

FAMILY, CRIMINAL AND DFV CONFERENCE

Program

43 mins **Ethics Update for Criminal, Family and Domestic Violence practitioners**

Recent cases have provided clarification and context for certain ethical issues and this presentation will go through those cases and provide practical solutions to practitioners dealing with them. In addition, there are new ethical challenges for practitioners on the horizon. Such challenges will be examined and practical solutions for facing such challenges will be discussed.

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

Chair: **Rowan McNamee**, Co-Founder & COO, Mary Technology



60 mins **When Jurisdictions Intersect - QCAT's role in DFV contexts**

This session maps the touchpoints between QCAT's jurisdictions and criminal, family law and DFV matters. Practitioners will be invited to think holistically about the client journey and how QCAT fits into the broader response to DFV, in order to better assist clients in criminal, family law or DFV matters that may impact the outcome of or be impacted by an outcome in QCAT.

Presenter: **Michelle Lember**, Senior Member, Queensland Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Chair: **Rowan McNamee**, Co-Founder & COO, Mary Technology



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60 mins **Applications to cross examine at committal: Why, when, and how?**

A properly run committal hearing can be the single greatest pre-trial step taken by a defence lawyer to improve their client's prospects at trial. Yet post Moynihan reforms, there is a growing reluctance to pursue cross examination at committal. This session will look at how to craft an effective 'defence communication' and the benefits this may have for your client. It will also seek to challenge some common misconceptions about cross examination at committal and identify some replicable strategies to streamline your practice.

Presenters:

Rémy Kurz, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Jaimie-Lee Jessop, Senior Associate, Gilshenan & Luton Legal Practice; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld

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



54 mins **Case update: Criminal Law**

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

Presenters:

Susan Hedge, Junior Counsel, Blyth Chambers

Dylan Hans, Legal Practitioner, ATSILS

Chair: **Kristy Bell**, Director, Bell Criminal Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld



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60 mins **Answering the Call in the Callovers**

This session provides a guide on how to meet the increasing expectations placed on practitioners at call overs and an overview of recent and relevant practice directions practitioners need to be aware of.

Presenters:

Magistrate Belinda Merrin, Brisbane Magistrates Court

Emily O'Hagan, Partner, Wallace O'Hagan Lawyers

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



53 mins **Forensic DNA Failures and Complex DNA Evidence: Helping Lawyers navigate DNA in criminal matters**

This session will highlight some of the key criticisms and failures in the DNA Laboratory at Forensic Science Queensland that all lawyers need to be aware of if they have DNA evidence in their matters. In addition, this presentation will discuss complexities of sexual assault evidence, with a focus on the limitations of forensic biology and DNA analysis that all legal practitioners should understand. While DNA evidence can be compelling, it is not infallible – issues such as secondary transfer, mixed profiles, and the absence of temporal context can complicate interpretation. The presentation will highlight how uncritical acceptance of forensic evidence can lead to miscarriages of justice and stress the importance of informed cross-examination. Attendees will gain insights into challenging expert assumptions and ensuring that evidence is properly scrutinised in the interests of procedural fairness and justice.

Presenter: **Jae Gerhard**, Principal Scientist, Independent Forensic Services

Chair: **Joe Wicking**, Senior Associate, Potts Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld



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43 mins **Youth Justice: Updates, Challenges and Sentencing implications**

This session takes a look at some of the recent legislative amendments impacting the Youth Justice space and the associated challenges and sentencing implications stemming from these changes.

Presenters:

Magistrate Andrew Moloney, Brisbane Magistrate Court

Laura Reece, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Jaimie-Lee Jessop, Senior Associate, Gilshenan & Luton Legal Practice; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld

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



58 mins **Therapeutic responses to DFV**

This session explores evolving therapeutic court responses to domestic and family violence (DFV) in Queensland. It will provide an overview of approaches that prioritise safety, accountability, and support, including the role of intervention orders and the implementation of DFV-specific diversion programs. Attendees will gain insight into how the justice system is integrating therapeutic principles to address the underlying drivers of violence and improve outcomes for individuals and families. This presentation will examine how these responses are being shaped by legislation, community needs, and cross-sector collaboration to better manage and reduce DFV-related harm.

Presenters:

Jason Garrick, Principal Lawyer (Violence Prevention and Women's Advocacy), Legal Aid Queensland

Nick Bennett, Director Magistrates Court (Crime practice)

Paul Monsour, Facilitator, Family Peace Project (Anglicare)

Chair: **Andrew Lander**, Legal Practice Director, Lander Solicitors



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68 mins **The drafting of, and responses to, domestic violence applications**

While the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act eschews the rules of evidence, a sound evidentiary underpinning remains the key to well drafted applications and affidavits in domestic violence proceedings. This session aims to equip solicitors with a working model for efficient and effective filings in domestic violence applications.

Presenters:

Magistrate Cameron McKenzie, Brisbane Magistrates Court

Rémy Kurz, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Patrick Quinn**, Director, Gilshenan & Luton Legal Practice



48 mins **Family & Criminal law intersections in DFV**

This session explores the intersections between family and criminal law in the context of Domestic and Family violence matters and the challenges of navigating concurrent proceedings. Key topics include parenting disputes, evidentiary considerations and recent legislative reforms, including coercive control. The session aims to enhance understanding of how the family and criminal law areas of practice interact, highlighting practical and ethical considerations for legal practitioners.

Presenters:

Rachel Tierney, Senior Associate, Gilshenan & Luton Legal Practice; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld

Niki Schomberg, Special Counsel, Lander and Rogers

Chair: **Alexandra Moles**, Partner, Mills Oakley



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54 mins **Ending DFV proceedings early**

This presentation explores practical approaches to resolving Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) matters at an earlier stage within the Queensland legal system. This session will touch on issues such as summary dismissals, the right to withdraw, procedural fairness, applications to vary orders, relevant legislation, case law and practice directions and will discuss relevant evidentiary considerations also. This presentation offers valuable guidance for legal practitioners aiming to reduce unnecessary litigation and improve outcomes in DFV proceedings.

Presenter: **Gerry Elmore**, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Chair: **Emma Higgins**, Legal Director, Robertson O'Gorman; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) – Qld



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



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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



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



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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



Kristy Bell

Kristy Bell is the Director of Bell Criminal Lawyers and one of a small number of the Queensland Law Society's Accredited Specialists in Criminal Law. In 2025, Doyle's Guide listed Kristy as a Preeminent Criminal Defence Lawyer in Queensland, and Bell Criminal Lawyers was named a Leading Criminal Law Firm in Queensland.

In addition to traditional courtroom advocacy, Kristy recognises the importance of contributing to the development of good law and good lawyers in Queensland. She currently serves as Chair of the Queensland Law Society's Criminal Law Committee, is a member of the Society's Specialist Accreditation Committee, and was appointed as Deputy Chair of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council in 2025.

Kristy acts in a wide range of criminal and quasi-criminal matters including serious indictable offences, investigative hearings, commissions of inquiry, coronial inquests, parole applications, and proceeds of crime matters.



Nick Bennett

Nick Bennett is a Barrister practising exclusively in criminal law and related fields. He began his legal career as a Prosecutor with the ODPP and Queensland Police Service. Since joining Legal Aid Queensland in 2016, Nick has worked as a Lawyer and Principal Lawyer in Brisbane and regional areas, as Counsel in the Public Defenders Chambers, and was appointed Director of Magistrates Courts in 2025. In that role, Nick leads criminal lawyers representing vulnerable clients in the busiest Courts in the State, and contributes to improvements in the Legal Aid and criminal justice systems.



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

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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.



President Genevieve Dee

Queensland Law Society 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).



Gerry Elmore

Gerry Elmore was called to the Bar in 2015. He was admitted to practice in 2012. He practices in criminal law, regulatory litigation (civil penalties and summary prosecutions), judicial review and related appeals. He also has an advice practice in statutory interpretation and statutory powers.

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Jason Garrick

Jason is the acting Principal Lawyer in the Violence Prevention Advocacy Team at Legal Aid Queensland. Jason has focused on civil domestic and family violence practice as a special interest area while practicing as a lawyer in family law, child protection and the civil response to domestic and family violence. Jason is Independent Children's Lawyer and skilled legal educator.



Jae Gerhard

Jae Gerhard is the Principal Forensic Scientist and DNA expert witness at Independent Forensic Services, bringing over two decades of experience in the forensic services. She has worked on some of Australia's most complex and high-profile cases, as well as international operations.

Specialising in DNA analysis, biological fluid examination, and bloodstain pattern interpretation, Jae now works independently with criminal defence teams to review and challenge forensic evidence. Her mission is to ensure the science presented in court is accurate, balanced, truly understood, and the limitations are disclosed.



Senior Judicial Registrar Sam Gray

Sam Gray is a Senior Judicial Registrar in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia. He was appointed as a registrar in August 2020 in the Brisbane Registry. Sam presides over interim defended hearings, conducts dispute resolution work in more complex matters and undertakes procedural hearings in both Division 1 and Division 2. He is the National Coordinating Judicial Registrar and has national duties in the Court's dispute resolution operations that provides both support to registrars and ensures process efficiency for parties. Prior to his appointment he was a solicitor, family dispute resolution practitioner and nationally accredited mediator in private practice.



Dylan Hans

Dylan Hans is an Accredited Specialist in criminal law with more than 10 years of broad experience in the field.

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Susan Hedge



Emma Higgins

Emma Higgins is an accredited specialist in criminal law and a member of the Queensland Law Society's Criminal Law Committee. She has extensive experience in criminal defence, disciplinary matters, and domestic violence law, with a particular focus on navigating the intersection of criminal and civil jurisdictions in domestic violence proceedings.



Sam Jackson

Sam is the managing director of Bamberry Lawyers and a QLS Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law. He has experience in all facets of criminal law, practicing exclusively in that field since admission, with a particular focus on solicitor-advocate work in the Magistrates to Supreme Court. He is also a member of the QLS Criminal Law Committee.

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Jaimee-Lee Jessop

Jaimee-Lee is a Senior Associate at Gilshenan & Luton Legal Practice and an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law through the Queensland Law Society. Since her admission to the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2017, she has developed a strong criminal defence practice, with varied work in specialised areas such as youth justice, domestic violence, coronial, and regulatory law.

She is an active member of the legal profession, serving on the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland's Criminal Lawyers Sub-Committee and the Access to Justice and Pro Bono Law Committee. Through these roles, she advocates for greater support and recognition of women in criminal law and improved access to justice to vulnerable members of our community.

Jaimee-Lee's dedication has been recognised through multiple listings as a 'Rising Star' in Doyle's Guide for criminal law in Queensland, as well as being named the national winner of the Lawyers Weekly '30 Under 30' Award for criminal law.



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.



Emma Kearney

With six years' PAE, Emma is an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law, having achieved the highest mark upon completing the course in 2024. She is a Senior Associate at Bell Criminal Lawyers, practising in the areas of criminal law, domestic violence, traffic matters, youth justice and investigative hearings. Emma is also a member of the Future Leaders Committee, which provides guidance and support to young and early career lawyers.

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Rémy Kurz

Rémy commenced his life in the law as Terry O’Gorman’s clerk in 2008 before being admitted as a solicitor in 2011. Following his admission, Rémy worked in both private practice and for Legal Aid Queensland. In 2016, Rémy returned to Robertson O’Gorman and in 2020 was awarded specialist accreditation in Criminal Law from QLS. In 2022 Rémy was called to the private Bar and shortly thereafter joined 8 Petrie Terrace Chambers. Rémy specialises in criminal defence and domestic violence proceedings but, since moving to the bar, has expanded his practice to include regulatory investigations, commissions of inquiry, and criminal prosecutions.

In 2024 and 2025 Rémy was recognised by his peers as a leading junior counsel (QLD Criminal Law) by Doyle’s Guide.



Andrew Lander

Andrew Lander was admitted as a solicitor in 2003 after completing two years as an article clerk. He has practiced in family and domestic violence law since 2004.

After being employed in a number of prominent family law firms in Brisbane and the Gold Coast Andrew set up his own firm Lander Solicitors Queensland in 2015.

In May this year he was awarded a Master of Laws (Applied Law) majoring in Family Dispute Resolution Practice from the College of Law.

Andrew has had carriage of complex parenting and property settlement matters over the years.

Andrew has been a QLS Family Law Committee Member since 2016 and a registered Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner.

Andrew is also accredited by Legal Aid Queensland as a Domestic Violence Lawyer.

In his spare time Andrew enjoys collecting vinyl records, going to the gym, walking his two schnauzers and traveling.

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Michelle Lember

In 2019, after 20 years in private practice as a solicitor in property, commercial and family law, Michelle was appointed to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and has sat across all its wide-ranging jurisdictions. She currently manages all administrative reviews of decisions by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission as well as minor civil disputes, with responsibility for all Adjudicators sitting in Southeast Queensland.

Michelle holds Bachelors' degrees in Law, Economics and Business Management from the University of Queensland, a Master of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology) and Certificates in International Law from the Marquette University Law School in the United States. In 2016 she received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Queensland Law Society.



Magistrate Cameron McKenzie

Magistrate McKenzie was appointed a magistrate of the Magistrates Court of Queensland in 2019 and presided until June 2023 in the Specialist Domestic & Family Courts in Southport for one year and Beenleigh for two years.

His Honour is a current member of the Supreme Court of Queensland Rules Committee, and the Magistrates Court Domestic and Family Violence, Civil Law, Judicial Wellness and Conference Planning committees.

Prior to his appointment, his Honour practised in the areas of commercial litigation and insolvency and was a partner at DibbsBarker, Gadens and DWF. Before gaining partnership, his Honour spent a decade at NortonRoseFulbright where he progressed from Articled Clerk to Senior Associate.

Whilst a solicitor he held positions on the Queensland Law Society's Insolvency & Restructuring, Domestic & Family Violence, and Dispute Resolution policy committees, as well as the Law Council of Australia Business Law Section Insolvency & Restructuring Committee, the Appeal Costs Fund Board, and the Insolvency Practitioner Registration and Disciplinary Committee.

His Honour was also a Queensland Law Society Approved Mediator, Nationally Accredited Mediator, Registered Farm Debt Mediator and Franchise Code Mediator.

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Rowan McNamee

Rowan McNamee is the co-founder of Mary Technology. A former family lawyer who spent far too many hours wrestling with piles of documents, Rowan now channels that hard-won insight into building Mary Technology, which obliterates the duller parts of legal administration. Mary Technology's mission is to free lawyers from paperwork paralysis so they can focus on superior client care and strategy—the work that truly matters.



Magistrate Belinda Merrin

Nigel Miller



Alexandra Moles

Alexandra co-manages the Family and Relationship Law practice at Mills Oakley Brisbane and has over 20 years of experience practising exclusively in family law.

Alex is highly sought after for her expertise in high value and complex property matters involving businesses, companies, trusts, intergenerational family businesses, succession planning and intricate taxation issues. She also has a strong parenting practice with a particular interest in high conflict parenting, personality disorders, psychiatric issues, alienation/resist/refuse cases and drug and alcohol abuse. Alex has experience in mediation, child-inclusive mediation and litigation about children. She frequently advises about safety and risk issues and how children's wishes are considered in determining children's arrangements in separated families.

Alex is consistently recognised by her peers as a leading family lawyer and ranks highly in the Doyle's Guide and Best Lawyers in Australia list.

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Magistrate Andrew Moloney

Andrew was a solicitor for 25 years. He became an accredited specialist in criminal law in 2006, and a QLS Senior Counsellor in 2015. He was appointed as a Magistrate and a Childrens Court Magistrate in October 2017. He was the resident Magistrate in Bundaberg from 2019-2021.



Paul Monsour

Paul has worked in Intervention Programs for men who use DFV since 2004, as a counsellor and group facilitator in the Living Without Violence program for men until early this year, and now in a similar role in the Family Peace Project Brief Intervention program, connected with the DFV Diversion program at Brisbane Magistrates Court. His work is based on building a strong relationship of trust and respect with clients, in which significant accountability and change conversations can take place. He was a member of the ministerial Advisory Group that advised on the development of the 2012 Qld DFV legislation and has sat on numerous references groups, roundtables and consultation groups in the DFV sector. Paul has provided leadership in the growth and development of the SPEAQ network for Intervention Program providers and has authored a number of key submissions and papers in collaboration with other SPEAQ members.



Adam Moschella

Adam has extensive experience acting for clients charged with criminal offences in Queensland. He has acted for clients charged with offences in the Magistrates Court, District Court and Supreme Court of Queensland, ranging from simple traffic matters to complex drug and homicide charges. His experience was recognised in 2022, when he became the youngest to be awarded Specialist Accreditation in Criminal Law by the Queensland Law Society.

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Emily O'Hagan

Emily graduated with Honours in a Bachelors of Laws and Psychology from Griffith University with elective study in Criminal Law and Forensic Mental Health at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. She undertook a clerkship with Hopgood Ganim Lawyers in Litigation and Family Law and was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia in 2010. Following her admission, Emily has worked exclusively in criminal law. She worked at a busy criminal law practice for 5 years prior to becoming a founding partner of Wallace O'Hagan Lawyers in 2015. Emily has a wealth of experience successfully representing clients at all levels of the criminal justice system ranging from traffic offences before the Magistrates Court through to murder.

Julie O'Reilly

Janelle Osborne



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.

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Patrick Quinn

Patrick has practised predominantly in criminal and misconduct law since his admission to the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2011. Patrick has been a member of the Queensland Law Society's Criminal Law Committee since 2017 and is currently the Deputy Chair. Prior to his legal career Patrick worked as a hotel manager and maintains a strong interest in liquor and gaming law. Patrick balances his time between Brisbane and Central Queensland where he lives on a cattle property with his wife Jessica and their son. Patrick's practice has a strong focus on the agricultural sector. He represents clients in a wide range of investigations and proceedings including:

- Domestic and family violence proceedings
- NHVR investigations and prosecutions
- work health and safety (including electrical safety)
- aviation (including ATSB investigations and licensing)
- white collar crime
- coronial, corruption and commissions of inquiry
- weapons licensing



Laura Reece

Laura Reece was admitted to the Bar in 2006 and worked for almost ten years as an in-house barrister for Legal Aid Queensland, commencing at the private bar in 2017. She has appeared for accused persons in courts all over Queensland.

Laura is an experienced trial and appellate advocate and appears regularly in the superior courts. She has significant experience in youth justice matters and mental health law.

Laura has long been involved in policy work and law reform, and is the Deputy Chair of the Criminal Law committee and a member of the Human Rights committee of the Bar Association.

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.

John Thynne



Rachel Tierney

Rachel practises in criminal, domestic violence and disciplinary matters across Queensland. She has considerable experience in domestic violence matters, where she assists clients in both bringing domestic violence applications for their protection and defending against them. She also assists clients with criminal charges arising from domestic violence-related matters. Rachel has complex trial experience and represents clients in all aspects of criminal law with particular expertise in sexual offences and misconduct related charges brought against members of the public service.



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.

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Joe Wicking

Joe is a dedicated and experienced criminal and traffic lawyer. He is an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law (Qld) and practices exclusively in this area. Joe is a member of the Queensland Law Society's Criminal Law Committee. He has also been recognised as one of Queensland's Leading Criminal & Traffic Lawyers by DoYLES Guide for a number of years.

Joe routinely appears before the Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts in Queensland and is a proficient advocate that aims to achieve the best results for his clients across a wide range of matters. Joe has been involved in several trials which have involved DNA and engaging experts to assist in deciphering what is often a complex issue in trials. In addition to a busy practice Joe is active in mentoring other lawyers who practice in Criminal and Traffic Law.
