

SUCCESSION AND ELDER LAW CONFERENCE

Program

59 min **Keynote: Last-minute moves – risks and rewards of death bed superannuation withdrawals**

Taxation of death benefits can be a significant driver for estate planning, particularly when clients are on their death bed. Lawyers are being asked more and more to assist with death bed withdrawals of superannuation, and we are starting to see cases where a death bed superannuation withdrawal has gone wrong. What are the benefits of a death bed superannuation withdrawal, can they be effective and what are the risks?

Presenter: **Scott Hay-Bartlem**, Partner and SMSF Specialist Advisor, Cooper Grace Ward

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



47 min **Family provision applications streamlined**

This session provides a brief overview of the purpose of the Practice Direction, concerns and implications of its application, followed by an open discussion where audience members can raise areas of concern that they have identified.

Presenter: **The Honourable Justice David Boddice**, Supreme Court of Queensland (Court of Appeal)

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



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56 min **Case law update**

Dissect recent crucial decisions and legislative updates for both succession and elder law, ensuring you stay well informed about the most current developments.

Presenters:

Nicky Mitchell, Managing Senior Lawyer, Caxton Community Legal Centre Inc.; Member, Queensland Law Society Elder Law Committee

Madeline Walsh, Partner, Thomson Geer; Deputy Chair, Queensland Law Society Elder Law Committee

Jon Wiedman, Director, Hede Byrne & Hall; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee

Chair: **Maree Racki**, Senior Associate, Paxton-Hall Lawyers; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee



61 min **From conflict to consensus: Inclusive practice for succession planning and dispute resolution**

This panel session explores the application of the collaborative practice model for wills and estates, focusing on estate planning and elder law issues before death; and early intervention, out of court dispute resolution after death.

A collaboratively-trained interdisciplinary panel will explain how the model offers a bespoke alternative to traditional approaches by taking a team-based, family-inclusive approach to succession planning and dispute resolution.

Panellists:

Jenna Hutchinson, Partner, Turner Freeman Lawyers

Bobbi Reilly, Director, Gold Coast Mediation and Counselling; Nationally Accredited Mediator and Collaborative Law Practitioner (Family and Wills and Estates)

John Thynne, Director – Forensic & Litigation, Vincents

Facilitator: **Stephanie Duggan**, Senior Associate, Resolve Estate Law

Chair: **Alexandra Kelly**, Vice President of Strategic Projects, LEAP

Chaired by Major Partner, LEAP



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60 min **QCAT practice in cases involving impaired capacity**

This session will provide an overview of QCAT's role in decision-making for adults with impaired capacity, highlighting key developments such as digitisation and its impact on processes.

It will also cover the 2024/25 budget's implications, offer practical tips for navigating QCAT's processes, and discuss the types of applications heard, including guardianship, administration, enduring powers of attorney, and more.

Presenters:

Tracey De Simone, Assistant Director General and Principal Registrar, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT); Chair, Queensland Law Society Domestic and Family Violence Committee

Mathew James, Deputy Principal Registrar, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT)

Paul Kanowski, Senior Member, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT)

Chair: **Chelsea Baker**, Senior Associate, Cornford-Scott Lawyers



59 min **Statutory wills in Queensland – testamentary freedom for those without capacity**

There is a gradual increase in the application for statutory wills. This may be due to Australia's ageing population as well as the statistical rise of people who suffer from dementia and similar conditions. This session provides a guide to statutory wills, from eligibility and application to understanding how the court assesses and approves the documents.

Explore the provisions of the *Succession Act 1981 (Qld)*, focusing on sections 21 and beyond, and hear advice on ensuring your practice aligns with statutory requirements while serving the best interests of those lacking testamentary capacity.

Presenters:

Darlene Skennar KC, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Concettina Verma, Senior Associate, Resolve Estate Law

Chair: **Patrick Ellwood**, Director, Clover Law; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee



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55 min **Best-practice principles when working with older people**

In this interactive session, learn how to apply best-practice principles when working with older people. Pick up tips to translate your knowledge into practice, and gain confidence in navigating the complexities of elder law.

Explore topics including:

- Elder abuse identification
- Assessment and referral pathways
- Risk enablement, ageism, intersectionality
- Supported decision-making

Join the conversation on harmonisation efforts and come out better equipped to provide contemporary expert advice and advocacy for your clients.

Presenters:

Rebecca Anderson, Solicitor, Aged and Disability Advocacy Law; Chair, Queensland Law Society Elder Law Committee

Dr Anne Louise McCawley, Community Engagement and Education Leader – Seniors Legal and Support Service (SLASS) Family, Domestic Violence and Elder Law Practice, Caxton Community Legal Centre Inc

Chair: **Karen Williams**, Principal Solicitor, ADA Law – Community Legal Service



60 min **Succession litigation – Key cases, insights, and risk reduction strategies**

Litigation involving estate planning and superannuation is continuing to expand. Whether you are advising on estate planning and SMSFs, trustee obligations in paying a death benefit or beneficiaries that may have missed out, the litigation and case law serves to focus us as advisors on the issues we need to be covering with our clients.

This session will examine the recent case law, explore the practical implications for practitioners, discuss mechanisms to reduce the risk of becoming the next case, and highlight liability issues trustees should be aware of.

Presenter: **Hayley Mitchell**, Partner, Cooper Grace Ward Lawyer; Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) – Qld

Chair: **Patrick Ellwood**, Director, Clover Law; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee



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56 min **In focus: Office of the Public Guardian and the Public Trustee**

Get the latest updates from each agency, including case studies, and learn how use their services to support your clients in need.

Presenters:

Shayna Smith, Public Guardian and Chief Executive, Office of the Public Guardian

Jordan Welke, Executive Director, Professional Services and Projects, Queensland Public Trustee

Samay Zhouand, Public Trustee, Queensland Public Trustee

Chair: **Rebecca Anderson**, Solicitor, Aged and Disability Advocacy Law; Chair, Queensland Law Society Elder Law Committee



61 min **Succession of your succession practice**

Discover effective strategies for planning the succession of your legal practice through the lens of an estate planning and estate administration lawyer who has piloted this process firsthand.

Drawing from her experience of successfully transitioning her practice 15 years ago, hear our expert's take on practical, actionable methods that led to continued success both for her and her former firm.

Take away tips and how to's on starting earlier, ways to engage your staff, articulating clear outcomes, and communicating succession plans effectively to clients for future retention.

Presenter: **Emily Morrow**, Executive Consultant, Emily Morrow Services

Chair: **Patrick Ellwood**, Director, Clover Law; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee



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52 min **Health Justice Partnerships: At the intersection of ethics and human rights in succession and elder law**

Health justice partnerships (HJPs) bring together health, legal and other services to address complex problems. Human rights, particularly cultural rights, are at the forefront of these HJPs and intersect with day-to-day practice issues and ethical considerations.

In this session, presenters from Caxton Community Legal Centre and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health will describe and explore how their respective health justice partnership models operate within the succession and elder law space.

Presenters:

Tilé Imo, Associate Director – Health Justice Partnerships, Caxton Legal Centre

Keryn Ruska, Legal Services Manager, Institute for Urban Indigenous Health

Chair: **Bill Mitchell OAM**, Principal Solicitor, Townsville Community Law Inc; Member, Queensland Law Society Elder Law Committee



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Presenters



Rebecca Anderson

**Solicitor, Aged and Disability Advocacy Law
Chair, Queensland Law Society Elder Law Committee**

Rebecca is Chair of QLS' Elder Law Committee, and practises law at ADA Law, a CLC specialising in assisting adults with questioned capacity, at QCAT and MHRT and in relation to EPOAs.



Chelsea Baker

Senior Associate, Cornford-Scott Lawyers

Chelsea specialises in complex estate administration and litigation matters. Her expertise extends to statutory will applications, complex grants of representation, corporate structures, superannuation, and trusts. Chelsea also acts in guardianship and administration matters before QCAT and has been successful in investigating breaches of duties by attorneys, declarations for capacity in circumstances where capacity is challenged, and the removal and appointment of administrators and guardians. In 2023 and again this year, Chelsea was recognised as a Rising Star in the Doyle's Guide category of Wills, Estates & Succession Planning – Queensland. Chelsea was also listed as a Finalist this year in the Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Awards 2024 in the category of 'Senior Associate of the Year – SME'.

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The Honourable Justice David Boddice

Supreme Court of Queensland (Court of Appeal)

Justice Boddice is a graduate of The University of Queensland—Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (1983). In 1984, Justice Boddice was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland and appointed Senior Counsel in 2001.

His Honour previously served as a member of the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Tribunal (2006–2009), chair of the Queensland Nursing Tribunal (2007–2009), director (1993–2010) and chairperson (2006–2010) of Barristers' Chambers Limited, junior vice president (2006–2008) and senior vice president (2008–2010) of the Medico-Legal Society of Queensland and member of the Continuing Professional Development Committee of the Bar Association of Queensland (2007–2009). Justice Boddice has been the legal patron of the Medico-Legal Society of Queensland since 2014.

Justice Boddice was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2010. His Honour served as an additional Judge of the Mental Health Court from 2011 to 2014 and as President of the Court from 2014 to 2017. Justice Boddice was appointed the Southern Region Judge of the Land Appeal Court in 2020. His Honour was appointed a judge of the Queensland Court of Appeal in 2023.



Angela Cornford-Scott TEP

Director, Cornford-Scott Lawyers Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) – Qld Chair, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee

Angela has practised in Succession Law for over 20 years and has a particular interest in estate planning, trust matters and estate administration issues.

Angela is a member of STEP and a previous Chair of the Queensland Branch. She has lectured for the Queensland University of Technology, the College of Law, and is a regular presenter of seminars. She also co-authors the Lexis Nexis practical guidance publications in succession and elder law for Queensland.

Angela is regularly named in the Doyle's Guide Australia as a market-leading or pre-eminent lawyer in the areas of both Wills, Estates & Succession Planning, and Wills & Estates Litigation in Queensland.

Angela was also named the Lawyer of the Year for 2020 and 2022 in Succession Planning by Best Lawyers.

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Tracey De Simone

**Assistant Director General and Principal Registrar, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT)
Chair, Queensland Law Society Domestic and Family Violence Committee**

Tracey has been admitted since 1997. She leads a team of registry staff supporting the Tribunal members to deal with matters in a way that is accessible, fair, just economical, informal and quick. Tracey was formerly the Official Solicitor at Child Safety leading two teams providing legal and non-legal services to child safety frontline staff.

Tracey worked at Legal Aid Queensland for 14 years in a variety of roles and started life in private practice. She specialises in family law, domestic violence cases and now child protection. She has also practised in criminal law and anti-discrimination law.

Tracey has volunteered on the committees of several non-government organisations including the Immigrant Women's Support Service, Women's Legal Service, Caxton and the Nundah community legal service.

She has completed a Master of Laws degree and has published several articles and publications on domestic violence, family law and the access of vulnerable people to legal aid services.



Stephanie Duggan

Senior Associate, Resolve Estate Law

Stephanie is a Senior Associate at Resolve Estate Law, and has practised as a solicitor in succession, guardianship and administration, trusts and elder law for over 25 years. Collaborative practice in wills and estates is an area she sees as beneficial for clients, practitioners and the courts and is keen to see it grow in the profession. Stephanie practises predominantly in estate litigation.



Patrick Ellwood

Director, Clover Law; Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee

Patrick is a lawyer with over a decade of experience assisting high-net-worth individuals and family business owners. He is the founder of Clover Law, an Australian law firm specialising in tax structuring, estate planning, superannuation and asset protection.

Patrick is a regular speaker for a range of private and professional bodies and is a published author of a number of legal textbooks.

Patrick is passionate about helping individuals and business owners grow their wealth and achieve a successful transition of their legacy to the next generation.

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Karen Gaston

**Barrister, Queensland Bar
Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee**

Karen is a barrister in private practice and brings nearly 18 years of litigation experience as a solicitor to her practice at the bar.

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. She has conducted many family provision applications (FPAs), solemn form probate applications, will construction and interpretation applications, cy pres, and statutory will applications and other “classical” Succession Law actions.

Karen recognises the value of alternative dispute resolution, especially in family-based disputes. She has undertaken the Bond University mediation course and was one of the first succession lawyers to undertake training in collaborative law at UTS in Sydney in 2008. The ‘2023 Doyle’s Guide’ ranked Karen as “Leading” in the category of Wills and Estates Litigation Junior Counsel.



Scott Hay-Bartlem

Partner and SMSF Specialist Advisor, Cooper Grace Ward

Scott and his team specialise in assisting clients and their other advisers including accountants and financial planners with tax and superannuation (particularly SMSFs) advice; estate planning, administration and disputes; family businesses, business structuring; business succession arrangements; asset protection and restructuring. Scott has a particular interest in how these areas intersect with self-managed superannuation funds and the impact of and on these structures.

Scott is the Chair of the SMSF Association, having joined its board in July 2019. Scott is a SMSF Specialist Advisor™ with the SMSF Association, a Chartered Tax Adviser, a member of the Society of Trust and Estate practitioners. Scott chairs the Cooper Grace Ward Diversity and Inclusion Group and its ARCUS sub-group, and is the leader of the firm’s Private Client Commercial group.

Scott been selected by his peers for inclusion in the 16th Edition of Best Lawyers in Australia in the practice areas of: Superannuation Law, Trusts and Estates, Wealth Management / Succession Planning Practice and Commercial Law. He was named the 2016 Brisbane Wealth Management/Succession Planning practice ‘Lawyer of the Year’ and the Superannuation ‘Lawyer of the Year’ for 2019, 2022 and 2024.

Scott has been listed in Doyle’s Guide for Queensland Estate Planning lawyers as a pre-eminent practitioner.

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Jenna Hutchinson

Partner, Turner Freeman Lawyers

Jenna is a Partner at Turner Freeman Lawyers where she heads the Queensland Wills and Estates team. She works exclusively in the areas of Succession Law, practising predominantly in estate litigation.

Jenna has a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Southern Queensland and a Master of Laws (Applied Law) majoring in Wills and Estates from the College of Law. She has lectured at the Australian National University as a seasonal academic in Succession Law and is the secretary of STEP Queensland.

Jenna was named as 'Wills and Estates Partner of the Year' in the Lawyers Weekly Partner of the Year 2024 Awards and has also recently been named as a Finalist in the category of Partner of the Year – Big Law, in the Lawyers Weekly Women in Law 2024 Awards.

Jenna has been listed in Doyle's Guide as one of the recommended Wills & Estates Litigation Lawyers in Queensland for last five years.



Tilé Imo

Associate Director – Health Justice Partnerships, Caxton Community Legal Centre

Member, Queensland Law Society Health and Disability Law Committee

Tilé is the Associate Director – Health Justice Partnerships at Caxton Community Legal Centre coordinating the centre's elder law health justice partnerships with Metro South Health and Metro North Health. He is a member of the QLS Health and Disability Law Committee and was the recipient of the QLS 'Emerging Leader Excellence in Law Award' in 2022. Tilé also co-hosts a podcast called "Tilé and Olly Meets" which explores the lived and professional experiences of diverse lawyers.

Mathew James

Deputy Principal Registrar, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT)

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Paul Kanowski

Senior Member, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal

Paul has been a full-time member of QCAT since 2018. He is currently Acting Senior Member managing the guardianship list. Paul previously served on other tribunals including the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Mental Health Review Tribunal. His earlier career was spent mostly in the public sector, including as a lawyer with Legal Aid Queensland focussing on criminal law and mental health law. Paul completed his undergraduate legal studies at UQ, and later completed a Master of Laws at QUT.

Alexandra Kelly

Vice President of Strategic Projects, LEAP

Alexandra is a member of the Global team at LEAP, with over 25 years of experience assisting law firms worldwide in implementing effective systems and processes through technology. Recently, she has focused on mentoring LEAP teams in delivering solutions for estate planning and elder law lawyers in both Australia and the United States, including innovative AI solutions.



Dr Anne-Louise McCawley

Community Engagement and Education Leader – Seniors Legal and Support Service (SLASS) Family, Domestic Violence and Elder Law Practice, Caxton Community Legal Centre Inc.

Dr McCawley has worked for over 15 years in Queensland Health as a clinical social worker and then Statewide Clinical Education Program Manager for Social Work and Welfare.

For Caxton Legal Centre, she was one of the project leads on the Human Rights in Practice: Capacity, Decisions and Options Project and has degrees in government and public policy, law and social work. She completed her PhD with a focus on financial elder abuse in 2007.

Dr McCawley has worked variously as a solicitor, school-based child and family counsellor, research assistant/manager and health social worker. She was a part-time lecturer at The University of Queensland and continues the association with the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work in an Adjunct Associate Professor capacity.

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Bryan Mitchell

Principal, Mitchells Solicitors
Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) – Qld
Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee

Bryan and his firm are recognised by Doyle's Guide as leaders in Estate Planning and Estate Litigation in Australia. His practice works almost exclusively in the areas of Wills, Estates, Trusts & Elder Law. Bryan is a regular presenter. He is the recipient of the STEP Australia Masters Award 2023; former Chair of STEP Australia; former Chair of STEP Queensland; Deputy Chair for the Queensland Law Society's Succession Law Policy Committee and a member of the University of Queensland Law School Advisory Board.



Hayley Mitchell

Partner, Cooper Grace Ward
Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) – Qld

Hayley is a Succession Law Accredited Specialist (Qld) and partner in the private clients team at Cooper Grace Ward. Hayley practises in estate and trust disputes, estate planning, and estate administration.



Nicky Mitchell

Managing Senior Lawyer, Caxton Community Legal Centre Inc.
Member, Queensland Law Society Elder Law Committee

Nicky is the Managing Senior Lawyer in Caxton Legal Centre's Family, Domestic Violence and Elder Law Practice. In this role, she is responsible for the supervision of the Seniors Legal and Support Service, which assists older persons who are at risk of, or are experiencing elder abuse, within a multi-disciplinary framework. This service provides legal advice and representation, and social support across various areas of law.

Nicky regularly contributes to and assists with submissions to law reform and policies for issues concerning older people.

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Bill Mitchell OAM

**Principal Solicitor, Townsville Community Law Inc
Member, Queensland Law Society Elder Law Committee**

Bill was James Cook University's (JCU) first admitted solicitor in 1992. He was made an Outstanding Alumni of JCU in 2012 and an Honorary Doctor of Laws in 2021. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor with JCU's Law School.

Bill has been involved with community legal centres since 1991 and received the Australian Human Rights Commission Law Award in 2008. He was the Queensland Law Society Community Legal Centre Member of the Year in 2019 and recipient of the Access to Justice Award in 2022. He was awarded the Law Council of Australia's President's Medal in 2019 and a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2020.

Bill has written and presented on a wide range of access to justice and human rights topics, including extensively on the human rights of older persons. He has been involved in program service design in diverse areas, including elder abuse and disaster legal response.

Bill has represented Community Legal Centres Australia in various UN processes since 2013, including before the United Nations in New York and Geneva in debates around a new Convention on the Rights of Older



Emily Morrow

Executive Consultant, Emily Morrow Services

As a consultant to lawyers and law firms, Emily focuses on the core capabilities lawyers need to be successful; business development, strategic planning, self-presentation/communication skills, practice management and succession planning. She designs and facilitates retreats, coaches (one-on-one and teams), provides tailored training and conducts bespoke research projects. Emily has been a frequent contributor to LawTalk and LawNews and the keynote speaker at numerous professional conferences for NZLS, CLANZ, ADLS, ALPMA, AWLA, CWLA, Law Plus, Lawlink, Legalwise, AALA and others. She is a regular presenter at the NZLS Stepping Up programme on the topic of "The People Dimension".

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Maree Racki

Senior Associate, Paxton-Hall Lawyers
Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee

Maree practises exclusively in succession law and assists clients across all areas of succession law, including estate planning, trust and estate administration and litigation relating to trusts and estates. Maree has a particular interest in estate planning and estate administration issues.

Throughout her career, Maree has been recognised by her colleagues as both a 'Rising Star' in Doyle's Guide in her practice area in Queensland, as well as the 'Ones to Watch' accolade by Best Lawyers in both the 'Trusts & Estates' and 'Wealth Management/Succession Planning Practice' categories.



Bobbi Reilly

Director, Gold Coast Mediation and Counselling
Nationally Accredited Mediator and Collaborative Law Practitioner
(Family and Wills and Estates)

Bobbi is a Nationally Accredited Mediator (NMA) and an Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP) and is collaboratively trained in Family Law and Wills and Estates.

Bobbi has extensive experience as a dispute resolver supporting clients and professionals in a range of processes including collaborative practice.

Bobbi sees her strengths in the areas of working with high conflict clients and situations and managing power imbalances and dynamics.

Bobbi's key focus is on clients' needs and how they intersect with the law.

Bobbi is the director of Gold Coast Mediation and Counselling and a co-director of Global Training and Professional Development.

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Keryn Ruska

**Manager, UIH Legal Service, Institute for Urban Indigenous Health
Member, Queensland Law Society First Nations Legal Policy
Committee
Member, Human Rights and Public Law Committee**

Keryn is a proud Nunukul woman of the Quandamooka people, Minjerribah. She has always had a keen interest in social justice and legal issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and pursued a career in law to advance those rights.

Keryn graduated from Melbourne University in 1997 and was admitted in 1998. She currently works at the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (UIH) in their embedded community legal centre. Keryn has previously worked at a number of community legal centres, the Office of the Child and Family Official Solicitor, Griffith University, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal and Advocacy Service.

During her career, Keryn has served on various committees and boards to advocate for the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. She is a member of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Board, and the Law Council of Australia's Indigenous Legal Issues Committee.

Darlene Skennar KC

Barrister, Queensland Bar

Darlene took silk in 2017. She is a member of the Society of Estate and Trust Practitioners (STEP) and a current committee member of STEP Qld. She has practised in the area of succession law for many years. In 2017 she joined Chancery Barristers and Mediators, a group of barristers dedicated to succession law. She has been recognised in Doyle's Guide in the area of estate litigation for a number of years including 2019.

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Shayna Smith

Public Guardian and Chief Executive, Office of the Public Guardian

Shayna is a senior government executive and her career spans more than 25 years across the public and private sectors, both in Australia and internationally, particularly across the areas of justice, education and consumer protection. Shayna is an admitted solicitor to both the Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia. The Public Guardian is an independent statutory appointment of the Queensland Government and is vested with promoting and protecting the rights and interests of children residing at visitable locations (such as out of home care) and adults with impaired decision-making capacity, under the Public Guardian Act 2014, Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 and Powers of Attorney Act 1998. The main services provided by OPG are adult guardianship, adult and child community visiting, individual child advocacy, and investigations into allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation, or inadequate decision-making arrangements regarding adults with impaired capacity.

John Thynne

Director – Forensic Accounting, Vincents Chartered Accountants

John Thynne is a Director of Vincents specialising forensic accounting, business and entity valuations, and financial analysis for family law and estate matters. He has over 30 years of experience working in finance, commerce and private practice.

John has been working extensively as a financial neutral in the Collaborative space since 2010. John is also an Accredited Mediator providing evaluative financial mediations.



Concettina Verma

Senior Associate, Resolve Estate Law

Concettina Verma is a Senior Associate at Resolve Estate Law and has practised predominately in Succession Law for 11 years.

Concettina leads the Probate, Intestacy and Estate Administration practice at Resolve Estate Law and is also experienced in contested estate matters. Concettina's particular interests are in complex estate administration, applications to court for approval of informal wills and statutory wills.

As a collaboratively trained lawyer, Concettina is passionate about helping families navigate complex estate issues with a focus on achieving peaceful and respectful resolutions.

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Madeline Walsh

**Partner, Thomson Geer
Deputy Chair, Queensland Law Society Elder Law Committee**

Madeline is a Partner in the Health, Aged Care and Retirement Living team at Thomson Geer.

Madeline's expertise encompasses a broad spectrum of legal issues in the health, aged care, and retirement sectors, including regulatory compliance, risk management, governance, disputes and transactional matters.

Madeline provides advice to aged care providers on managing complex regulatory issues and responding to administrative decisions. She assists providers with critical incident investigations and acts for providers in coronial investigations and inquests. Madeline advises providers in relation to corporate and commercial matters including drafting and negotiating commercial agreements, advising in relation to governance arrangements and assisting providers with managing disputes including complex consumer complaints and fee recoveries.

In the retirement village context, Madeline advises on operational contracts, compliance matters, regulatory issues including closures and redevelopments and commercial and resident disputes.

Madeline is recognised in Doyle's Guide Leading Health and Aged Care Lawyers (2020 – 2024) in Queensland and The Best Lawyers in Australia 2025 for Health and Aged Care Law.



Jon Wiedman

**Director, Hede Byrne & Hall
Member, Queensland Law Society Succession Law Committee**

Jon is a Director of Hede Byrne and Hall, and practices almost exclusively in all aspects of Succession Law, including preparation of wills and powers of attorney, estate administration and litigation.

Jordan Welke

**Executive Director, Professional Services and Projects, Queensland
Public Trustee**

Jordan joined the Public Trustee in 2022 after working in various state government agencies for over a decade in regulatory and oversight roles.

Before that, Jordan worked as a solicitor with Legal Aid Queensland and for a small private firm.

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Karen Willams

Principal Solicitor, ADA Law – Community Legal Service

Karen first worked as a qualified Social Worker and Manager in NSW and Queensland in general medicine, emergency department and mental health services.

She is now a Principal Solicitor for ADA Law, a Community Legal Centre program within Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia that focuses on decision making issues that impact adults with questioned capacity and cognitive disability.



Samay Zhouand

Public Trustee, Queensland Public Trustee

Samay holds a Bachelor of Laws, a Bachelor of Arts, an MBA, and several postgraduate qualifications.

He is a Director on the Board of the Australian Guardianship and Administration Council, a Councillor of the Institute of Public Administration Australia (IPAA) Queensland and a graduate and member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

With over two decades of experience in the Queensland Government, Samay has operated as the longest-serving Chief Inspector of Corrective Services, held senior legal positions, and worked as a senior lawyer for Crown Law.

Admitted as a Barrister-at-Law in 2002, Samay was appointed Acting Public Trustee of Queensland and CEO in 2019, assuming the role in 2021.

As Public Trustee of Queensland, Samay has spearheaded sector-leading reforms, including a reduction in fees, the establishment of a Customer Advocate Office- a first for the sector, implementation of the La Trobe University supported decision-making framework - to get better outcomes for PTQ customers, and development of a Financial Independence Pathway – which aims to help customers gain greater or complete financial independence.