

# 2026 NQLA CONFERENCE

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TOWNSVILLE, 14 MAY - 16 MAY 2026

10 CPD  
POINTS

PRACTICAL LEGAL ETHICS  
PROFESSIONAL SKILLS  
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS SKILLS

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Law Society®

 BAR ASSOCIATION  
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 North Queensland  
Law Association

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THURSDAY, 14 MAY 2026

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

9:15am 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

10:00am Presenter: **Matt Dunn** | Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Law Society  
 Chair: **Sarah Singh** | President, North Queensland Law Association  
*Australia's evolving AML legislation will introduce new regulatory expectations for legal practitioners. This session cuts through the noise to explain what's changing, who is affected and how to implement compliant systems without disrupting your practice.*



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

11:00am Presenters: **Judge Dean Morzone KC** | District Court of Queensland  
**Callum Copland** | Senior Associate, Jensen McConaghy  
 Chair: **Katherine Graff** | Principal Librarian, Supreme Court Library Queensland  
*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.*

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

-11:30am

11:30am- **COMMERCIAL LAW**

11:45am Sponsored by: [First Title](#)

Presenter: **Gary Lee**

**FAMILY LAW**

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Presenter: **James Bailey**

**LITIGATION & ADVOCACY**

Sponsored by: [31 Sturt Chambers](#)

Presenter: **Justin Greggery KC**

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

12:45pm Presenters:  
**Michael Jonsson KC**  
 Barrister-at-Law, Trinity Chambers  
**Sean Kelly**  
 Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt 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  
**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-1:45pm** **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:  
**Senior Judicial Registrar Kerrie Stuart**  
Federal Circuit & Family Court of Australia (Division 2)  
**Senior Judicial Registrar Shaune Williams**  
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-2:30pm** **LUNCH | The Ville Resort-Casino**

**2:30pm-3:30pm** **A few good workplace rights... a case involving the laws of general protection, discrimination and whistleblowers.**

Presenter:  
**Keta Roseby**  
Director, Roseby Law  
**Andrew Kaye**  
Solicitor, 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-4:30pm** **COMPULSORY CPD | Practice Management Skills | The Pavilions**

**SOLICITOR**

***“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:  
**Merissa Martinez**  
Barrister-at-Law, Paloma Chambers  
Chair:  
**Lynette Lyons**  
Associate, WGC Lawyers

**BARRISTER**

**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

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**Legal**  
**READY**

4:30pm-  
5:00pm

**AN UPDATE FROM THE QUEENSLAND LAW REFORM COMMISSION** | The Pavilions

Presenter: **Fleur Kingham** | Chair of the Queensland Law Reform Commission  
Chair: **Jessica Alexander** | Associate, Macrossan & Amiet

*50 years after the Evidence Act 1977 commenced, the Queensland Law Reform Commission will deliver its report on evidence law in Queensland and provide draft legislation to give effect to its recommendations. The Chair, Fleur Kingham, will explain the scope of the review and place the key issues in a historical and comparative context. She will outline the Commission's approach to the review and invite your input to a timely review of this fundamental justice infrastructure.*

5:00pm-  
6:00pm

*Enjoy some leisure time to unwind or connect with colleagues*

6:00pm-  
10:00pm

**Flinders Lane After Dark** | The Manhattan Room, Flinders Lane

*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

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**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.*

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**10:00am-11:00am**

**Clubs, sports and schools: “Judicial Review” in domestic tribunals**  
 Presenter:  
**Matthew Paterson**  
 Barrister-at-Law, North Quarter Lane Chambers  
 Chair:  
**Lynette Lyons**  
 Associate, WGC Lawyers

**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

**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**

**11:00am-11:30am**

**MORNING TEA |** The Ville Resort-Casino

**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

**The “Balance Sheet” - nature and current issues**  
 Presenters:  
**Philip Looney KC**  
 Barrister-at-Law, French Quarter Chambers  
**Kellie Mythen**  
 Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt 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 court practice**  
 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  
**Rena Stock**  
 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, 8 Petrie Terrace Chambers  
 Chair:  
**Magistrate Bronwyn Hartigan**  
 Magistrates Court of Queensland

1:30pm-  
2:30pm

LUNCH | The Ville Resort-Casino

2:00pm-  
2:30pm

2026 NQLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | Pavilion 1, The Ville Resort-Casino

2:30pm-  
3:30pm

COMPULSORY CPD | Professional Skills | Barrister Stream + Solicitor Stream |  
The Pavilions

Sponsored by:

### Avoiding Burn Out in Legal Practice

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

**Dr Tania Rose** | Consultant Psychiatrist

Chair: **Commissioner Megan Mahon** | Legal Services Commission



*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-  
3:45pm

Closing Remarks | The Pavilions

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-  
11:00pm

Gala Dinner | The Pavilions @ The Ville Resort-Casino

*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.

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# 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)*



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 North Queensland Law Association

# 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:*

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!

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**Dress:** Smart Casual

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

\$82.50

*Included in Conference registration.*

*Thanks to:*

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.

Splatt  
Lawyers

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:*



MACKAY DISTRICT  
LAW ASSOCIATION

# SPEAKERS

## Judiciary

**Justice Robert Beech-Jones**  
High Court of Australia

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

**Justice Jacoba Brasch**  
Federal Circuit and Family  
Court of Australia (Div 1)

**Justice Christopher Johnstone**  
Supreme Court of Queensland

**Chief Judge Brian Devereaux SC**  
District Court of Queensland

**Judge Dean Morzone KC**  
District Court of Queensland

**Chief Magistrate Janelle  
Brassington**  
Magistrates Court of Queensland

**Judge Corey Jenkins**  
Federal Circuit and Family Court  
of Australia (Div 2)

**Senior Judicial Registrar  
Kerrie Stuart**  
Federal Circuit and Family  
Court of Australia (Div 2)

**Senior Judicial Registrar Shaune  
Williams**  
Federal Circuit and Family Court  
of Australia (Div 2)

**Fleur Kingham**  
Former President of the Land  
Court of Queensland, chair of  
the Queensland Law Reform  
Commission

**GPCAPT Scott Geeves**  
Deputy Chief Judge  
Advocate, Australian  
Defence Force

## Barristers

**Andrew Philp KC**  
Barrister-at-Law, Trinity  
Chambers

**Dr Matt Collins AM KC**  
Barrister-at-Law, Aickin  
Chambers

**Saul Holt KC**  
Barrister-at-Law, 8 Petrie  
Terrace Chambers

**Philip Looney KC**  
Barrister-at-Law, French Quarter  
Chambers

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

**Claire Grant KC**  
Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt  
Chambers

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

**Andrea Lawrence**  
Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt  
Chambers

**Merissa Martinez**  
Barrister-at-Law, Paloma  
Chambers

**Sean Kelly**  
Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt  
Chambers

**Alex Raeburn**  
Barrister-at-Law, North  
Queensland Family Law  
Chambers

**Matt Heelan**  
Barrister-at-Law, Brisbane  
Chambers

**Matthew Jackson**  
Barrister-at-Law, 8 Petrie Terrace  
Chambers

**Renaë Stocks**  
Barrister-at-Law, North  
Queensland Family Law  
Chambers

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

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

**Rémy Kurz**  
Barrister-at-Law, 8 Petrie  
Terrace Chambers

**Matthew Paterson**  
Barrister-at-Law, North  
Quarter Lane Chambers

**Michael Murray**  
Barrister-at-Law, 31 Sturt  
Chambers

## Solicitors

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

**Michael Brennan**  
Director, SV Partners –  
Townsville

**Paul Radford**  
Partner, Connolly Suthers

**Nicole O'Bree**  
Partner, Connolly Suthers

**Keta Roseby**  
Director, Roseby Law

**Major Nathan Smith**  
3rd Brigade Legal Officer,  
Australian Defence Force

**Andrew Kaye**  
Solicitor, Roseby Law

**Callum Copland**  
Senior Associate, Jensen  
McConaghy

## Key Note Speakers

**Matthew Dunn**  
CEO, Queensland Law Society

**Peter Jolly**  
President, Queensland Law  
Society

**Dr Tania Rose**  
Consultant Psychiatrist

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## VEHICLE EXHIBITOR

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Townsville BMW



## 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



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.



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



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



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.



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.



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.

## 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)



