

# 2026 NQLA CONFERENCE

TOWNSVILLE, 14 MAY - 16 MAY 2026

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NQLA

North Queensland  
Law Association

BOOK NOW: <https://www.trybooking.com/DJFMP>

4:30pm-  
5:00pm

**Delegate Registration** | The Ville Resort-Casino, Daintree Room

5:00pm-  
7:00pm

**Welcome Drinks** | ardo Rooftop bar

*After collecting your delegate registration package, head on up to Ardo Rooftop and enjoy some welcome drinks with your fellow delegates. The night is then yours- with multiple options for dining at various restaurants in the area.*

*Welcome Drinks tickets are included in your Conference Registration. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$44.00 (inc. GST) per person.*

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8:00am- **Delegate Registration** | The Ville Resort-Casino, Daintree Room

8:30am

\*For delegates who did not register on Thursday, 14 May 2026.

8:30am- **Conference Opening & Welcome to Country** | The Pavilions

Presenters:

**Wulgurukaba Walkabouts** | Traditional Owners

**Sarah Singh** | President, North Queensland Law Association

**Michael Brennan** | Director, SV Partners

**Peter Jolly** | President, Queensland Law Society

**Chief Justice Helen Bowskill** | Supreme Court of Queensland

9:15am- **PLENARY 1 | The Evolving Anti-Money Laundering Landscape in Australia** | The Pavilions

Presenter: **Matt Dunn** | Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Law Society

Chair: **Sarah Singh** | President, North Queensland Law Association

10:00am- **COMPULSORY CPD | Legal Ethics** | The Pavilions

Presenters: **Judge Dean Morzone KC** | District Court of Queensland

**Callum Copland** | Senior Associate, Jensen McConaghay

Chair: **Michael Murray** | Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers

Sponsored by:



*AI is transforming the legal profession, changing how lawyers research, draft, advise and manage matters. This session explores the opportunities that AI presents, alongside the ethical responsibilities that come with its use.*

11:00am **MORNING TEA** | The Ville Resort-Casino

-11:30am

11:30am- **COMMERCIAL LAW**

Sponsored by: **First Title**

**FAMILY LAW**

Sponsored by: **FLPA**

**LITIGATION & ADVOCACY**

Sponsored by: **31 Sturt Chambers**

Presenter: **Gary Lee**

Presenter: **James Bailey**

Presenter: **Claire Grant KC**

11:45am- **If, and only if – aspects of the law bearing upon unilateral contracts.**

Presenters:

**Michael Jonsson KC**  
Barrister-at-Law, Trinity Chambers

Chair:

**Mark Metzeling**  
Principal Solicitor, Macpherson Kelley

**Not a Mere Mouthpiece: Exercising Forensic Judgment in section 102NA matters**

Presenters:  
**Deanna Musumeci**  
Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers

Chair:

**Michael Murray**  
Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers  
Chair:  
**Rebecca Casanovas**  
Solicitor, Family Lawyers Mackay

**True Crime Podcasts: Help or Hinderance?**

Presenter:  
**William Mitchell OAM Hon LLD**  
Principal Solicitor, Townsville Community Law Inc.

Chair:  
**Jessica Hine**  
Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers

12:45pm- **Running an Oppression Claim: from pleading to buy out**

Presenter:

**William Evans**  
Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers

Chair:

**Michael Brennan**  
Director, SV Partners

**Division 2: Latest & Greatest**

Presenter:  
**Judge Corey Jenkins**  
Federal Circuit & Family Court of Australia (Division 2)

Chair:

**Kellie Mythen**  
Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers

**Beyond a Reasonable Doubt: where did it come from?**

Presenter:  
**Anthony Collins**  
Barrister-at-Law, Castle Hill Chambers

Chair:

**Nick Westcott**  
Osborne Butler Lawyers

1:45pm- LUNCH | The Ville Resort-Casino

2:30pm

2:30pm- **A few good workplace rights... a case involving the laws of general protection, discrimination and whistleblowers.**

Presenter:

**Keta Roseby**

Roseby Law

Chair:

**Lynette Lyons**

Associate, WGC Lawyers

**Court is not casual: the solemnity of Court & Section 102NA: An important provision but do you think it needs reform?**

Presenter:

**Justice Jacoba Brasch**

Federal Circuit and Family

Court of Australia

Chair:

**Judge Corey Jenkins**

Federal Circuit and Family

Court of Australia

**Can a Machine Think Like a Lawyer?**

Presenter:

**Dr Matt Collins AM KC**

Barrister-at-Law, Aickin Chambers

Chair:

**Michael Murray**

Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers

3:30pm- **COMPULSORY CPD | Practice Management Skills** | The Pavilions

4:30pm

**SOLICITOR**

**BARRISTER**

**“Big Little Lies”: an examination of the tips and traps in misleading and deceptive conduct cases under the ACL. Plus bonus chapter: ethical obligations of legal practitioners not to mislead or deceive Courts or colleagues**

Presenter:

**Marissa Martinez**

Barrister-at-Law, Paloma Chambers

Chair:

**Lynette Lyons**

Associate, WGC Lawyers

**Life at the Bar: The Good, the Hard and the Practical**

Presenters:

**Andrew Philp KC**

Barrister-at-Law, Trinity Chambers

**Claire Grant KC**

Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers

**Andrea Lawrence**

Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers

Chair:

**Michael Murray**

Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers

4:30pm-

Enjoy some leisure time to unwind or connect with colleagues

6:00pm-  
10:00pm

**Flinders Lane After Dark** | The Laneway, Flinders Lane Townsville City

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Lawyers**

*Step off the street and into Flinders Lane – a stylish Townsville venue with a modern, New Orleans vibe. It is the perfect location to unwind, relax and connect in a truly unique setting.*

*Cocktail attire. Buses will depart The Ville reception from 5:45pm, returning to the Ville from 9:45pm. Tickets are included in your Conference Registration. Additional tickets can be purchased for \$82.50 (inc. GST) per person.*



# SATURDAY, 16 MAY 2026

9:00am-

10:00am

## PLENARY 2 | A View from the High Court | The Pavilions

Presenter: **Justice Robert Beech-Jones** | High Court of Australia

Chair: **Chief Justice Helen Bowskill** | Supreme Court of Queensland

*In this session, Justice Beech-Jones will share insights from our nation's highest court, offering reflections on contemporary legal issues, the evolving role of the judiciary and trends shaping Australian law.*

### COMMERCIAL LAW

Sponsored by: **First Title**

10:00am-

11:00am

### Clubs, sports and schools: “Judicial Review” in domestic tribunals

Presenter:  
**Matthew Paterson**  
Barrister-at-Law, North Quarter Lane Chambers  
Chair:  
**Kate Bone**  
Principal Legal Counsel, Mackay Regional Council

### FAMILY LAW

Sponsored by: **FLPA**

### DV Applications and the ADF

Presenters:  
**Group Captain Scott Geeves**  
Deputy Chief Judge Advocate, Australian Defence Force  
**Major Nathan Smith**  
3rd Brigade, Legal Officer, Australian Army  
Chair:  
**Lorelei Billing**  
Solicitor, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd

### LITIGATION & ADVOCACY

Sponsored by: **31 Sturt Chambers**

### The rollercoaster of the Jury Trial: persuasion on the run

Presenters:  
**Saul Holt KC**  
Barrister-at-Law, 8PT Chambers  
**Matthew Jackson**  
Barrister-at-Law, 8PT Chambers  
Chair:  
**Jessica Shuttleworth**  
A/Senior Legal Officer, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution Queensland

11:00am-

## MORNING TEA | The Ville Resort-Casino

11:30am

11:30am-  
12:30pm

### Matters of life, death and Estate Planning

Presenters:  
**Paul Radford**  
Partner, Connolly Suthers  
**Nicole O'Bree**  
Partner, Connolly Suthers  
Chair:  
**Jessica Alexander**  
Associate, Macrossan & Amiet

### Practical issues in Family Law property proceedings

Presenter:  
**Philip Looney KC**  
Barrister-at-Law, French Quarter Chambers  
Chair:  
**Peter Finocchio**  
Director, Legal Funding Australia

### Speed Dating with the Chiefs

Presenters:  
**Chief Justice Helen Bowskill**  
Supreme Court of Queensland  
**Chief Judge Brian Devereaux SC**  
District Court of Queensland  
**Chief Magistrate Janelle Brassington**  
Magistrates Court of Queensland  
Chair:  
**Andrew Philp KC**  
Barrister-at-Law, Trinity Chambers

12:30pm-  
1:30pm

### A perspective on contemporary commercial law

Presenter:  
**Justice Christopher Johnstone**  
Supreme Court of Queensland  
Chair:  
**Sarah Singh**  
President, North Queensland Law Association

### Joint decision-making and the death of week about?

Presenter:  
**Alex Raeburn**  
North Queensland Family Law Chambers  
**Renae Stocks**  
North Queensland Family Law Chambers  
Chair:  
**Kelly Whitten**  
Senior Associate, WGC Lawyers

### Committal Hearings – the do's, don'ts and whys

Presenter:  
**Rémy Kurz**  
Barrister-at-Law, 8PT Chambers  
Chair:  
**Magistrate Bronwyn Hartigan**  
Magistrates Court of Queensland

1:30pm- **LUNCH** | The Ville Resort-Casino

2:30pm

2:00pm- **2026 NQLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** | Pavilion 1, The Ville Resort-Casino

2:30pm

2:30pm- **COMPULSORY CPD | Professional Skills | Barrister Stream + Solicitor Stream** |

3:30pm The Pavilions

### **Avoiding Burn Out in Legal Practice**

Presenters: **Matt Heelan** | Barrister-at-Law, Brisbane Chambers

**Dr Tania Rose** | Consultant Psychiatrist

Chair: **Danielle Woodward** | Senior Associate,  
Wallace & Wallace Lawyers

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*The legal profession is demanding, fast-paced and increasingly high-pressure, making burnout a growing risk for practitioners at every stage of their career. This session explores the practical causes of burnout in legal practice, how to recognise the early warning signs and realistic strategies to manage workload, stress and professional expectations.*

3:30pm- **Closing Remarks** | The Pavilions

3:45pm Presenter: **Sarah Singh** | President, North Queensland Law Association

3:45pm- 6:00pm *Enjoy some leisure time to unwind or connect with colleagues before our closing event.*

6:00pm- **Gala Dinner** | The Pavilions @ The Ville Resort-Casino

11:00pm *The learning is over – now let the fun begin! While you get glammed up, the Pavilions will be transformed, ready for an unforgettable evening. This event will be the social highlight of the conference calendar - an evening to unwind, connect and celebrate the legal profession.*

#### **Black Tie dress code.**

*Tickets to this event must be purchased separately for \$198.00 (inc. GST) per person.*

Sponsored by:



# CONFERENCE TICKETS

(all ticket prices include GST + \$0.50 trybooking fee)

**Member standard** \$1,100.00

*Registration includes NQLA membership, Conference proper, "Welcome Drinks" and "Flinders Lane After Dark"*

**Corporate Package** | Three (3) transferable delegate tickets \$2,970.00

*Registration includes NQLA membership, Conference proper, "Welcome Drinks" and "Flinders Lane After Dark"*

**One Day Registration** | One day registration (standard) \$550.00

*Registration includes one day at the NQLA Conference as selected by the delegate and entry to "Welcome Drinks" (if attending Friday) or "Flinders Lane After Dark" (if attending Saturday)*

**Junior Practitioner Registration** \$880.00

*Available to practitioners who have three years or less PAE.*

*Registration includes NQLA membership, entry to the Conference proper, "Welcome Drinks" and "Flinders Lane After Dark"*

**Student Registration** | One day registration (student) \$330.00

*Available to law students. Registration includes one day at the NQLA Conference as selected by the delegate and entry to "Welcome Drinks" (if attending Friday) or "Flinders Lane After Dark" (if attending Saturday)*

# SIGNATURE SOCIAL EVENT TICKETS

(all ticket prices include GST + \$0.50 trybooking fee)

## Thursday Night – Welcome Drinks | additional tickets (each)

\$44.00

*Included in Conference registration*

*Thanks to:*

Explore.  
*Property*

A traditional start to the SV Partners 2026 NQLA Conference. Welcome drinks will be held at Ardo Rooftop, Ardo Hotel, a short stroll from the Ville. Drinks and canapes provided (and it's all included in your delegate registration)! Come up, say hello, and have a well-deserved cold one, with an incredible view of the sunset! Then it's a night at leisure, with plentiful dinner options, so make sure you book early to secure a table!

**Dress:** Smart Casual

## Friday Night – Flinders Lane After Dark | additional tickets (each)

\$82.50

*Included in Conference registration.*

*Thanks to:*

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Lawyers

Step off the street and into Flinders Lane – a stylish Townsville venue with a modern, New Orleans vibe. It is the perfect location to unwind, relax and connect in a truly unique setting.

Buses will depart The Ville reception from 5:45pm, returning to the Ville from 9:45pm. Tickets are included in your Conference Registration.

**Dress:** Cocktail

## Saturday Night – Gala Dinner | tickets (each)

\$198.00

***Tickets must be purchased separately***

The learning is over – now let the fun begin! While you get glammed up, the Pavilions will be transformed, ready for an unforgettable evening. This event will be the social highlight of the conference calendar - an evening to unwind, connect and celebrate the legal profession.

**Dress:** Black Tie

*Thanks to:*



**MDLA**

**FNQLA**  
Far North Queensland  
Law Association

# SPEAKERS

<b>Judiciary</b>	<b>Justice Robert Beech-Jones</b> High Court of Australia	<b>Chief Justice Helen Bowskill</b> Supreme Court of Queensland	<b>Justice Jacoba Brasch</b> Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Div 1)
	<b>Justice Christopher Johnstone</b> Supreme Court of Queensland	<b>Chief Judge Brian Devereaux SC</b> District Court of Queensland	<b>Judge Dean Morzone KC</b> District Court of Queensland
	<b>Chief Magistrate Janelle Brassington</b> Magistrates Court of Queensland	<b>Judge Corey Jenkins</b> Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Div 2)	<b>GPCAPT Scott Geeves</b> Deputy Chief Judge Advocate, Australian Defence Force
<b>Barristers</b>	<b>Andrew Philp KC</b> Barrister-at-Law, Trinity Chambers	<b>Dr Matt Collins AM KC</b> Barrister-at-Law, Aickin Chambers	<b>Saul Holt KC</b> Barrister-at-Law, 8 Petrie Terrace Chambers
	<b>Philip Looney KC</b> Barrister-at-Law, French Quarter Chambers	<b>Michael Jonsson KC</b> Barrister-at-Law, Trinity Chambers	<b>Claire Grant KC</b> Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers
	<b>Anthony Collins</b> Barrister-at-Law, Castle Hill Chambers	<b>Andrea Lawrence</b> Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers	<b>Merissa Martinez</b> Barrister-at-Law, Paloma Chambers
	<b>Alex Raeburn</b> Barrister-at-Law, North Queensland Family Law Chambers	<b>Matt Heelan</b> Barrister-at-Law, Brisbane Chambers	<b>Matthew Jackson</b> Barrister-at-Law, 8 Petrie Terrace Chambers
	<b>Renae Stocks</b> Barrister-at-Law, North Queensland Family Law Chambers	<b>Deanna Musumeci</b> Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers	<b>William Evans</b> Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers
	<b>Rémy Kurz</b> Barrister-at-Law, 8 Petrie Terrace Chambers	<b>Matthew Paterson</b> Barrister-at-Law, North Quarter Lane Chambers	<b>Michael Murray</b> Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt Chambers
<b>Solicitors</b>	<b>William Mitchell OAM Hon LLD</b> Principal Solicitor, Townsville Community Law Inc.	<b>Michael Brennan</b> Director, SV Partners – Townsville	<b>Paul Radford</b> Partner, Connolly Suthers
	<b>Nicole O'Bree</b> Partner, Connolly Suthers	<b>Keta Roseby</b> Director, Roseby Law	<b>Major Nathan Smith</b> 3rd Brigade Legal Officer, Australian Defence Force
	<b>Callum Copland</b> Senior Associate, Jensen McConaghy		
<b>Key Note Speakers</b>	<b>Matthew Dunn</b> CEO, Queensland Law Society	<b>Peter Jolly</b> President, Queensland Law Society	<b>Dr Tania Rose</b> Consultant Psychiatrist

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## PLENARY SPONSORS



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**WANT TO GET INVOLVED?**

2027 conference planning is under way! Contact us to register your interest for sponsorship and speaking opportunities:

 [secretary@nqla.com.au](mailto:secretary@nqla.com.au)



## ACCOMMODATION



The NQLA has been able to secure 10% off the best available rate at The Ville Resort-Casino and Ardo Hotel across 14, 15 and 16 May 2026.

To take advantage of this discount, contact the Reservations Team on (07) 4722 2333 or email [TSVL.reservations@the-ville.com.au](mailto:TSVL.reservations@the-ville.com.au) and quote "NQLA2026"

## DINING OPTIONS

### ARDO ROOFTOP

A place where the rhythm of the sun rules, and the rules don't matter. Refreshments on repeat with views to the horizon that just won't end.

### TERASU

照らす

With the bright lights of Tokyo as Terasu's muse, they've created a lively take on casual Japanese dining that packs a punch.

M A R M O R

A union of land and sea, where ocean meets pasture in elevated Australian dining.

### QUARTERDECK TOWNSVILLE QUEENSLAND

Alfresco, casual dining by day. Playground by night. Welcome to Quarterdeck: Restaurant. Bar. Icon. Serving cocktails + dreams + good times with some of the best views of Magnetic Island Townsville has to offer.

### The PALM HOUSE

Experience the unexpected delights of contemporary buffet dining in Townsville, with breakfast and dinner in casual resort comfort at The Palm House. Featuring live cooking stations, a show kitchen, and an eclectic selection of cuisine borrowing inspiration from across the globe, this is a buffet revival.

### Spin<sup>CAFE</sup>

Retreat to the comforting classics at Spin Café: the perfect place to unwind and catch up for a chit chat over some coffee and cake, a light meal, or a full on feed.





North Queensland  
Law Association