Queensland Law Society

SPECIALIST PRACTICE CONFERENCE 26

7-9 OCTOBER 2026 • BRISBANE

Program – Family Law

1hr

Deepfakes, cheapfakes and evidence integrity: professional responsibility in a digital world

Whether you use AI in your practice or not, it is inevitable that colleagues, clients, and witnesses will. AI-generated content, deepfakes and AI-assisted witness preparation are creating new challenges for courts and practitioners.

This session examines emerging cases involving manipulated evidence and AI-coached witnesses, the risks of relying on apparently authentic digital material, and the ethical duties that arise.

Through practical examples, participants will explore how to identify risk indicators, respond to authenticity concerns and meet their obligations to the court in an environment where seeing is no longer believing.

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

Chair: **Callan Lloyd**, Managing Director, Gilshenan & Luton

PLE

1hr

Shifting ground: Recent landmark decisions in Family Law

Recent appellate authority in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, together with amendments to the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) have reshaped how practitioners approach the identification, treatment and adjustment of property interests. This session will examine three significant decisions - Caldwell & Caldwell, Han & Han and Shinohara & Shinohara and consider their practical implications for lawyers grappling with increasingly complex disputes involving discretionary trusts, intra-familial loan arrangements and notional add backs.

Presenters:

Genevieve Dee, Immediate Past President, Queensland Law Society; Partner, Lander & Rogers; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) - Qld

Kiana Banchetti, Lawyer, Lander & Rogers

Chair: **Sarah Jane MacDonald**, Deputy President, Queensland Law Society; Director, MacDonald Law; Accredited Specialist (Family Law) – Qld

SL

1hr

Dealing with trusts and companies in Family law

This session will deal with the legal and accounting aspects of trusts and companies. This will include a legal and taxation review of the different kinds of trusts and a comparison of trusts and companies. This comparison is to include the difference between a beneficiary of a discretionary trust and a shareholder of a company. This session should also include a legal and accounting discussion on Division 7A loans, Unpaid Present Entitlements, Family Trust Elections and s100A of the 1936 ITAA.

The purpose of this session is to alert practitioners to the pitfalls in advising clients when there are assets owned by companies and trusts and whether they should be included in the asset pool available for division between the parties.

There should be particular reference to the advice given to such clients when consent orders that deal with trusts and companies are contemplated. If the advice is not correct, the client could be left with an unexpected tax debt after the orders have been implemented. Could practitioners be sued by the client in this circumstance?

Presenters:

Wendy Miller, Special Counsel, Damien Greer Lawyers

David Marks KC, Barrister, Queensland Bar

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

Sponsored by William Buck

1hr

International forum disputes in family law & the Trans-Tasman Proceedings Act

Family law international forum disputes are becoming more common in Australia. That is unsurprising given the number of ex pat Australians living elsewhere in the world, and the number of immigrants to Australia. Various tests to determine forum are utilised throughout the world. In Australia, for family law purposes, two tests are adopted. The common law test for the majority of family law forum disputes is the clearly inappropriate forum test. However, the Trans-Tasman Proceedings Act 2010, which applies to the determination of forum disputes between Australia and New Zealand (including family law disputes) adopts a forum test of more appropriate forum test. Family law practitioners must be aware of not only the relevant test to be applied, but also be able to identify when to seek advice from practitioners in other jurisdictions.

The session will consider the appropriate forum tests to be adopted with particular reference to the Trans-Tasman Proceedings Act.

Presenter: **Alison Ross**, Partner, HopgoodGanim Lawyers

Chair: **James Kavanagh**, Education Solicitor, Queensland Law Society

PS SL

1hr

Costs in family law proceedings

This session will provide a practical examination of costs issues within the Family Court space and offer perspectives that may influence how practitioners approach advocacy, strategy, professional judgment and risk.

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

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

PS PM&BS

Presenters



Kiana Banchetti

Kiana is a lawyer in the Family & Relationship Law team at Lander & Rogers and is based in the firm's Brisbane office. She was admitted to practice in 2024 after completing the firm's graduate program and has been practising exclusively in family law since the beginning of 2025.

Kiana combines pragmatism with empathy in her approach, ensuring her clients receive both high-quality legal advice and emotional support. She understands the inherent complexity and emotional charge of family law matters, and her commitment to providing both legal guidance and reassurance helps clients navigate their challenges with confidence and clarity.

Passionate about delivering clear and commercially sound advice, Kiana ensures her clients feel acknowledged and understood at every step of the family law process. She is dedicated to making her clients' legal journey as smooth and supportive as possible.

Kiana holds a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) and Bachelor of Behavioural Science (Psychology) (with Distinction) from the Queensland University of Technology.



David Bowles

David was admitted as a solicitor in 1996 and was in private practice from that time until joining Queensland Law Society’s QLS Ethics and Practice Centre in November 2012.

David’s experience, initially as an employee and then as a sole practitioner includes crime, property, litigation and estate planning. As an ethics solicitor he is responsible for providing ethical guidance to members, and continuing legal education.

He holds postgraduate certificates in Artificial Intelligence from the Said Business School at Oxford University, in Cybersecurity from Harvard University Extension School, in Project Management from the University of Adelaide EdX program and is a director of the Australasian Computer Law Institute.



Immediate Past President Genevieve Dee

Queensland Law Society Immediate Past President Genevieve Dee is a partner with Lander & Rogers and an Accredited Family Law Specialist who has practiced 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, Professional Conduct Committee, and the Specialist Accreditation Board, including a term as Chair, highlights her engagement and commitment to the legal profession. Genevieve is also Chair of the Board for Women's Legal Service Qld (WLAQ).



James Kavanagh

James is a solicitor and qualified social worker who comes to the QLS with professional experience in family law, migration law and supporting children and families within the Queensland child protection space. Through his

passion for education and his understanding of the challenges faced by the legal profession James seeks to empower legal practitioners with the skills and knowledge they require for success in practice.



Callan Lloyd



Deputy President Sarah-Jane MacDonald

Sarah-Jane is a strong advocate of practice in the regions, having practised in the Toowoomba Region for the entirety of her legal career. Sarah-Jane is an Accredited Family Law Specialist and the Legal Practitioner Director of MacDonald Law (Qld) Pty Ltd.

For Sarah-Jane, working with people is the crux of why she has continued to work in the family law sphere since her admission. Boasting a full family law file load, and overseeing a number of other active legal departments within her firm; Sarah-Jane continues to be people focused and results driven.

Sarah-Jane is a Doyles Guide Recommended Family Lawyer, as well as currently serving as Deputy President of the Queensland Law Society.



David Marks KC

David is a commercial silk principally with interests in tax and revenue law as well as an established general Chancery practice.

David also regularly appears for parties in commercial and administrative law disputes involving issues ranging from commercial contracts to professional negligence; and company disputes to reviewing tax posture of large corporations.

David also appears in private client matters, about trusts and estates.

He is a member of STEP's disciplinary panel, based out of London.



Wendy Miller

Wendy is a highly experienced accredited family law specialist and an accredited family law arbitrator. Her strong preference is to assist clients settle their family law issues in a conciliatory manner through negotiation, mediation, arbitration or through the collaborative law process. However, if litigation is necessary Wendy will take immediate action to protect her client's position.

Much of Wendy's work is with financial agreements and the often difficult corporate, trust and tax issues that arise in family law. She also has an interest in contributing the family law component to business and family succession planning.

Wendy is adept at problem solving and strategic thinking to achieve the best outcome for her clients. They can also rely on her to be responsive and easily accessible and rely on her support during those times of high anxiety and stress.



Julie O'Reilly

Julie O'Reilly is a Partner in Business Advisory at William Buck, specialising in the financial and taxation issues arising from divorce and separation. Working closely with family lawyers and their clients, Julie helps navigate complex financial matters including business and asset structures, taxation outcomes, family wealth arrangements and succession considerations. She is passionate about supporting clients through significant life changes, providing clear, practical advice that empowers them to make informed decisions with confidence. Known for her approachable nature and commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes, Julie combines technical expertise with a genuine understanding of the personal challenges often associated with relationship breakdowns.



Alison Ross

Alison specialises in complex property and other financial matters arising from relationship breakdowns. She also advises on international family law matters, such as international financial matters and international issues relating to children, including relocation and child abduction.

Alison is an Accredited Specialist (Family Law), accredited Arbitrator and a trained Collaborative Law professional.



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

In the family law arena Phillip has a special interest in financial agreements and is the author of the paper, 'Binding the financial agreement'.

He is also the author of the paper, 'A Short History of the Assessment of Initial Contributions in Property Settlement Matters in the Family Courts'.