



SYMPOSIUM

Program – The Wider Circle

40 mins The Power of Pro-Bono: Opportunities and Challenges

As a profession, we proudly boast our pro bono contribution. However, navigating and managing pro bono work can be challenging at a professional and personal level. This is a practical, generalist session designed to highlight the pro bono opportunities for solicitors and the benefits of 'giving back', while acknowledging the challenges that face our regional and remote community.

Presenters:

Dan Rogers, Principal and Legal Director, Robertson O’Gorman; Member, Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council

Professor Tamara Walsh, Director, UQ Pro Bono Centre, University of Queensland

Andrew O’Brien KC, Barrister, Queensland Bar



50 mins Practising law at the periphery: Professional realities, responsibilities & opportunities for solicitors in remote, small-town Queensland

This presentation will examine the distinctive nature of legal practice in remote and small-town Queensland, exploring how solicitors adapt to broader practice scopes, navigate heightened community visibility, and respond to unique ethical, cultural, and professional challenges. It will also consider the evolving role of technology, cross-sector collaboration, and legal innovation in enhancing access to justice for individuals and communities who might otherwise be excluded from the legal system.

Presenters:

Louise Prychidczuk, Principal Solicitor, Clearwater Law

Mathai Joshi, Senior Associate, Connolly Suthers Lawyers; President, Queensland Law Society Future Leaders Committee; Member, Queensland Law Society Access to Justice and Pro-Bono Committee

Chair: **Marian Morgan-Bindon**, CEO, Supreme Court Library Queensland





SYMPOSIUM

43 mins The issue of geographical disadvantage and access to justice

With advances in the use of artificial intelligence and technology, the accessibility of free legal support is rapidly increasing for those that cannot afford private legal representation. Despite this, access to justice remains a large societal problem. This session is an intensive that considers multiple factors that contribute to the challenges of access to justice.

Presenters:

Judy Harrison, Director, Harrison Clarke Pty Ltd; Lecturer, Charles Darwin University

Kylie Bell, Manager (Regional Courts), Legal Aid Queensland

Paxton Brown, Legal Practitioner, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld)

Chair: **Mark Fenlon**, Practice Manager, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator; Member, Law Council of Australia's Remote, Rural and Regional Committee





SYMPOSIUM

Presenters



Kylie Bell

Kylie Bell is the Executive Director of Regional Services at Legal Aid Queensland, leading service delivery for 13 regional offices across Queensland.

Kylie has practiced exclusively in criminal law for more than 20 years and brings an understanding of how the justice system impacts vulnerable people and communities, together with region-specific challenges such as workforce attraction and retention, disaster related effects, and the impact of geography on access to services. Admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2001, Kylie brings more than two decades of experience to leadership of multidisciplinary regional teams and a keen interest in both improving sustainability for regional practitioners while strengthening justice outcomes for clients in rural, regional and remote communities.



Paxton Brown

Paxton was admitted to the legal profession in 2020 while employed at the Department of Youth Justice, having commenced as an accredited Restorative Justice Convenor in 2018. In 2020, she relocated to Mount Isa to work as a Case Worker, gaining significant experience supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged clients.

In 2021, Paxton commenced practice at the Aboriginal & Torres Strait islander Legal Service, where she developed extensive advocacy and court experience representing some of Queensland's most disadvantaged clients across rural and remote communities in Mount Isa and the broader Gulf region. She regularly appeared in high-volume circuit court lists, including Cloncurry, Normanton, Doomadgee and Mornington Island.

After three years in Mount Isa, Paxton returned to Brisbane, where she continues her legal practice at the Aboriginal & Torres Strait islander Legal Service, with a strong commitment to access to justice and client-focused representation.



SYMPOSIUM



Mark Fenlon

Mark is the Prosecutions Practice Manager for Queensland for the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator. He is the QLS representative to, and Co-Chair of the Law Council of Australia's Regional, Rural and Remote Lawyer's Committee. He is also a member of the Queensland Law Society's Wellbeing Working Group. In 2024, Mark was the recipient of the QLS' Regional Lawyer of the Year Award



Judy Harrison

Admitted to legal practice in 1981, decades of experience as a senior lawyer in non-profit legal assistance sectors (including ACT, NT and WA), national NGO leadership, praxis focused legal academic, law reform, legal policy and consulting - especially justice and access to justice. Cross-cutting themes include women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, regional, rural, remote and very remote areas. Currently co-convenor of the National Network of Regional, Rural, Remote and Very Remote Community Legal Services ('4Rs Network') - about 85 organisations and 200 individuals. Celebrating the United Commission on the Status of Women 70th session (9-19 March 2026) priority theme on access to justice for women and girls and the 2026 International Women's Day theme 'Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls (especially the word 'ALL!'). PhD research is exploring whether human rights are optimised for rights and inclusion of peoples, people and groups in 4Rs areas.



Mathai Joshi

Mathai Joshi is a Senior Associate at Connolly Suthers Lawyers based in Townsville, North Queensland, where he practices in criminal defence, domestic and family violence law, and regulatory law.

Mathai is actively involved within the legal profession and is the current President of the QLS Future Leaders Committee and a member of the Access to Justice and Pro-Bono Committee.

Mathai was raised in regional Queensland, and is passionate about regional practice and strengthening legal services in rural and regional communities



SYMPOSIUM



Marian Morgan-Bindon

With a background in the library, information and in the cultural sector here and overseas, Marian brings a strategic and entrepreneurial management style to the role of Supreme Court Librarian and CEO. She has experience working at multiple levels of governments and in the private sector and has held several complementary positions in national and international library committees and associations.



Andrew O'Brien KC

Andrew advises and appears in cases across the full spectrum of commercial issues with the core of his practice relating to commercial disputes affecting reputation, either between parties or involving regulators. His broad and versatile practice is reflected by his work across all areas of law, except for cases about assessment of Federal taxes and custody of children.

Drawing on a formative background in criminal law, Andrew is frequently briefed in regulatory and disciplinary proceedings, civil penalty cases, inquiries, AML/CTF and to defend the civil confiscation of criminal profits. Andrew is a leading barrister in cases involving corruption and foreign bribery. He has acted in sensitive and high stakes matters for judicial officers, public figures, senior executives, board members and fellow practitioners. He is experienced in working collaboratively with international teams to manage multijurisdictional disputes, extradition cases and INTERPOL related issues.

Before coming to the Bar in 2011, Andrew worked as a Judge's Associate in the Queensland Court of Appeal and practised as a solicitor in criminal, administrative and defamation law. He holds a Bachelor of Laws with Honours from the University of Queensland.

Andrew is a member of the Bar Association's Business and Consumer Law and Professional Indemnity/Professional Standards Committees. He also has an extensive pro bono practice.



SYMPOSIUM



Louise Prychidczuk

Louise Prychidczuk is a practicing solicitor with extensive experience delivering legal services in regional and remote Queensland. Arguably one of the most remote practicing solicitors in Queensland Louise has resided and practiced in Weipa for the last 15 years. Over the course of her 20 plus year career, she has advised clients across a broad spectrum of practice areas, including criminal, family, commercial, and property law, often as the sole or principal solicitor within the community. Louise Prychidczuk has served on a number of boards and advisory bodies, contributing to policy development, governance, and initiatives aimed at improving access to justice in rural and remote contexts. Her practice has been defined by a commitment to culturally safe and community-centred service delivery, particularly in regions with significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. Drawing on deep firsthand experience, Louise brings a practitioner's perspective to the complexities, responsibilities, and opportunities inherent in delivering legal services beyond metropolitan centres.



Dan Rogers

Dan is an accredited specialist in criminal law and was named as a leading criminal lawyer in Queensland and Australia by Doyle's Leading Lawyers List for the past five years. Dan also represents legal and health professionals facing disciplinary allegations, as well as individuals and companies facing workplace health and safety investigations.

Dan has been published in law journals and has contributed to legal texts on criminal law. He holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Masters of Law (both with Honours). He has practised across Australia but has also worked at the International Criminal Court (The Hague, Netherlands).

Dan is the former President of Caxton Legal; Queensland's largest community legal centre. He is a member of the ethics committee and the human rights committee of the Queensland Law Society. He is a member of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, advising the Attorney-General on sentencing matters.

As a solicitor advocate, Dan regularly argues his own cases in the higher courts instead of briefing counsel.



SYMPOSIUM



Professor Tamara Walsh

Tamara Walsh is Professor of Law at the University of Queensland and Director of the UQ Pro Bono Centre. She has degrees in both Law and Social Work, and her interest is in social welfare law and human rights. Tamara established the UQ Pro Bono Centre in 2008. The Centre facilitates student and staff participation in pro bono legal activities, particularly public interest research and law reform. Tamara's research examines the impact of the law on vulnerable people including children and young people, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities and people who are criminalised.