



SYMPOSIUM

Program – Succession Law

60 mins **Succession Keynote**

Her Honour's address will consider the evolution of succession practice. You will be invited to reflect on the interconnected natures of areas of practice, and how we evolve with our clients.

Presenter: **The Honourable Justice Rebecca Treston**, Supreme Court of Queensland

Chair: **Bryan Mitchell**, Principal, Mitchells Solicitors; Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) – Qld



59 mins **Broken promises, shattered dreams & estate estoppel claims**

This session will examine the recent and rapid development of equitable estoppel claims in the context of deceased estates to enforce promises. The leading High Court decision of *Kramer v Stone* clarifies the doctrine of equitable estoppel by encouragement and its far-reaching application. Estate planners will gain insight into additional questions that must be asked during the interview process. Estate litigators will find another angle to assist a disappointed beneficiary.

Presenter: **Bryan Mitchell**, Principal, Mitchells Solicitors; Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) - Qld

Chair: **Jon Wiedman**, Director, Hede Byrne & Hall Lawyers; Councillor, Queensland Law Society





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61 mins **Happy Birthday District Court Practice Direction No. 8 of 2001**

Litigation of small estates is generally discouraged, but, nevertheless, practitioners encounter these matters regularly. Family Provision Applications involving small estates can present significant challenges as legal costs can be disproportionate to the value of the estate.

This topic, inspired by the 25th Anniversary of PD 8/2001, speaks to the substantially changed and improved conduct of FPAs. It is considered that the PD continues to achieve its heroic objectives, but we are left to wonder about small estates. Is there more we can do?

This session will explore innovative strategies and technology that may now be implemented to achieve the objectives of the Practice Direction.

Presenters:

Jeneve Frizzo, Director, The Will & All, Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) - Qld

Arabella Kullack, Special Counsel, The Will & All, Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) - Qld

Chair: **Karen Gaston**, Barrister, Queensland Bar; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee



59 mins **Roundtable discussion: Unpacking Queensland's Trust reforms**

An expert overview of Queensland's landmark reforms: the Trusts Act 2025 (Qld) and Property Law Act 2023(Qld). This session explores key changes impacting trustees, beneficiaries, property transactions, and legal practice.

Presenters:

Karen Gaston, Barrister, Queensland Bar; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee

Chelsea Baker, Legal Practitioner Director, Baker Hastings Lawyers, Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) - Qld; Member, Succession Law Committee

Chair: **Jesse Hill**, Education Solicitor, Queensland Law Society





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Presenters



Chelsea Baker

Chelsea Baker is a Queensland based succession law solicitor practising in complex estate planning, contested administration and estate litigation. She is also appointed as an Independent Administrator by the Supreme Court of Queensland where disputes have arisen between parties during the administration of estates. Her experience extends to complex grants of representation, trusts, superannuation, guardianship matters (including investigations into breaches of duties by attorneys) and statutory trustee matters. Chelsea is also trained in Collaborative Practice for Wills and Estates, a form of dispute resolution focused on interest based negotiations. In the last three years, Chelsea has been recognised as a Rising Star in the Doyle's Guide category of Wills, Estates & Succession Planning. In 2024 and again in 2025, Chelsea was also a Finalist for Senior Associate of the Year (SME) in the Lawyers Weekly national Women in Law Awards. Most recently, Chelsea was also a Finalist for Queensland Solicitor of the Year in the Queensland Law Society Excellence Awards for 2025.



Jeneve Frizzo

Jeneve Frizzo is a QLS Accredited Specialist in Succession Law. She established her own boutique succession law practice The Will & All in Cairns in 2016, and practices solely in inheritance matters. Jeneve is a champion of regional practice, mentor to many, and an enthusiastic presenter of succession law related topics community groups and professional associations.



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Karen Gaston

Karen is a barrister in private practice specialising in litigation involving equity, trusts, wills and estates. Prior to her call to the Bar, she was a Queensland Law Society Accredited Specialist in succession law, attaining accreditation in 2013.

Karen is particularly interested in estate litigation with a broader commercial focus, such as those concerning rural partnerships, trusts, and equitable remedies, such as undue influence and unconscionable conduct.

In the conduct of litigation which often involves complex law and which is factually dense, Karen is known both for her strategic approach and her attention to detail.

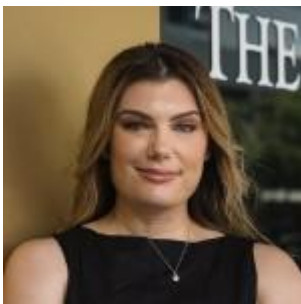


Jesse Hill

Jesse joined the QLS in 2022, prior to this he worked in commercial litigation. Jesse enjoyed his time in litigation and prior to legal practice, he worked in the Queensland Public Service in highly pressurised roles.

Jesse facilitates workshops, seminars and conferences across the Sunshine State. He thoroughly enjoys program design and building education experiences that are relevant and enjoyable to his diverse audiences.

Jesse's focus centres around the practical realities of working within the law, both within the public and private sphere. He uses his industry knowledge to equip practitioners with the tools that they require to maintain the high standard of professionalism expected of them.



Arabella Kullack

Arabella is Special Counsel at The Will & All, a boutique inheritance law practice, and previously led a State wide estate litigation practice at a national law firm. Arabella completed her Bachelor of Laws at James Cook University and she is a QLS Accredited Specialist in Succession Law. Arabella holds a Masters of Applied Law majoring in Wills and Estates and is a full member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, a global community of lawyers specialising in the area of Succession Law. Arabella lectures for Central Queensland University and sits on the Cairns Community Legal Centre board.



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Bryan Mitchell

Bryan Mitchell TEP FTI (BCom LLB LLM LLM (Wills & Estates)) is the managing director of Mitchells Solicitors. He is an Accredited Specialist in Succession Law. Bryan & his firm are recognised leaders in Estate Planning and Estate Litigation in Australia. His practice works exclusively in the areas of Wills, Estates, Trusts & Elder Law. Bryan is a regular presenter throughout Australia and internationally. He is Australasian representative on the worldwide council for STEP; past Chair of STEP Australia; former Chair of STEP Queensland; Deputy Chair for the Queensland Law Society (“QLS”) Succession Law Policy Committee; Chair of the QLS Succession Law Specialist Accreditation Advisory Committee and member of the University of Queensland Law School Advisory Board.



The Honourable Justice Rebecca Treston

Justice Treston was admitted as a solicitor in 1991 and was called to the Queensland Bar in 1996. She was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 2013, and as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2024.

Her Honour had a diverse commercial practice at the Bar, predominantly in estate and trust litigation, but also in general commercial litigation, statutory scheme litigation, public liability and medical negligence litigation.

Her Honour was the first female President of the Bar Association of Qld between 2018 and 2020.



Jon Wiedman

Jon is a director at Hede Byrne and Hall in Toowoomba on the Darling Downs. Jon joined the firm as an article clerk in 1992, becoming a director in 2000. Jon now practices almost exclusively in succession law and related areas including drafting wills and powers of attorney, estate administration, trusts and related litigation. Jon is currently the Secretary of the Downs and South West Queensland Law Association and sits on the QLS Succession Law Committee. Outside of law, Jon has qualifications in sports medicine and sports massage and is active as a trainer with the Coolaroo Australian Football Club in Toowoomba.