Queensland Law Society

SPECIALIST PRACTICE CONFERENCE 26

7-9 OCTOBER 2026 • BRISBANE

Program – Criminal 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

Magistrates Court criminal procedure reforms: Where are we now?

A major reform of Queensland's criminal procedure is well underway. Join the Honourable Michael Shanahan AM, Independent Reviewer; Eryn Voevodin, Senior Director of the Criminal Procedure Review Team; and Kristy Bell, member of the Criminal Law Committee, for an update on the progress, developing the new Criminal Procedure (Magistrates Court) Bill to ultimately replace and repeal the Justices Act 1886 and what practitioners can expect as the reforms move towards public consultation.

The panel will explore the purpose of the reforms, the consultation process, and consider the practical implications for criminal law practitioners.

Presenters:

Judge Michael Shanahan AM, Retired Judge, District Court

Eryn Voevodin, Executive Director, Criminal Procedure Review Team

Kristy Bell, Director, Bell Criminal Lawyers

Facilitator: **Binari De Saram**, Director, Advocacy and Legal Policy, Queensland Law Society

SL

1hr

The Youth Crime update

Youth justice is changing fast. In this session, experienced criminal practitioners and members of the judiciary break down the latest legal updates, policy shifts, and sentencing trends.

Presenters:

Judge Deb Richards, President of the Children's Court

Laura Reece KC, Barrister Queensland Bar

Carolyn Juratowitch, Principal Lawyer, Hubb Community

Facilitator: **Katherine Hayes**, CEO, Youth Advocacy Centre



1hr

Disclosure & costs in the Magistrates Court

This presentation examines recurring disclosure issues with criminal proceedings in the Magistrates Court, with a focus on delayed, incomplete and staged disclosure by prosecuting agencies. It considers the practical consequences of disclosure failures for case preparation, forensic decision-making, plea negotiations and trial readiness. The presentation will also address the remedies available where disclosure is delayed or deficient, including adjournments, directions, and costs applications. The focus is practical: identifying disclosure problems early, preserving the record, and choosing the remedy that best advances your client's position.

Presenter:

Joe Wicking, Director, Bamberry Lawyers; Accredited Specialist (Criminal Law) - Qld

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



1hr

Use of DNA evidence in the QLD criminal justice system: a 30-year overview

Three of Queensland's leading DNA experts Mr Ron Behlau, Dr Kirsty Wright and Ms Lynne Weathered will hold a panel discussion moderated by Mr Jason Murakami answering questions provided by the attendee members about:

- The use of DNA in the QLD criminal justice system.
- Status of DNA testing in Qld since the Commission of Inquiries into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland.
- The legal profession's place in the new system.

Presenters:

Ron Behlau, Partner, Behlau Murakami Grant

Dr Kirsty Wright, Forensic Biologist

Lynne Weathered, Co-founder and Director of the Griffith University Innocence Project

Facilitator: **Jason Murakami**, Legal Practice Director, Behlau Murakami Grant

1hr

The path to sentence: A multidisciplinary approach to internet based sexual violence offending

This session provides guidance on strategic, early sentence preparation for internet-based sexual violence offences under Commonwealth and State jurisdictions. It advocates a multidisciplinary approach involving solicitors, counsel and forensic psychologists to support rehabilitation, mitigate risk and assist in shaping sentencing outcomes. This session brings together forensic psychologists, solicitor and counsel to explore practical strategies for preparing criminal matters for sentence from the earliest stages. The discussion will focus on identifying opportunities for psychological assessment, making effective referrals, engaging clients in treatment and rehabilitation, and obtaining expert evidence that addresses key sentencing considerations. The panel will provide guidance on working ethically and effectively with treating and forensic experts, the role of treatment and risk management in mitigation, and the practical steps solicitors and counsel can take to ensure matters are properly prepared for sentence.

Presenters:

Paula Morreau KC, Barrister, Queensland Bar

Nick Smith, Forensic Psychologist, Robertson O'Gorman

Farah Yusuf, Forensic Physchologist, Robertson O'Gorman

Facilitator: **Jaimee-Lee Jessop**, Senior Associate, Robertson O'Gorman

Presenters



Ron Behlau

Ron Behlau is a Partner of Behlau Murakami Grant, Adjunct Professor of Law at Griffith University and member of the QLS First Nations Consulting Committee. He was previously the Co-Director of the Griffith University Innocence Project and the inaugural Treasurer of the Law and Justice Institute (Qld) serving under its patron, Peter Callaghan SC (as His Honour was then).

Ron, alongside co-founders of the Griffith University Innocence Project, Lynne Weathered and Jason Murakami established Australia's first DNA guidelines for post-conviction testing in Queensland, which allowed for the re-testing of DNA evidence in a claim of wrongful conviction for murder.

Ron presented at the 2022 Queensland Law Society's Criminal Law Conference on DNA and chaired the 2023 session on the use of DNA in the criminal justice system alongside renowned DNA expert, Dr Helen Roebuck.

In 2025, he co-authored a submission to the Queensland Government which called for reforms to the use of DNA evidence in the Queensland criminal justice system following the 2022 and 2023 landmark Commissions of Inquiry.

His firm has a proud history of acting for people in need on a "pro-bono" basis, particularly if their convictions were reliant on DNA evidence.



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 Deputy 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.



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.



Binari De Saram

Binny De Saram GAICD is the Queensland Law Society's Director of Advocacy and Legal Policy, where she leads advocacy on behalf of the legal profession to promote good law and improve access to justice. She is responsible for coordinating the work of the Children's Law and Access to Justice and Pro Bono Law Legal Policy Committees and regularly represents the profession through written submissions, stakeholder engagement and appearances before Parliamentary committees.

Prior to joining the Queensland Law Society, Binny practised with MacGillivrays Solicitors and the Australian Government Solicitor. She currently serves as the QLS nominee on the University of Queensland Pro Bono Centre Advisory Board and the LawRight Management Committee. Her volunteer experience includes roles with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Open Society Justice Initiative in Cambodia, LawRight's Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic and the Australian Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Committee.

Binny is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Science from the University of Queensland, as well as a Master of Laws (Honours), specialising in international law and human rights, from the University of Melbourne.



Katherine Hayes

Katherine is the CEO of the Youth Advocacy Centre, a community legal centre that provides legal and social support for young people in Queensland.

Katherine joined YAC in 2022 with over 20 years of corporate law experience with a desire to make positive change in the community. Katherine has become a vocal advocate for the rights of children whose voices are often left out of the story.



Jaimee-Lee Jessop

Jaimee-Lee is a Senior Associate at Robertson O'Gorman practising in criminal law. In recognition of her expertise, she was awarded her Specialist Accreditation in Criminal Law by the Queensland Law Society in 2024.

Her work has been recognised through professional accolades, including being a finalist for Queensland Solicitor of the Year (Small Firm) at the 2025 Queensland Law Society Excellence in Law Awards, multiple Rising Star recognitions for Criminal Law in Doyle's Guide, and the national Lawyers Weekly 30 Under 30 Award in Criminal Law.

In addition to her advocacy work, Jaimee-Lee is committed to community service and the advancement of the legal profession. She contributes as a co author of a criminal law chapter in the Lawyers Practice Manual, published by Thomson Reuters. She has volunteered with the Caxton Community Legal Centre, providing pro bono legal assistance to vulnerable members of the community. She is an active member of the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland, serving on its Criminal Law Sub-Committee, and sits on the Queensland Law Society's Access to Justice and Pro Bono Law Committee, contributing to initiatives that promote equitable access to justice across Queensland.



Carolyn Juratowitch

Carolyn Juratowitch, Principal Lawyer, HUB Community Legal

Carolyn has over two decades of experience representing children and young people in youth justice, child protection, domestic violence, mental health and all sorts of other areas where children have had a legal problem (which has included unregistered births, changes of names, passport, citizenship and victim issues.) She is a member of the QLS, Children's Law Committee.

She started her legal career in a civil litigation practice in Brisbane before moving to NSW where she spent over a decade with the Children's Legal Service at the Legal Aid Commission of NSW. This included duty lawyer services, the youth hotline legal advice service, the Youth Drug & Alcohol Court and the Juvenile Justice Detention Centres Legal Visiting Service.

Since moving back to Queensland, she obtained a master's degree in criminology (just for fun!), before commencing work as a youth lawyer at HUB Community Legal (2013), with a short secondment to the Youth Advocacy Centre. Carolyn is the Principal Lawyer of HUB Community Legal, a generalist community legal centre based in the vibrant and diverse community of Inala. Carolyn is passionate about the need for holistic legal services to be provided to children and young people.



Callan Lloyd



Paula Morreau KC

Paula Morreau KC was called to the Bar in 2009 and took silk in 2024. She practices in criminal law, administrative law, professional regulation, discrimination, human rights, inquests and inquiries and defamation law.



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.



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 the current 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 KC

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.

Judge Deborah Richards

Judge Richards is a graduate of The University of Queensland—Bachelor of Laws (1986). Judge Richards began her legal career as a clerk at the Prosecutions Branch of the Crown Law Office (1979–1985) and the Director of Prosecutions Office (1985–86). Her Honour was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1985.

Following a period as a Crown prosecutor (1986–88) Judge Richards practised as a barrister in Brisbane from 1989 to 1994. During that period, her Honour was in-house counsel to the Policy and Legislation Division of the Department of Local Government (1988).

Judge Richards was a member of the Women's Electoral Lobby (1990–92) and official visitor to the Women's Prison from 1990 to 1994.

Her Honour was the Deputy Public Defender (1994–98) and Acting Public Defender (1998) at the Legal Aid Office. Her Honour lectured in Anti-Discrimination Law for the Bar Practice Course (1997–98). Judge Richards also served as a member of the Criminal Law Division Litigation Reform Commission (1995–96) and the Taskforce on Women and the Criminal Code (1998).

Her Honour was appointed a Judge of the District Court on 26 November 1998, initially working in Ipswich and managing the Ipswich and Toowoomba sittings before moving to Brisbane in December 2015. Her Honour was appointed President of the Childrens Court of Queensland on 1 January 2019.

In May 2022 her Honour was appointed to head the Commission of Inquiry into the Queensland Police Service responses into domestic and family violence. A report was delivered to Government on 14 November 2022



Michael Shanahan AM

Mr Michael Shanahan AM is a highly respected retired District Court judge with over four decades of experience

Admitted as a barrister in 1977, he held senior criminal justice roles including Public Defender for Queensland Legal Aid and principal editor of Carter's Criminal Law of Queensland prior to his appointment to the District Court of Queensland in 1999. He was also the President of the Children's Court of Queensland from 2011 to 2018. In recognition of his distinguished service to the judiciary and legal profession, Mr Shanahan was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2018.

In 2022, Mr Shanahan conducted the review of the Justices Act 1886, recommending a modern legislative framework for criminal procedure in Queensland's Magistrates Court. He continues to provide his expert guidance to the Department of Justice team developing the new legislation and chairs the Consultation Reference Group supporting this reform.



Nick Smith

Nick is a Forensic Psychologist and a Member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS), and a Fellow of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists, with more than 20 years of experience working with vulnerable individuals and offenders, both adult and adolescent.

Nick has extensive experience writing medico-legal reports and providing interventions with high-risk violent and sexual offenders. He has also established and maintains positive and productive relationships with many criminal law firms in Queensland.

Nick maintains high standards of ethics and outcomes in his work, and in addition to his forensic work he also has substantial clinical experience in the treatment of severe mood and anxiety disorders, psychosis, trauma, problematic sexual behaviours, impulse control issues, addictions, self-regulation deficits and personality disorders.



Eryn Voevodin

Ms Eryn Voevodin is an admitted solicitor with experience in the Queensland and Commonwealth government sector. After commencing her career in criminal legal practice, Eryn transitioned to criminal justice policy and legislative reform in the Department of Justice in 2009. She has led numerous complex reform projects, many involving significant modernisation agendas and matters of substantial public and community interest. Her career spans criminal law, strategic policy, legislative reform, governance, and organisational improvement, with a strong focus on delivering complex justice initiatives. Eryn is currently the Senior Director of the Department of Justice team developing new Magistrates Court criminal procedure legislation.



Lynne Weathered

Ms Lynne Weathered LLB (Hons), LLM.

Lynne is a Wrongful Conviction (Policy/Reform) Consultant to Behlau Murakami Grant and Adjunct Lecturer with Griffith Law School. She was the founding Executive Director of the Griffith University Innocence Project (July 2001 - October 2019) and a Board Member of the Project (November 2019 - November 2022). Lynne was also a Board member of the international Innocence Network (2004 - 2014) and the Inaugural Chair of the International Committee.



Joe Wicking

Joe Wicking is an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law (Qld) and criminal defence lawyer practising across Queensland. Admitted in 2010, he appears regularly in the Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts in criminal, traffic and investigative matters. His practice includes serious indictable offences, drug trafficking, fraud, violence, sexual offences, complex summary matters and regulatory proceedings.

Joe's work is defined by clear advice, careful preparation and practical judgment in high-pressure cases. He has a particular interest in criminal procedure, advocacy, professional standards and the day-to-day realities of defence practice.

As a presenter, Joe brings a direct and practical perspective to criminal law education. His focus is on the issues practitioners actually confront: identifying what matters, advising clients clearly, preparing matters properly and making sound forensic decisions in court and in conference.



Dr Kristy Wright

Dr Kirsty Wright is a Forensic Biologist who has worked in Major Crime, assisted in the 2002 Bali Bombings, led the international Thai Tsunami Victim Identification DNA Team, was Manager of the National DNA Database during the national expansion, has worked in academia for over ten years, and is a Squadron Leader in the Royal Australian Air Force.

She was in the 2012 Courier Mail's Top 50 Best and Brightest of Queensland, chosen in Australia's 100 Women of Influence and was a finalist in the Global Influence category. She was included in the 2015 Who's Who of Australian Women list, and received the Queensland Police Commissioner's Award 'for valuable contribution to the investigation into the murder of Daniel Morcombe'.

Kirsty was named The Australian newspaper's Australian of the Year for 2022 for her work on the Shandee Blackburn murder investigation which triggered two Commissions of Inquiry into Queensland DNA testing.



Farah Yusuf

As a facilitator of The New Way Program at Magnus Health, Farah is deeply committed to providing group intervention for sexual offending behaviour and intervening at a critical point in the justice system. She feels incredibly grateful that not only does she have a job that feels meaningful, but also one she absolutely loves doing. Farah was initially trained as a sexual offending programs facilitator whilst employed at Queensland Corrective Services for a number of years. Outside of her role at Magnus Health, she works in private practice and provides intervention to a diverse range of clients, including high-risk offenders managed under the Dangerous Prisoners Sexual Offenders Act (DPSOA).