



# SYMPOSIUM

## Program – Criminal Law

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**57 mins**    **Cybercrime in 2026 and beyond: Deepfakes, AI, and the expanding digital frontier**

Cybercrime is developing faster than almost any other area of criminal law. As technology becomes more deeply embedded in daily life, the distinction between the digital and physical worlds is increasingly blurred. This session explores how that shift is reshaping the practice of criminal law and what lawyers need to be ready for as we move into 2026 and beyond.

A central focus will be the new Commonwealth offence under section 474.17A of the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth), which came into effect on 3 September 2024. This provision criminalises the transmission of sexual material without consent, including deepfakes and other digitally altered images. It marks one of the first legislative steps in Australia to directly address the criminal use of artificial intelligence.

The session will look at what this offence means in practice, the challenges it presents for investigators and defence practitioners, and how it fits within the broader spectrum of emerging technology-related crimes.

Presenters:

**Amy Soong**, Legal Practice Director & Notary Public, Ashworth Lawyers

**Michael Bonasia**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

**Professor Ryan Ko**, Director, UQ Cyber Research Centre, University of Queensland

Chair: **Lisa Fernandes**, FirstAML

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## 31 mins **Reforms to sentencing for sexual matters**

Reforms to sentencing are underway for sexual matters following the introduction of the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

This Bill makes significant changes and criminal law practitioners need to know how to respond to the new scheme including, for example, presenting references in sexual assault sentences. You will receive information on the new scheme and specifically how references are going to be seen to be relevant if they address rehabilitation and re-offending factors.

Presenter: **Dan Rogers**, Principal and Legal Director, Robertson O’Gorman Solicitors; Member, Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council

Chair: **Evan O’Hanlon-Rose**, Senior Associate, Robertson O’Gorman Solicitors



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## 62 mins **Insights from a Ballistics Expert Witness**

With 40 years of policing, forensic firearms and toolmark investigations experience, Gerard is recognised as one of Australia’s leading ballistics experts. Gerard’s work has covered crime scene reconstruction and expert testimony in courts across Australia, New Zealand and Norway and his work has contributed to hundreds of cases including the Port Arthur massacre and the Ivan Milat murders. This session will provide attendees with interesting insights, practical take aways and is a must see for all criminal law practitioners

Presenter: **Gerard Dutton**, Forensic firearms and toolmarks consultant

Chair: **Jason Murakami**, Director of Family Law/Domestic Crime and Violence Division, Behlau Murakami Grant; Adjunct Professor of Law





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## Presenters

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### **Michael Bonasia**

Michael was called to the bar in 2011 and has since developed a robust practice, advising and appearing in matters across Queensland, interstate, and Commonwealth Courts. He specialises in all aspects of criminal law, with a particular focus on offences involving computers and information technology.

Prior to a life in the law, Michael undertook studies in computer technology and software engineering. With that experience and knowledge, he possesses a unique perspective on the legal landscape, particularly in dealing with technology-based crime.

While his practice is predominantly in criminal defence, Michael is regularly briefed by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, particularly in cases involving human exploitation.

His expertise in criminal law, especially in the rapidly evolving fields of cybercrime and human exploitation, positions him as a sought-after advocate in both defence and advisory capacities. His dedication to staying at the forefront of technological advancements ensures that his clients receive cutting-edge representation.

Michael is also committed to community service. He regularly speaks at PACT (Protect All Children Today) recruitment sessions on criminal trials and the role of defence counsel, sharing his insights and experiences with future witness support services. Additionally, he serves as a volunteer lawyer at Caxton Legal Centre, providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need.

Before being called to the bar, Michael gained invaluable experience serving as Judge's Associate to her Honour Judge Ryrie in the District Court. This role honed his legal acumen and provided him with a deep understanding of courtroom proceedings and judicial decision-making.

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## Gerard Dutton

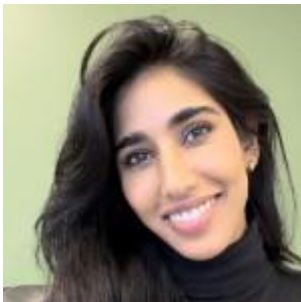
Sergeant Gerard Dutton retired from Tasmania Police in January 2025; 37+ of his 40 years in policing working exclusively in forensic firearms and toolmarks investigation.

He has written and published in excess of 100 articles and papers on a wide range of topics relating to his work. Gerard continues to present at forensic science symposia and has taught his profession all around Australia and in other countries.

Despite retirement, he remains engaged in his profession, continuing his Assistant Editor roles for the Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners technical/forensic journal and the Australian Police Journal.

He was awarded Life Membership of the Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society in 2023.

Gerard has given expert evidence on firearm related cases in courts of all jurisdictions in Australia and overseas on many hundreds of occasions.



## Lisa Fernandes

Lisa Fernandes is First AML's lead consultant within the ANZ law sector. She is highly sought after for her industry knowledge and candid, practical view of how AML plays out in reality, including what technology can and cannot do.

She works closely with firm leaders and compliance teams to guide them through the technology procurement process based on their specific requirements, processes and objectives.

Lisa is known for bringing clarity and confidence to the decision-making process and frequently collaborates with compliance and industry experts across Australia and New Zealand.



## Professor Ryan Ko

Professor Ryan Ko is Chair Professor of Cyber Security and founding Centre Director of the UQ Cyber Research Centre at The University of Queensland. A Fellow of both the Australian Computer Society and the Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences, he has co-authored international standards, drafted New Zealand's national cyber security curriculum, and established its first cyber security lab and national competition. He brings governance and advisory experience with INTERPOL, ORCID, and the governments of Australia, Singapore, New Zealand, and Tonga. Widely published with over 170 works, Professor Ko is internationally recognised for advancing cyber resilience, crime prevention, and cloud security.



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## **Jason Murakami**

Jason Murakami is a partner of Behlau Murakami Grant ILP. He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Griffith University, founder of the Griffith University Innocence Project, a Board Member of Griffith University Governing Council and member of the Queensland Law Society's Domestic Violence Committee. In 2025 Jason was a finalist in the Queensland Law Society's Excellence in Law Awards.

Jason completed his legal training at internationally renowned Minter Ellison Lawyers in the late 1990's and is the founding partner of Behlau Murakami Grant ILP.

Jason is considered one of Queensland's leading DNA Lawyers having written many published joint-articles and joint-submissions to the Queensland Government on the topic and litigated DNA issues before the various levels of Courts. Accordingly, he has extensive experience in cross examination of expert witnesses so as to determine relevance, admissibility and or discretion applicability pertaining to expert evidence.



## **Evan O'Hanlon-Rose**

Evan is a Senior Associate at Robertson O'Gorman Solicitors where he first began his legal training in 2012.

He returned to the firm after spending 10 years as a prosecutor including as a Senior Crown Prosecutor at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) and Principal Prosecutor at the Office of the Work Health & Safety Prosecutor (OWHSP).



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## Dan Rogers

Dan is an accredited specialist in criminal law and was named as a leading criminal lawyer in Queensland and Australia by Doyle's Leading Lawyers List for the past five years. Dan also represents legal and health professionals facing disciplinary allegations, as well as individuals and companies facing workplace health and safety investigations.

Dan has been published in law journals and has contributed to legal texts on criminal law. He holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Masters of Law (both with Honours). He has practised across Australia but has also worked at the International Criminal Court (The Hague, Netherlands).

Dan is the former President of Caxton Legal; Queensland's largest community legal centre. He is a member of the ethics committee and the human rights committee of the Queensland Law Society. He is a member of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, advising the Attorney-General on sentencing matters.

As a solicitor advocate, Dan regularly argues his own cases in the higher courts instead of briefing counsel.



## Amy Soong

Amy Soong is the Legal Practice Director of Ashworth Lawyers, a criminal defence firm she founded in 2014 focusing on defending serious and complex Queensland and Commonwealth crimes. With more than 17 years of experience exclusively in criminal defence, she has acted in a wide range of complex matters including large-scale drug operations, transnational organised crime, sexual violence, and major fraud.

Amy holds a Master of Laws, has completed the Bar Practice Course, and is a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Notaries. She is an active member of the Queensland Law Society Wellbeing Working Group. Amy's contributions have been recognised through multiple honours, including being named a finalist for the 2023 Entrepreneur of the Year Lord Mayor's Business Award, finalist for the 2024 Executive of the Year Women in Law Award, and 2025 Trailblazer of the Year at Law Biz Con.