissioner of the Police Service for 13 years.

Simon Taylor

Barrister, Queensland Bar