



SYMPOSIUM

Program – Family Law

60 mins **Navigating therapeutic and assessment options in family law**

This session provides a structured overview of key interventions in family law contexts. It begins with outlining what each intervention entails, when it is appropriate, expected outcomes, and limitations. A comparative matrix will visually highlight differences in purpose, timing, professional scope, and outcomes.

The interactive Q&A will allow participants to explore case-based scenarios, such as managing resistance to child contact or determining developmental appropriateness for child-inclusive models. The session aims to deepen understanding of clinical rationale, implications for court-involved matters, and best-practice psychoeducation, equipping professionals with practical insights for informed decision-making.

Presenter: **Hollie Thompson**, Psychologist and Family Report Writer, Family Psych Matters

Chair: **Judicial Registrar Natalie De Campo**, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia





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59 mins **Migration and Family Law: Complexities of visas, family violence and parenting**

Migration and Family Law: Complexities of visas, family violence and parenting

This presentation explores the intersections of family law and migration law, drawing on insights from the Women's Legal Service Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Program (TPV). It examines the challenges faced by women on temporary visas who experience family violence or require parenting assistance, including differing definitions of family violence under Queensland law and federal Migration Regulations, evidentiary hurdles in accessing visa provisions, and the serious issue of misidentification in protection orders.

The session also addresses complexities around parenting and immigration, such as the status of children born in Australia to visa holders and visa pathways for parents of Australian citizen children following relationship breakdowns, where no automatic right to remain exists.

Presenters:

Kathryn Smith, Senior Supervising Solicitor (Migration), Women's Legal Service Queensland, Accredited Specialist (Immigration Law) - Qld

Tamara Anand, Lawyer, Women's Legal Service Queensland, Accredited specialist (Family law) - Qld

Chair: **Adele Bentham**, Special Counsel, Best Wilson Buckley Family Law



31 mins **Family law case update**

A Symposium staple returns for practitioners that may need a refresher on the latest authorities from the Federal Circuit and Family Court. Our presenter will take you through a lightning round session providing the highlights of cases that you need to be aware of 2026.

Presenters:

The Honourable Justice Paul Howard, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)

Blake Hatchman, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Jennifer Veitch**, Partner - Forensic Accounting, Pilot Partners





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Presenters



Tamara Anand

Tamara was admitted as a solicitor in 2007 and has dedicated her career exclusively to family law. As a QLS Accredited Specialist in Family Law, she combines high-level technical expertise with professional recognition. With over 10 years of experience in private practice, Tamara later joined a specialised family violence litigation team at the Women's Legal Service including working within their Temporary Visa Program which provides migration, family law and domestic violence assistance to women on temporary visas who are experiencing family violence.



Adele Bentham

Adele brings more than 15 years of dedicated experience in family law, underpinned by a genuine passion for guiding people through some of life's most challenging moments with clarity and compassion.

Her career spans over nine years in private practice, where she advised across family law, property law, wills and estates, and elder law which assisted in developing a well-rounded, strategic approach to complex and emotionally sensitive matters. She then transitioned into the community legal sector, providing critical advice and advocacy in domestic and family violence matters, family law proceedings, and the protection of counselling records of victims of sexual assault.

In this role, Adele worked closely with women on temporary visas experiencing domestic and family violence, helping them navigate both family law and domestic violence systems with confidence and dignity during incredibly vulnerable times.

Today, as Special Counsel at Best Wilson Buckley Family Law, Adele combines technical excellence with deep empathy. She is known for empowering her clients with clear, practical advice and the knowledge they need to make confident, informed decisions about their future and their families.



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Judicial Registrar Natalie De Campo

National Judicial Registrar De Campo leads the operation of the National Strategic Framework for Information Sharing within the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, as part of the National Operations team. Natalie works directly with state and territory child protection agencies, police and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department on information sharing, co-location and other legal issues which arise in the context of the intersection between family law and state and territory police and child protection agencies. Natalie provides expertise in a range of legal policy matters related to children, family violence and risk within the Courts.

Prior to appointment as National Judicial Registrar, Natalie worked as part of the Queensland Law Society Legal Policy team. Natalie has experience in both Commonwealth and state government roles in law reform, legislative reviews and policy and has practiced as a solicitor in family law and child protection, including at the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT). Before commencing legal practice, Natalie was a Legal Associate to Justices Loughnan and Johnston of the Family Court.



Blake Hatchman

Blake has practiced in Family Law since his admission as a solicitor in boutique firms on the Gold Coast and Brisbane before moving to a national firm in Brisbane. Blake has continued his practice solely in Family Law and Domestic Violence since his call to the Bar in 2023.



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The Honourable Justice Paul Howard

The Honourable Justice Paul Howard was appointed as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia in April 2021. That Court is now known as the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia – Division 1.

Justice Howard practiced as a Barrister from his Chambers at the Inns of Court in Brisbane from October 1990. Between 2007 and 2021 His Honour served as a Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

Justice Howard was educated in Brisbane at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace. He studied law at QIT and completed his Bachelor of Laws in 1985. Prior to being called to the Bar, His Honour worked as a solicitor in Brisbane.

Justice Howard is currently a member of LAWASIA and has served in many different roles in that organisation over the past 20 years.

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



Kathryn Smith

Kathryn is the Senior Supervising Solicitor for Migration at Women's Legal Service Queensland. An accredited specialist in immigration law, she has practised as an immigration solicitor in Queensland for nearly thirteen years.

She currently works within the Women's Legal Service Queensland's Temporary Visa Program, which provides migration, family law, and domestic violence legal assistance to women on temporary visas who are experiencing family violence.



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Hollie Thompson

Hollie is a registered psychologist with over ten years of professional experience working with children, young people, and families. She holds postgraduate qualifications in psychology and education and adopts a family systems approach to promote outcomes that align with the best interests of children. Hollie practices primarily within the family law jurisdiction and is regularly engaged to prepare Single Expert Witness Court Reports, including Family Reports and Child Impact Reports. She also provides specialist support in child-inclusive mediation, family therapy, and reunification therapy.

Drawing on her combined expertise as a psychologist and former teacher, Hollie is highly skilled in assessing and resolving complex family dynamics, particularly in matters involving children with complex or additional needs. Her work is informed by a strong understanding of child development, family systems, and evidence-based practice.

Hollie is a member of the Australian Psychological Society and is a registered teacher with the Queensland College of Teachers.



Jennifer Veitch

Jennifer is a Forensic Accountant and Partner at Pilot Partners, working closely with lawyers and their clients to solve complex financial issues in legal proceedings. With a background in commercial services and over a decade of experience, she specialises in business valuations, tracing exercises, personal injury quantification, and commercial litigation support.

Her clear, practical communication style helps legal practitioners navigate complex accounting evidence and uncover value leakage or mismanagement in high-stakes disputes.