

FAMILY AND CRIMINAL LAW CONFERENCE

Program

DOMESTIC FAMILY VIOLENCE

61 min **Criminal Law for family practitioners**

Our criminal and family law specialists consider the implications of domestic family violence proceedings in criminal, civil, and family proceedings.

Presenter: **Emily O'Hagan**, Partner, Wallace O'Hagan Lawyers; Member, Queensland Law Society Domestic and Family Violence Committee

Chair: **Allison Caputo**, Head of Dispute Resolution, Michael Lynch Family Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld



51 min **Communication with clients in domestic family violence matters**

Being fearless is often a trait prescribed with being a great lawyer. So how do we continue to be fearless when those clients are paying our fees?

Consider the role that you play in a shifting landscape in this interactive session aimed at practitioners who work with perpetrators and victims of domestic family violence.

Presenters:

Rachel Tierney, Senior Associate, Gilshenan & Luton

Dr Linh Cheung, Clinical Director, Medsana Medical Clinic; Senior Lecturer, University of Queensland (Academic Title Holder)

Chair: **Zoe Adams**, Director, Zoe Adams Family Law; Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee



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59 min **FCFCOA essentials – your questions answered**

We are joined by Senior Judicial Registrar Rice from the FCFCOA, who will consider the difficult parts of the case management pathways and how to effectively navigate through all of the processes and procedures.

Presenter: **Senior Judicial Registrar Anne-Marie Rice**, Executive Director National Registrar Operations and Practice, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

Chair: **Zoe Adams**, Director, Zoe Adams Family Law; Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee



45 min **Controlling information**

Knowledge is power and in cases where power dynamics are prevalent, the flow of that information can be crucial in a survivor's safety.

We look at sensitive information in this session and how you can assist your clients in ensuring they have access to what they need for their matters.

Presenter: **Sarah-Jane MacDonald**, Legal Practitioner Director, MacDonald Law; Councillor, Queensland Law Society; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld

Chair: **Trent Waller**, Waller Family Law; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld



55 min **Magistrate matters: advocacy in domestic violence courts**

We sit down with our specialist domestic family violence magistrates to address effective advocacy in their courtrooms.

You will hear perspectives from the Court, and ways that you can ensure that you are assisting the Bench in the most efficient way possible.

Presenter: **Magistrate Cameron McKenzie**, Magistrates Court of Queensland

Chair: **Emma Kearney**, Associate, Bell Criminal Lawyers; Member, Queensland Law Society Future Leaders Committee



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Presenters



Zoe Adams

**Director, Zoe Adams Family Law
Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee**

Zoe Adams completed a Bachelor of Laws with Honours from Bond University and was admitted in 2006. Since admission, Zoe has practiced exclusively in family law working across Brisbane, the Gold Coast, Toowoomba and regionally in Queensland.

Zoe has been recognised in the Doyle's List as a Rising Star and subsequently as a Recommended Lawyer in Parenting Law.

As well as being a member of the QLS Family Law Committee, Zoe has volunteered at Women's Legal Services for over ten years.



Allison Caputo

**Head of Dispute Resolution, Michael Lynch Family Lawyers
Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld**

Allison is an Accredited Specialist in family law and Head of Mediation at Michael Lynch Family Lawyers. She has practised exclusively in family law for 19 years, including in private practice on the Gold Coast and Brisbane and was appointed a Judicial Registrar of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia in 2023.

Allison has returned to private practice to focus on building a mediation practice and assisting private clients. She is a registered mediator with AIFLAM and served as a councillor with the Queensland Law Society from 2020 to 2023.



Dr Linh Cheung

**Clinical Director, Medsana Medical Clinic
Senior Lecturer, University of Queensland (Academic Title Holder)**

Dr Linh trained as a GP with Special Interest in Diabetes at UQ Health/Griffith University Logan Campus. She also became Scope Certified with the World Obesity program to help her patients effectively lose weight.

Dr Linh can deliver focussed psychological strategies for weight management; repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation as a technician; and facilitate the international Circle of Security Parenting Program.

Volunteering in overseas medical missions has motivated her to seek opportunities to serve similar communities in the Pacific. The backdrop to this has been her Vietnamese refugee background and wishing to give back to her community and surrounds.

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Emma Kearney

Associate, Bell Criminal Lawyers
Member, Queensland Law Society Future Leaders Committee

Emma was admitted as a solicitor in February 2019 and has been an associate at Bell Criminal Lawyers since the firm opened in July 2022. She predominantly practises in criminal and domestic violence matters across various courts in southeast Queensland. Before her move to Brisbane, Emma spent about four years working in Beenleigh at a small firm called Ide Lawyers. There, she often assisted the court as duty lawyer and acted in a number of serious matters, as is common in that jurisdiction. Emma mostly enjoys the advocacy component of being a solicitor, in particular, making legal arguments and cross-examining witnesses, as well as crafting submissions to be sent to the prosecution.



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.

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Magistrate Cameron McKenzie

Magistrates Court of Queensland

Magistrate McKenzie was appointed a magistrate of the Magistrates Court of Queensland in 2019 and presided until June 2023 in the Specialist Domestic & Family Courts in Southport for one year and Beenleigh for two years. He is a current member of the Supreme Court of Queensland Rules Committee, and the Magistrates Court Domestic and Family Violence, Civil Law, Judicial Wellness and Conference Planning committees.

Prior to his appointment, Magistrate McKenzie practised in the areas of commercial litigation and insolvency and was a partner at DibbsBarker, Gadens and DWF. Before gaining partnership, he spent a decade at NortonRoseFulbright where he progressed from Articled Clerk to Senior Associate. Whilst a solicitor he held positions on the Queensland Law Society's Insolvency & Restructuring, Domestic & Family Violence, and Dispute Resolution policy committees, as well as the Law Council of Australia Business Law Section Insolvency & Restructuring Committee, the Appeal Costs Fund Board, and the Insolvency Practitioner Registration and Disciplinary Committee.

Magistrate McKenzie was also a Nationally Accredited Mediator, Registered Farm Debt Mediator and Franchise Code Mediator.



Emily O'Hagan

Partner, Wallace O'Hagan Lawyers

Member, Queensland Law Society Domestic and Family Violence Committee

Emily graduated with a Bachelor of Laws with honours and a Bachelor of Psychology from Griffith University, completing elective study in Criminal Law and forensic mental health at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. She later undertook a clerkship with HopgoodGanim Lawyers in Litigation and Family Law. Emily was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia in 2010.

Following her admission, Emily commenced work at Russo Lawyers and practised in criminal defence. She was appointed to Senior Associate at Russo Lawyers in 2014 and then became a founding partner of Wallace O'Hagan Lawyers in 2015.

Emily appears in all criminal law jurisdictions. She has represented clients at every level of the criminal justice system, from pleas of guilty before the Magistrates Court to Supreme Court Appeals.

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Senior Judicial Registrar Anne-Marie Rice

**Executive Director National Registrar Operations and Practice,
Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia**

Senior Judicial Registrar Anne-Marie Rice is a multi-award-winning family lawyer and mediator.

She began her career as a Legal Associate in the (then) Family Court in 1998 and has been a past FLPA (Qld) vice-president, an executive member of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia and a former member of various Queensland Law Society Committees.

She joined the Courts in July 2020 and, as a senior member of the Courts' leadership team, is responsible for the expansion of the Court's dispute resolution programs and Registrar work practices nationally.

Senior Judicial Registrar Rice has been delivering local, national and international keynote addresses, conference papers and workshops for lawyers and non-lawyers for over 20 years.

Anne-Marie taught the undergraduate Family Law subject at the University of Queensland for many years prior to joining the Court and she continues to teach both undergraduate and post graduate Dispute Resolution courses at that university.



Rachel Tierney

**Senior Associate, Gilshenan & Luton
Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld
Member, Queensland Law Society Domestic and Family Violence
Committee**

Rachel has considerable experience in domestic violence matters, where she assists clients in both bringing domestic violence applications for their protection and defending against them, as well as assisting with criminal charges arising from domestic violence-related matters.

In addition to domestic violence law, Rachel has complex trial experience and represents clients in all aspects of criminal law with particular expertise in sexual offences and misconduct related charges brought against members of the public service.



Trent Waller

**Director, Waller Family Lawyers
Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld**

Trent is an accredited Family Law specialist. He is Director of Waller Family Lawyers, Brisbane. Trent is past president of the Family Law Practitioners Association of Queensland and a member of the Family Law Section, Law Council of Australia.