



Symposium Full Program

Plenary

Friday 21 March 2025 | 1 CPD point

The future of law through the demographic lens

Simon explores how big demographic shifts will impact the law. Who will your clients be and where will they be located? How do their values differ from today's clients? Which industries will dominate the Queensland economy? How worried do you need to be about the gender balance and mental health of the law workforce? Simon walks the audience to the predictable elements of a future that remains constantly in flux – prepare for an engaging and entertaining look into the coming decade.

Presenter: **Simon Kuestenmacher**, Co-founder, The Demographics Group

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



Property Law

Friday 21 March 2025 | 5 hours | 5 CPD points

State of Play: The Year Ahead

For property practitioners, 2025 is shaping up to be 'the year of no rest'. What's coming next, and when? What do you need to know, do, and watch out for? This session will provide an overview of important developments in Property Law in Queensland, review the timeline for when changes come into effect, and highlight the key takeaways for your practice, including:

- Property Law Act reforms in 2025
- BCCM and Module reforms
- Residential tenancy amendments
- Changes to the foreign investment framework
- First home-owner's duty concessions for purchasing and part-home rentals

Presenters:

Anthony Boge, Special Counsel, HWL Ebsworth Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Property Law) – Qld

Frank Higginson, Partner, Hynes Legal

Chair: **Rukshana Sashankan**, General Manager – Practitioners, PEXA AU

Chaired by Major Partner, PEXA



Seller Disclosure and REIQ Contracts – implementing the Property Law Act changes

In this session we will be working through the key changes relating to Disclosure and REIQ Contracts that practices will need to manage. These will include managing:

- Investigation (including exceptions and BUGTA changes) – a practical discussion, including what may need to be investigated beyond conducting searches.
- Preparation of Disclosure
- Giving of Disclosure – including proof of compliance
- When can a Buyer terminate?
 - Warranties vs Disclosure obligations
 - REIQ Contracts provisions
 - Termination options
 - If Buyer doesn't want to terminate, any compensation options? (before and after Settlement)

Presenters:

Professor Sharon Christensen, Head of Law School, Queensland University of Technology; Consultant, Gadens; Member, Queensland Law Society Property and Development Law Committee

Simon LaBlack, Legal Practitioner Director, LaBlack Lawyers Pty Ltd; Accredited Specialist (Property Law) – Qld

Robert Mackay, Senior Risk Solicitor, Lexon Insurance Pte Ltd

Tracy Skellern, Deputy Risk Counsel, Lexon Insurance Pte Ltd

Chair: **Lynette Barlow**, General Manager of Sales, InfoTrack

Chaired by Major Partner, InfoTrack



Seller Disclosure and REIQ Contracts FAQ Session – what do I need to know?

This session will be an FAQ session where we will walk through the most commonly asked questions that practitioners need to consider both before and after the changes to Seller Disclosure and REIQ Contracts take effect. Our experts have also collated questions submitted by the profession and will focus their advice on addressing the issues that are most important and likely to impact those in practice. We will also be opening up the session to take some queries via the event attendee app on the day.

Presenters:

Professor Sharon Christensen, Head of Law School, Queensland University of Technology; Consultant, Gadens; Member, Queensland Law Society Property and Development Law Committee

Simon LaBlack, Legal Practitioner Director, LaBlack Lawyers Pty Ltd; Accredited Specialist (Property Law) – Qld

Robert Mackay, Senior Risk Solicitor, Lexon Insurance Pte Ltd

Tracy Skellern, Deputy Risk Counsel, Lexon Insurance Pte Ltd

Chair: **Murray Walter**, Director of Partnerships, Dye & Durham

Chaired by Session Partner, Dye & Durham



A taxing matter – GST fundamentals in property transactions

GST in property transactions can sometimes feel like “tongs and rubber gloves” level subject matter. This session breaks property GST matters down into the major parts every junior lawyer needs to know about. We'll cover key concepts like input-taxed sales, sellers not registered for GST, “plus/includes GST”, GST-free going concerns, the Margin Scheme and apportionment for properties with mixed GST treatments.

Presenter: **Julian Creagh**, Associate, Wilson Lawyers

Chair: **Billy Dent**, National Sales Director, Commercial Property, First Title

Chaired by Session Partner, First Title



Ins and outs of commercial leasing

This session will provide an in-depth overview of commercial leasing, covering key terms, common issues, and practical considerations, including:

- The *Property Law Act 2023* [Qld]
- Incentives
- Surrenders
- Insurance

Presenter: **Aaron Webb**, Partner, Thynne + Macartney; Accredited Specialist (Property Law) – Qld

Chair: **Peter Nugent**, Partner, PiperAlderman





Commercial Law

Friday 21 March 2025 | 5 hours | 5 CPD points

Without prejudice – navigating the shades of grey

In the search for the commercial outcomes, we understand that negotiation isn't always black and white—it thrives in the grey. Explore and discuss strategies to navigate ambiguity, balance interests, and find creative solutions in complex, high-stakes discussions.

Presenters:

Darren Ho, Consultant, Construction and Infrastructure, McInnes Wilson Lawyers

Rachel De Luchi, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Facilitator: **Jesse Hill**, Senior Professional Development Solicitor, Queensland Law Society



Insolvency – an evolving frontier

In this session we will consider the insolvency landscape in 2025. This session will consider new complications that have arisen for liquidators.

Presenter: **Matthew Hudson**, Director, SV Partners

Chair: **Sam Nelson**, Lawyer, Axia Litigation Lawyers; Member, Queensland Law Society Future Leaders Committee



Commercial litigation – fundamentals and preparation

In this early career-focused session, we will be delving into essential considerations for matters proceeding to litigation. In this hour, we will cover the unmissable steps of early stages of litigation. You will engage with experts in litigation on how to best prepare yourselves and clients for the dispute resolution process.

Presenters:

Mia Behlau, Director, M Behlau & Associates; Councillor, Queensland Law Society

Toby Boys, Partner, Holding Redlich; Member, Queensland Law Society Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee; Accredited Specialist (Commercial Litigation) – Qld

Florence Chen, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Caitlin Littleton**, Lawyer, Nurture Law; Member, Queensland Law Society Future Leaders Committee



The liquidator's dilemma – unscrambling the egg and maximising the return

The reality of insolvency practitioners appointed to companies without assets. The discharge of insolvency practitioners' statutory duties to get in mandatory reports and investigate company's financial affairs often leaves them with significant unpaid work in progress without funding by the ASIC or creditors. We will consider the important role played by the profession in completing recovery work for insolvency practitioners on a speculative basis, legal costs considerations and advising on the legal and ethical standards to be considered by an insolvency practitioner before any recovery proceeding is commenced.

Presenters:

Michael Beirne, Principal, Barclay Beirne Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Business Law) – Qld

James Stokes, Legal Practitioner Director, Stokes Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Business Law) – Qld

Chair: **Matthew Hudson**, Director, SV Partners



Effective operation in the Commercial List

Directly from the Bench, you will hear about the effective operations of the Commercial List within the Court. This session is a discussion that will deal with how the List works both in Brisbane and the regions, as well as the expectations of practitioners who are conducting proceedings on the List. You will have the opportunity to engage directly with the Bench on how to manage in the List.

Presenters:

His Honour Judge Ken Barlow KC, District Court of Queensland

His Honour Judge Rowan Jackson KC, District Court of Queensland

His Honour Judge Bernard Porter KC, District Court of Queensland

Chair: **Toby Boys**, Partner, Holding Redlich; Member, Queensland Law Society Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee; Accredited Specialist (Commercial Litigation) – Qld



Criminal Law

Friday 21 March 2025 | 5 hours | 5 CPD points

State of Play: Practice Direction 3 of 2024

In this session our presenters will take you through practical scenarios that are relevant to the new practice direction. The Crown, the Court and our accredited specialist will workshop how one might best operate in accordance with the new practice direction.

Presenters:

Caroline Marco, Deputy Director, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Registrar Alexis Oxley, Case Conference Registrar, District Court of Queensland

Julia Jasper, Partner, Jasper Fogerty Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld

Facilitator: **Lindsey Franklin-Browne**, Director, Sexual Violence Case Reform, District Court of Queensland

Chair: **His Honour Judge Michael Byrne KC**, District Court of Queensland



Mastering the pre-committal

As an early career lawyer, understanding the intricacies of committals is essential to building a strong foundation for your practice. This session will deconstruct the process, providing you with practical insights and actionable strategies to navigate committal proceedings with confidence. From key procedural requirements to common pitfalls and best practices, you'll gain the knowledge and skills needed to handle the pre-committal stage of proceedings effectively and efficiently.

Whether you're preparing for your first committal or looking to refine your approach, this session will equip you with the tools to succeed.

Presenters:

India Brady, Solicitor, Bamberry Lawyers

Sam Jackson, Director, Bamberry Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld

Chair: **Emma Kearney**, Associate, Bell Criminal Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Future Leaders Committee



Sentencing: Legal updates and practical tips

As criminal defence lawyers, we relish the challenge of a trial. However, most of our work is the preparation and attendance on sentence hearings including as Solicitor Advocates. This session will:

- Provide an update on recent legislative changes and common law developments for sentencing
- Discuss the best resources for maintaining your professional expertise in sentencing and for preparing your next sentence
- Conclude with an interactive discussion on hypothetical scenarios for preparing and arguing your next plea

Presenter: **Dan Rogers**, Legal Director, Robertson O'Gorman Solicitors; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld

Chair: **Glen Cranny**, Managing Director, Gilshenan & Luton Legal Practice; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) - Qld; Queensland Law Society Senior Counsellor





Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference. Our expert will address the changes to the Evidence Act that practitioners are required to know about. You will hear expert opinion on some of the changes and what it will mean for your clients.

Presenter: **Charlotte Smith**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Adam Moschella**, Senior Associate, Bell Criminal Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld



Legislation Update: Community safety and justice

The final session will provide an update on the most recent and relevant legislation changes. You will be informed of the new legislative amendments, as well what our accredited specialists had to say about the changes.

Presenters:

Damian Bartholomew, Solicitor, Youth Advocacy Centre; Chair, Queensland Law Society Children's Law Committee

Peta Dent, Principal Lawyer, Legal Aid Queensland; Member, Queensland Law Society Children's Law Committee

Chair: **Danielle Iliffe**, Senior Lawyer, Legal Aid Queensland; Deputy Chair, Queensland Law Society, Children's Law Committee



Personal Injuries Law

Friday 21 March 2025 | 5 hours | 5 CPD points

Care and assistance – assessment under legislation

This session will assist practitioners in gaining an understanding of the role occupational therapy has to play in value adding to claims on issues of loss of earning capacity and care and assistance claims. The presenters will give a practical guidance through the process and the legal principles underpinning these claims with a focus on the value adding occupational therapy evidence provides.

Presenter: **Christine Eloff**, Occupational Therapist, Prudence Consulting

Chair: **Matthew Holmes**, Barrister, Queensland Bar



Case Update: Year in Review

This session will provide a review of key personal injury cases from the past year highlighting legal developments, trends, wins and losses. It aims to provide insight into liability, damages and any notable shifts in personal injury law.

Presenter: **Nickelle Morris**, Special Counsel, Travis Schultz & Partners

Chair: **Beth Rolton**, Partner, Travis Schultz & Partners; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld



Compulsory conferencing – managing client expectations

This session will delve into proven strategies to set clear expectations, navigate challenging conversations, and foster trust and transparency with clients. Gain practical tools to enhance communication, reduce misunderstandings, and exceed expectations.

Panellists:

Damien Atkinson OAM KC, Barrister, Queensland Bar; Nationally Accredited Mediator

Luke Murphy, Partner, MurphySchmidt Solicitors; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries) – Qld; Past President, Law Council of Australia; Deputy Chair, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee

Chair: **Eduardo Cruz**, Partner, CZ Injury Law; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee



Mal Practiss – what not to do in a WorkCover claim

The return of Mal Practiss...

Step through a role-play in three acts, from an initial meeting with a client, Notice of Claim and post Compulsory Conference in the life of Mal Practiss, the solicitor you don't want to be. Refresh your knowledge of our professional framework including Court Rules, Legislation, Regulations and Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules in a hypothetical workers' compensation claim.

Presenters:

Anna-Britt Kjellgren, Partner, Mullins Lawyers

Shane Lawlor, Senior Associate, Mullins Lawyers

Chair: **Cameron Seymour**, Partner, Mullins Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee



Living happily ever after... future economic loss and the upcoming challenges in quantifying them

Revisit *Todorovic v Waller* and *Malec v Hutton* through 21st century glasses, look at potential avenues for obtaining evidence to support an economic loss claim for those claimants with medium to long term losses; and consider other potential evidence which might influence courts in their assessment of future economic loss in future cases.

Presenters:

Stephen Hughes, Legal Practice Manager & Senior Counsel, Rin Kim Law; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld

James Leggo, Senior Associate, Rin Kim Law

Chair: **Trent Johnson**, Partner & Brisbane Office Leader, Travis Schultz & Partners; Accredited Specialist (Personal Injuries Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Accident Compensation & Tort Law Committee



Family Law

Friday 21 March 2025 | 5 hours | 5 CPD points

To brief, or not to brief? That is the question

In this interactive session we look at honing the skills of the early career lawyer. We take a look at matters that may come across your desk and what you can do to act in your client's best interest. From initial instructions to brief preparation, this session will increase your confidence as solicitor advocates by helping you identify when you need another set of eyes.

Presenters:

Samantha Bolton, Director, Pippa Colman & Associates; Councillor, Queensland Law Society

The Honourable Colin Forrest SC, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Sarah-Jane MacDonald, Legal Practitioner Director, MacDonald Law; Councillor, Queensland Law Society; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld

Chair: **Gemma Kruger**, Lawyer, Lander & Rogers; Member, Future Leaders Committee



Kennon – a history and a way forward

Our presenter will consider the history of the family courts' treatment of domestic and family violence in property settlement disputes. Moving through time, this session will identify how the *Kennon* decision has been interpreted, applied and developed by the courts. The session will then turn to the legislative amendments of the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) and the impacts of making family violence an explicit consideration for the court when determining a dispute. This session will consider whether the amendments will impact the standards for a *Kennon* submission and whether there is a real risk that the flood gates will open leading to larger amounts of litigation. This presentation aims to give practitioners a concise understanding of the relevant case law, as well as a couple of practical tips for litigating property disputes.

Presenter: **Damon Hatchett**, Senior Associate, HopgoodGanim Lawyers

Chair: **The Honourable Deputy Chief Justice Robert McClelland AO**, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia



s.65DAAA Family Law Act – Do you need more keys to open the door?

In this session we will discuss the reconsideration of final parenting orders. Our speakers will consider the substantial changes surrounding the *Rice v Asplund* principles and whether the May 2024 amendments represent the codification of the same.

Presenter: **Trent Waller**, Director, Waller Family Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld

Chair: **Alexandra Moles**, Partner, Mills Oakley; Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee



Case Update: FCFCOA

You will be equipped with the latest updates from the Court. You will consider the latest amendments to the *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) and how the Courts have interpreted the new legislative changes.

Presenters:

Jeffrey Bunning, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Allison Caputo, Head of Dispute Resolution, Michael Lynch Family Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld

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

Chair: **Jamie Ford**, Senior Sales Executive, LEAP Family

Chaired by Major Partner, LEAP



Seeking an urgent response

This session delivered by Senior Judicial Registrars will consider an understanding of the manner in which the Court is assessing requests for urgent listings, and the evidence required to both seek dates and succeed in seeking orders.

Presenters:

Senior Judicial Registrar Kara Best, Federal Circuit Court and Family Court of Australia

Judicial Registrar Shannon Bownds, Federal Circuit Court and Family Court of Australia

Chair: **Matt Hempstead**, Partner, Barry Nilsson; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld; Member, Queensland Law Society Family Law Committee



Succession Law

Friday 21 March 2025 | 5 hours | 5 CPD points

Year in Review: Case Law Update

A review of cases from the last twelve months examining recent key developments in succession case law and legislation, including:

- *Hawkins v Whitla* [2024] QSC 201
- *Re Smadja (dec'd)* [2024] QSC 273
- *Linkenbagh v Turner* [2024] QSC 316
- *Re McGilchrist (dec'd)* [2024] QSC 322
- *Taylor v Friday* [2024] QSC 329
- *Morris v Morris* [2025] QSC 7
- *Sorati & Anor v Sorati* [2025] QSC 14
- *Smith v Kennedy* [2025] QSC 27
- *Lewis v Watson* [2025] QSC 35

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

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



SMSFs and TDTs: friends or foes?

This session discusses the range of superannuation strategies available to us as practitioners in estate planning, as well as testamentary considerations. When is each strategy more advantageous? Can one size actually fit all? Through the lens of the needs of a couple as they go through different life stages, we will explore the testamentary options most suitable at each stage and consider various super solutions that are often overlooked in the estate planning process.

Presenters:

Clinton Jackson, Partner, Cooper Grace Ward

Ann Janssen, Special Counsel and Divisional Head, Estate First Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) – Qld

Chair: **Caite Brewer**, Barrister, Queensland Bar



Lifestyles of the rich and famous – issues in the administration of trusts

The purpose of this session is to consider recent decisions of the Supreme Courts of Victoria and NSW that deal with disputes in relation to the administration of trusts. The focus will be on the principles that emerge from those decisions that could be used to inform and assist practitioners in advising parties to a trust arrangement including trustees, beneficiaries, guardians & appointors.

Presenter: **Dr Bill Orow**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Sonia Smith**, Special Counsel – Legal Policy, Queensland Law Society



Introduction to estate litigation and contested probates

This early career lawyer session will introduce the fundamentals of estate litigation and contested probates, focusing on common challenges and key legal principles involved in administering estates and resolving disputes. The session will cover:

- The concept of the legal personal representative
- Ensuring all the deceased's debts are paid
- Cost and other issues for administrators
- Bankruptcy of beneficiaries
- Family provision applications
- Solemn form challenges
- Construction and rectification, where a will is ambiguous
- Challenges to the nomination of executors

Presenter: **David Topp**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Sonia Smith**, Special Counsel – Legal Policy, Queensland Law Society



Defining dementia capability: A framework for legal practitioners

Through extensive consultation with legal practitioners nationwide, as well as people with dementia and their support networks, a research project identified five essential attributes of a 'dementia capable' legal practitioner: knowledge, legal rights and risks, capacity, communication, and advocacy. These attributes aim to guide legal professionals in delivering competent and compassionate services to clients with dementia, ensuring their rights are upheld and their unique needs are met.

Presenters:

Nola Ries, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney; Director, Law Health Justice Research Centre

Karen Williams, Principal Solicitor, ADA Law – Community Legal Service

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

Chair: **Katrina Harper**, National Manager Health & Personal Injury, Equity Trustees





Extension

Friday 21 March 2025 | 5 hours | 5 CPD points

Anti-Money Laundering – what’s happening with Tranche 2?

Ongoing reforms to Australia's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) regime aim to better detect, deter, and disrupt illicit activities and meet international standards. AML compliance is crucial for law firms, as non-compliance can lead to heavy penalties, reputational damage, and criminal liability.

Presenters:

Matt Dunn, CEO, Queensland Law Society

Ian Lockhart, Partner, Minter Ellison; Member, Queensland Law Society, Banking and Financial Services Law Committee

Chair: **Stuart Giles**, Head of Strategic Partnerships – APAC, torFX

Chaired by Session Partner, torFX



LPP in the crosshairs – the ethical implications of the incredible shrinking shield of privilege

Our special counsel will take you through recent issues that have arisen in Queensland, as well as case scenarios that are relevant to your practice.

Presenter: **Shane Budden**, Special Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society

Chair: **Megan Mahon**, Commissioner, Legal Services Commission, Queensland



General practice and artificial intelligence

In a complex and specialised world, there’s still a role for the trusted advisor general practitioner solicitor. However, the question in our new environment remains, does AI make the role harder or easier? We consider harnessing AI for general practice and the necessity of the skillset. Beyond the hype, this session will explore how AI is disrupting and enhancing general practice and will provide tools to help practitioners make implementation decisions that are right for their practice.

Presenters:

David Bowles, Special Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society

Ben Gouldson, Director, Clifford Gouldson Lawyers

Terri Mottershead, Executive Director, Centre for Legal Innovation (Australia, New Zealand and Asia-Pacific); Chair, Queensland Law Society GenAI in Legal Practice Working Group

Chair: **Elizabeth Shearer**, Legal Practitioner Director, Shearer Doyle Law; Chair, Queensland Law Society Access to Justice Committee; Executive Member, Law Council of Australia





One size doesn't fit all – communicating effectively with diverse clients and why it matters

Effective communication is at the heart of good legal practice, but not all clients think, speak, or interpret information the same way. This panel discussion brings together experienced professionals from diverse backgrounds to explore how lawyers can adapt their communication styles to better serve different clients. From cultural nuances to varying expectations in how legal advice is delivered, understanding these differences isn't about politics—it's about providing clear, accessible, and effective legal services. Join us to gain practical strategies that will help you build stronger client relationships and improve outcomes in an increasingly diverse professional landscape.

Presenters:

Dr Danielle Bozin, Principal Mediator, Empower Mediations; Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner; Nationally Accredited Mediator; Senior Lecturer and Researcher, Queensland University of Technology

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

Trent Wallace, Head of First Nations Strategy, Ashurst

Chair: **Ann-Maree David**, Chair, Queensland Law Society Equity and Diversity Committee

Chaired by Session Partner, College of Law



Professionalism in the courtroom

As criminal lawyers, courtrooms are our workplace. Professionalism in the courtroom is important for everyone. This session will:

- Identify the ethical obligations and Australian Solicitor Conduct Rules that apply to legal practitioners in the courtroom.
- Provide practical tips for handling unprofessional conduct in the courtroom.
- Identify the supports available to practitioners in the face of unprofessional conduct.
- Outline the current mechanisms to raise concerns or complaints about other practitioners' professionalism or the conduct of judicial officers.
- Update on the Society's law reform activities for the establishment of the Judicial Commission

Presenters:

Mr Alexander (Sandy) Horneman-Wren SC, Retired Judge, District Court of Queensland

Tim Ryan KC, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Dan Rogers**, Legal Director, Robertson O'Gorman Solicitors; Councillor, Queensland Law Society; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld

