

FAMILY, CRIMINAL AND DFV CONFERENCE

Family Law Track

Program

60 mins

A Short History of the Assessment of Initial Contributions in Property Settlement Matters

Historically, what has an appropriate assessment of initial contributions in property settlement matters looked like? In light of the 2024 amendments, this topic is of great interest. What could these changes mean for practitioners moving forward?

Presenter: **Phillip Sorensen**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Jennifer Veitch**, Director of Forensic Accounting, Pilot Partners



58 mins

Collaborative Practice in Family Law

This session offers an exploration into contemporary approaches to resolving family law matters through collaborative practice. Attendees will gain insight into the underlying principles and evolving applications of this model, with a focus on multidisciplinary involvement. The presentation will touch on the benefits, challenges, and practical considerations when engaging in collaborative processes, as well as how this approach contrasts with traditional approaches. Participants will be invited to reflect on the relevance of collaborative practice within their own professional contexts and consider emerging trends influencing its role in the broader landscape of family dispute resolution.

Presenter: **Amy Piggot**, Collaborative Family Lawyer, Brisbane Family Law Centre

Chair: **John Thynne**, Director of Forensic and Litigation, Vincents



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58 mins **FCFCOA: Protections & supports for DFV victims**

What measures are currently in place to support and protect DFV victims within the Federal Circuit and Family court space? How are these supports accessed? Join this panelled session to have these questions answered..

Presenters:

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

Judicial Registrar Alina Somerville, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

Chair: **Erylin Rees**, Court Children's Services for Qld; Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia



57 mins **Case update: Family Law**

This session takes a look at some of the most recent and consequential legislative amendments and case law updates within the family law space.

Presenters:

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

Jeffrey Bunning, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Julie O'Reilly**, Partner, William Buck

WilliamBuck
ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS



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Presenters



Judicial Registrar Shannon Bownds

Judicial Registrar Shannon Bownds was appointed as a Registrar in January 2021. She has been an Evatt Registrar since June 2021, when the Lighthouse Project was still in its pilot phase. She is also a National Subpoena List Registrar.

She has worked almost exclusively in family law since 2012, with a particular passion for high-risk parenting matters. Prior to her appointment to the Court, she was the head of family law at a small firm with offices in Brisbane, Cleveland and Maroochydore.

Jeffrey Bunning



Allison Capto

Allison Caputo is Head of Family Law and Dispute Resolution at Michael Lynch Family Lawyers. Allison is an Accredited Specialist in Family Law and a Nationally Accredited Mediator. Allison has been practicing in family law for 19 years and served on the QLS Council for three years before being appointed as Judicial Registrar in the FCFCoA. Allison recently returned to private practice to lead the team and build a mediation practice at Michael Lynch Family Lawyers.

Julie O'Reilly



Amy Piggott

Amy is a Collaborative Family Lawyer and Surrogacy Lawyer at Brisbane Family Law Centre with over 12 years of experience in family law. She is passionate about helping families navigate separation in a kind, thoughtful, and relationship-focused way. With degrees in Law (Honours) and Psychological Science, Amy brings both legal expertise and emotional insight to her work. Amy is currently completing her Masters of Applied Law and her qualification to becoming a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner.

Erylin Rees

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Judicial Registrar Alina Somerville

Judicial Registrar Alina Somerville has worked in family law for 25 years across a range of roles, having commenced her legal career as an Articled Clerk. She was an Associate to a (then) Federal Circuit Court Judge before graduating with a Bachelor of Laws with Honours from the Queensland University of Technology. Judicial Registrar Somerville was then admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of Queensland and High Court of Australia and thereafter worked as an Associate Solicitor in a boutique firm practicing in all areas of family law, domestic and family violence law and criminal law. Judicial Registrar Somerville is an accredited Domestic and Family Violence Duty Lawyer and Criminal Law (Adult and Juvenile) Duty Lawyer and a Nationally Accredited Mediator. Judicial Registrar Somerville commenced with the Court in 2023 and undertakes various roles within the Court including the case management of both parenting and financial lists and assisting parties to resolve their disputes through Court-based dispute resolution.



Phillip Sorensen

Prior to joining the bar in December 2013, Phillip practiced as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland for 27 years.

At the bar in Brisbane, Phillip now practices in the following areas:

- Alternative Dispute Resolution - Mediation
- Equity - Family Provision, Trusts, Wills and Probate and Estate Litigation
- Family Law - Children, Property and Spousal Maintenance

Phillip has a special interest in financial agreements and is the author of the paper, 'Are financial agreements worth the paper they're signed on?'

John Thynne



Jennifer Veitch

Jennifer is a Forensic Accountant and Partner at Pilot Partners, working closely with lawyers and their clients to solve complex financial issues in legal proceedings. With a background in commercial services and over a decade of experience, she specialises in business valuations, tracing exercises, personal injury quantification, and commercial litigation support.

Her clear, practical communication style helps legal practitioners navigate complex accounting evidence and uncover value leakage or mismanagement in high-stakes disputes.