

Mental Health Breakfast 2025

Thursday 9 October



Program

Opening remarks

Presenter: **Genevieve Dee**, President, Queensland Law Society

80 mins

Panel discussion: Picking up the pieces: overcoming hardship and managing in the law

Listen and learn while our panellists discuss and provide advice and strategies to help overcome hardship in the law.

Panellists:

Professor David Heilpern, Dean of Law and Chair of Discipline, Faculty of Business, Law and Arts, Southern Cross University

Kylie Hillard, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Julie Johnston, Clinical Psychologist and Founder, Wellbeing Options Psychology

Chair: **Belinda Winter**, CEO and Founder, Winter Workplace Consulting; Chair, Queensland Law Society Wellbeing Working Group



Closing remarks

Presenter: **Genevieve Dee**, President, Queensland Law Society

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Presenters



Genevieve Dee

President, Queensland Law Society

Queensland Law Society President Genevieve Dee is a partner with Lander & Rogers and an Accredited Family Law Specialist who has practised exclusively in family and relationship law for 20 years. Highly sought after for her expertise in complex property matters – including those involving taxation issues, trusts, manufacturing companies, rural issues, intergenerational wealth and family businesses, and complex corporate structures – Genevieve has been recognised through various awards including WLAQ's 'Emergent Lawyer of the Year' Award and a finalist for WLAQ's 'Ford Woman Lawyer of the Year' Award. Recognised in The Best Lawyers in Australia for her expertise in family law and family mediation, she was named a Lawyer of the Year for family law mediation in the publication's 2022 edition.

Having served three terms as councillor of the Queensland Law Society her experience as a member and chair of the Committee of Management, and the Specialist Accreditation Board, including a term as Chair, highlights her engagement and commitment to the legal profession. Genevieve is also a Chair of the Board of Women's Legal Service Qld (WLAQ).

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Professor David Heilpern

Dean of Law and Chair of Discipline, Faculty of Business, Law and Arts, Southern Cross University

David Heilpern was appointed as a Magistrate in 1998, and was at the time the youngest magistrate in Australia. He 'retired' in May 2020. He sat in the criminal, mining, family, industrial, coronial and children's jurisdictions of the Local Court, and was the Senior Civil Magistrate for five years. During his time on the bench, David was the principal educator for new magistrates throughout Australia and the Pacific and made several important reported decisions on criminal, environmental and evidence law.

Prior to his appointment, David was a litigation lawyer on the North Coast where he co-founded the law school at Southern Cross University in 1992, subsequently teaching in a range of subjects including constitutional law, criminal law and procedure and contracts. At the time, it was the first non-metropolitan law school in Australia. David maintained a litigation practice throughout this time, representing a wide range of defendants including high profile clients North East Forrest Alliance and Nimbin Hemp. During this time David graduated with a Masters in Law from SCU and was pronounced the Alumni of the Decade for the University in 2005.

David has authored or co-authored four published books, refereed journal articles on a range of legal and judicial topics, and is a prize-winning short story writer and poet. He regularly speaks at practical law conferences in Australia and internationally on advocacy, criminal law and courtcraft.

In August 2022, David was appointed as Dean of Law at SCU and his writing and research is now focussed on victim's rights, drug law reform, aboriginal overrepresentation in the criminal justice system and environmental activism.



Kylie Hillard

Barrister, Queensland Bar

Kylie has been working in the legal profession since 2002 and is currently a Barrister at the private bar in Queensland having been called to the Bar in 2009. Aside from working in private practice, Kylie has worked in a variety of roles at the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian and at Legal Aid Queensland. Kylie appears regularly on complex matters and on appeals at all levels, from the District Court to the High Court in. She appeared for the family of Hannah Clarke at the inquest into her death and that of her three children and has also appeared for Women's Legal Service Queensland at the public hearings of the independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence. Kylie has held a variety of committee and company roles. She is a current member of the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Sub-Committee of the Bar Association of Queensland and is a current member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Australian Bar Association.

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Thursday 9 October



Julie Johnston

Clinical Psychologist and Founder, Wellbeing Options Psychology

Julie Johnston is a Clinical Psychologist who has over 20 years of experience working in the health and mental health care sector. Julie has enjoyed a diverse career working across clinical research, teaching and training, and direct patient care roles.

In recent years, Julie set up her own business Wellbeing Options Psychology based in New Farm where she provides Vicarious Trauma training workshops to workplaces whose staff are exposed to traumatic content or other peoples' trauma while at work. She has for many years provided these workshops to legal professionals from a range of legal firms and legal organisations. Julie also works clinically with clients in her consulting rooms.



Belinda Winter

CEO and Founder, Winter Workplace Consulting; Chair, Queensland Law Society Wellbeing Working Group

Belinda Winter is a nationally recognised workplace relations lawyer with over 20 years of experience advising employers on complex employment, industrial relations and safety matters. Belinda is also the founder and CEO of Winter Workplace Consulting, where she channels her passion for empowering leaders through education, coaching, and tailored workplace training. Her mission is to help organisations build confident, capable leaders while safeguarding their business against legal and compliance risk.