



ASSOCIATION OF
FAMILY AND
CONCILIATION COURTS

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
AUGUST 13 -15, 2015



BUILDING BRIDGES

A Multidisciplinary Approach
to Family Law



AFCC Australian Chapter is an interdisciplinary, international association of professionals dedicated to improving the lives of children and families through the resolution of family conflict.

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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

PRE CONFERENCE THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2015

FROM 8.45 AM
REGISTRATION
GROUND LEVEL

9.00 AM - 4.00 PM FULL DAY
12.30 PM - 4.00 PM HALF DAY
PRE CONFERENCE INSTITUTES
LEVEL 3

6.00 PM - 12.00 AM
HOSPITALITY SUITE
(SUPPORTED BY PRINCIPAL SPONSORS)
GROUND LEVEL

DAY 1 FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2015

FROM 8.30 AM
REGISTRATION
GROUND LEVEL

8.45 - 9.00 AM
WELCOME
BY PRESIDENT OF THE
AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER, AFCC
GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

9.00 AM - 9.30 AM
OPENING
BY AFCC PRESIDENT
GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

9.30 AM - 10.30 AM
PLENARY 1
GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

MORNING BREAK
10.30 AM - 11.00 AM

11.00 AM - 12.30 PM
PLENARY 2
GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

LUNCH BREAK
12.30 PM - 1.30 PM

1.30 AM - 3.00 PM
WORKSHOPS 1 - 4
LEVEL 3

AFTERNOON BREAK
3.00 PM - 3.30 PM

3.30 PM - 5.00 PM
WORKSHOPS 5 - 8
LEVEL 3

6.00 PM - 12.00 AM
HOSPITALITY SUITE
(SUPPORTED BY PRINCIPAL SPONSORS)
GROUND LEVEL

DAY 2 SATURDAY 15 AUGUST 2015

8.00 AM - 9.00 AM
AFCC AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER
BOARD MEETING
ESSEX ROOM LEVEL 3

9.00 AM - 10.30 AM
PLENARY 3
GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

MORNING BREAK
10.30 AM - 11.00 AM

11.00 AM - 12.30 PM
PLENARY 4
GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

12.30 PM - 12.45 PM
AGM
AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER AFCC
GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

LUNCH BREAK
12.30 PM - 1.30 PM

1.30 PM - 3.00 PM
WORKSHOPS 9 - 13

AFTERNOON BREAK
3.00 PM - 3.30 PM

3.30 PM - 5.00 PM
WORKSHOPS 14 - 17

5.00 PM
CONFERENCE CLOSE

*To register, go to
www.afccnet.org.au*



PRE CONFERENCE THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 2015

PRE CONFERENCE INSTITUTES DIRECT AND CROSS EXAMINATION OF EXPERTS

- Dr Phil Stahl and Dr Robert Simon

This intensive all-day program will focus on critical issues in the direct and cross-examination of experts, both in trial and in depositions. Many experts are reluctant to testify, fearing that the lawyers will be difficult. Many attorneys aren't sure about some of the psychological issues in the case and tread much too lightly on the expert. Presenters will explore the differences in therapeutic and forensic roles and how those differences play out in trial settings. Participants will learn how to demonstrate whether a mental health professional has adhered to requirements in statutes and professionally accepted best practices. This institute will help enhance the skills of attorneys and experts alike, addressing the following topics:

- Various expert roles and how to treat them differently in court .
- Unique issues when examining the court-appointed expert.
- The importance of your case theory - it guides the questions you'll be asking.
- Critical Issues when conducting the deposition of an expert.
- Critical issues when conducting the direct testimony of an expert in court.

LEVEL 3

THE PRACTICE OF PARENTING COORDINATION

- Ms Susan Boyan

Ms Susan Boyan is the co-founder and director of the Cooperative Parenting Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. She has co-authored several books and trains internationally on Collaborative Multi-disciplinary Process and Parenting Coordination.

LEVEL 3

PSYCHO-BABBLE TO ENGLISH EXPLANATION

- Dr Phil Watts

Family Court lawyers need to deal with psychologists, psychiatrists and mental health workers who have a language which allows communication between themselves but often baffles and confuses the lawyers. This workshop provides a simple framework to consider mental health. Dr Phil Watts helps to explain the differences between personality disorders, mental illness, emotional illness, and day to day coping issues. It then allows some consideration of what the terms mean and how a lawyer might ask questions to get to the risk issues. There is also a provision to ask questions which you may have about mental health issues.

LEVEL 3

6.00 PM - 12.00 AM
HOSPITALITY SUITE
(SUPPORTED BY PRINCIPAL SPONSORS)
GROUND LEVEL

DAY 1 FRIDAY 14 AUGUST 2015

8.45AM - 9.00 AM WELCOME BY PRESIDENT AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER AFCC

- Chief Justice Diana Bryant, AO

GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

9.00 AM - 9.30 AM OPENING AFCC STRATEGY AND CURRENT PROJECTS/ TASKFORCES WHICH DEAL WITH CURRENT FAMILY LAW ISSUES

- Judge Peter Boshier - President of AFCC and former Principal Family Court Judge of New Zealand.

GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

9.30 AM - 10.30 AM PLENARY 1 THE FUTURE OF FAMILY LAW

- Chair- Justice Steven Strickland
- Chief Justice Diana Bryant, AO
- Chief Judge John Pascoe, AO, CVO

GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

MORNING BREAK 10.30 AM - 11.00 AM

11.00 AM - 12.30 PM PLENARY 2 THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF PARENTAL ABDUCTION

- Chair- Justice Steven Strickland
- Professor Marilyn Freeman-B.A.
(Hons) LL.M, Ph.D, Barrister

GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

LUNCH BREAK

12.30 PM - 1.30 PM

1.30 PM - 3.00 PM

WORKSHOP 1

MODERN FAMILIES. LEGAL, FORENSIC AND TREATMENT APPROACHES IN SAME SEX-FAMILIES

- Chair - Dr Andrew Bikerdike
- Dr Catherine Boland

Same sex couples have been forming families for many years and will continue to do so in a variety of ways, including: IVF procedures using a known or unknown donor, "at home insemination" using known donors; co-parenting with a known donor and his partner, surrogacy arrangements and other individual arrangements. Frequently the family structure involves more than 2 adults. In addition, individual expectations about parental roles and responsibility are different (between the adults) or change over time and practical and ideological tensions can arise. When these families come into contact with the family court system a number of unique factors can impact on the experience of children and parents.

This workshop is designed to help mental health professionals, family report writers and lawyers develop an understanding of the specific factors to consider in same-sex families.

The workshop will cover:

Empirical literature on children's experiences in same sex families;

Children's experience of family breakdown in same sex families;

Assessment of children's attachment relationships and identity formation in same-sex families;

Factors to consider in determining children's living arrangements.

CAMBRIDGE LEVEL 3

WORKSHOP 2

THE CHILD'S PARENTS ARE IN COURT. DOES IT MATTER? PSYCHOLOGISTS AND FAMILY LAW'

- Chair - Dr Simon Kennedy
- Justice Margaret Cleary
- Mr Vincent Papaleo

This is a combined presentation by Margaret Cleary, Justice of the Family Court of Australia, and Vincent Papaleo, clinical psychologist practising in Melbourne.

Very often in the complex matters which go to a full contested final hearing in the Family Court there is evidence of children being taken by a parent to consult with a psychologist in the high conflict which must inevitably be the case for a matter to go so far. Children are of course adversely affected emotionally.

The presenters are united in the view that the fact of a child's family being engaged in litigation is a matter

which requires special consideration by a treating psychologist. Psychologists are regularly asked to provide reports, swear affidavits and come to court to give evidence. The experience is not always a positive one for the psychologist, the court and one or both of the parents. The perspective from the psychologist's point of view and from the bench is presented and discussed.

GRAND BALLROOM 1 BASEMENT LEVEL

WORKSHOP 3

THE ETHICAL ISSUES THAT ARISE IN THE "MULTI-DISCIPLINARY" APPROACH

- Chair - Mr Phil Trudinger
- Mr Peter Cummings SC

Peter was admitted to practice in 1984 and became a partner in Thomas Laycock Solicitors in Newcastle where he conducted a wide range of cases for a substantial client base including banks and insurance companies. In 1993 he completed mediation training and has continuously practiced as a mediator, becoming accredited under the National Standard upon its inception in 2010. In 1994 he became an accredited specialist in Commercial Litigation. In 1996 he was admitted to the Bar and took silk in 2013. He has chambers in both Newcastle and Sydney and has a wide practice appears primarily in state courts in common law civil trials and appeals, and in the Family Court. He is the current president of the Newcastle Bar Associations.

GRAND BALLROOM 2 BASEMENT LEVEL

WORKSHOP 4

SAFETY IN A DIGITAL WORLD

- Chair - Dr David List
- Associate Professor Karen Marsh Team Leader Domestic and Family Violence Services Centacare

Karen has a background in psychology and social science counselling/mediation. Over the last 15 years' Karen has worked in direct practice, with children and families in the area of domestic violence/ sexual assault, and men's change behaviour program. In her role as Team Leader and Senior Practitioner, Karen has facilitated effective operations of the domestic violence court support practice across five regional courts, and undertaken education to key community stakeholders and schools within the region, to facilitate and share specialist knowledge and promote a coordinated community response to domestic and family violence. During this presentation, Karen will be exploring the dangers of technology misuse, identifying areas of internet abuse and safety planning. During this presentation, the dangers of technology misuse will be explored, identifying areas of internet abuse and safety planning.

ESSEX ROOM LEVEL 3

AFTERNOON BREAK 3.00 PM – 3.30 PM

3.30 PM – 5.00 PM

WORKSHOP 5

EXPLORING THE INTERVIEWING OF CHILDREN FOR FAMILY LAW PURPOSES

- Chair - Ms Elizabeth Picker
- Ms Katrine Tuoroy-Smith

Child interviews are a central part of assessments and reports provided to courts for contested children's matters and affect many families. However there appears to be limited published work on how children are interviewed and the challenges associated with interviewing children for family law purposes, particularly in the Australian context. This study interviewed participants with knowledge about family law and/or child development from a variety of disciplines (e.g. law, psychology, social work) about the interviewing of children for family law purposes. Through semi-structured interviews, the study explored (a) how children are being interviewed in family law matters, (b) whether there are any issues or challenges present in relation to the interviewing of children, and (c) what future research concerning child interviews could be helpful to professionals within family law. The results from these interviews will be presented.

ESSEX ROOM LEVEL 3

WORKSHOP 6

THE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS IN DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS FROM FAMILY LAW LITIGANTS

- Chair - Ms Julie Jackson
- Justice Simon Moncrieff
- Dr Jennifer Neoh
- Dr Simon Kennedy
- Mr Neil Wareham Lawyer FCoA

Psychologists who work in family law, including those involved in making family assessments and report writing and those who provide therapy, are frequently subject to complaints to their professional body, more so than psychologists from any other type of psychological practice. This panel explores the complexities and dilemmas facing psychologists subject to complaints from family law litigants, some insights from legal perspectives and discussion about some innovative approaches.

GRAND BALLROOM 1 BASEMENT LEVEL

WORKSHOP 7

HOW AND WHEN TO USE SHADOW EXPERTS IN YOUR CHILD CUSTODY CASES

- Chair – Chief Justice Diana Bryant, AO
- Dr Robert Simon
- Dr Phil Stahl

For the most part, wide discretion is given to court-appointed experts when conducting evaluations and making recommendations. But, they don't always get it right and don't always explain themselves well. Oftentimes, they don't use a best practice approach, and other times, they simply don't meet minimal standards of practices. This workshop introduces the concept of shadow experts, who will critique the work of court-appointed experts and present their findings to the court. Primary areas of focus include:

- What is the Shadow Expert
- What the Shadow Expert does
- What the Shadow Expert does not do
- How to Best Utilize a Shadow Expert in your Case

GRAND BALLROOM 2 BASEMENT LEVEL

WORKSHOP 8

WHAT ABOUT ME, SAID THE CHILD?: SHOULD WE CONCERN OURSELVES WITH CHILDREN'S VIEWS

- Chair – Mr Philip Trudinger
- Dr Phil Watts

Children views are an interesting factor in family court cases. The court is required to consider their views but can children tell us what is best for them? This presentation discusses the benefits and limitations of having children involved in family court cases. To understand the weight of children's views some understanding of child development is necessary. However, that is not enough. A particularly important aspect of this understanding are the influences on children. The influence upon children by parents is something which the courts are rightly concerned about. It is not uncommon for the court to order parents not to talk to children about issues but is this always in their best interests? Negative influence can be devastating but children have to make sense of their world. The unknown is a scary place for children. Dr Phil Watts discusses how to balance the influences.

CAMBRIDGE ROOM LEVEL 3

6.00 PM – 12.00 AM

HOSPITALITY SUITE

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GROUND LEVEL

DAY 2

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST 2015

8.00 AM - 9.00 AM

AFCC AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

ESSEX ROOM LEVEL 3

9.00 AM - 10.30 AM

PLENARY 3

DEALING WITH CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE ALLEGATIONS

- Moderator – Mr Michael Kearney SC
- Dr Sarah Calvert
- Mr Vincent Papaleo
- Ms Helen Volk
- Dr Peter Krabman
- Justice Margaret Cleary

GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

MORNING BREAK

10.30 AM - 11.00 AM

11.00 AM - 12.30 PM

PLENARY 4

NEUROSCIENCE AND COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN

- Chair - Chief Justice Diana Bryant, AO
- Professor Max Bennett AO
Brain and Mind Research Institute, Sydney

GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

12.30 PM - 12.45PM

AGM

AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER AFCC

GRAND BALLROOM BASEMENT LEVEL

LUNCH BREAK

12.30 PM - 1.30 PM

1.30 PM - 3.00 PM

WORKSHOP 9

WHO RESOLVES THE DISPUTE?

- Chair - Ms Brigid Jenkins
- Ms Jacqueline Jones
- Mr Nigell Nichols
- Mr David Roberts

Who resolves the dispute? The lawyers, the counsellors, the accountants or the judges? Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice offers a flexible and multi-faceted solution to give families the tools they need to resolve family breakdown.

A court based adversarial approach in achieving an outcome for separating families must be the 'last resort'. The cost of the adversarial approach on families, lawyers and the court system itself necessitates other options being supported.

An exciting and growing model of dispute resolution is 'Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice'.

This incorporates interest based negotiation, embracing a solution focused approach to achieve an outcome for families with the lawyers and parties making a commitment not to engage in the adversarial model.

Interdisciplinary CP (ICP) embraces a group approach to problem solving for families, engaging other professionals whether they be child focused or for financial matters, to provide advice and assistance to the 'whole family'.

The informative and interactive session is presented by Nigel Nicholls, David Roberts and Jacqueline Jones, 3 highly regarded and experienced professionals in ICP. This is an opportunity to learn about, explore and understand the principles of ICP with examples of its application in 'real case studies' of family breakdowns.

ESSEX LEVEL 3

WORKSHOP 10

JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVE OF SINGLE EXPERTS

- Chair – Mr Mark Wilson
- Justice Stewart Austin

Justice Stewart Austin was sworn-in as a judge of the Family Court of Australia in July 2009. Justice Austin holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Jurisprudence from the University of New South Wales, awarded in 1984. He was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of NSW in 1984 and the High Court of Australia in 1988. He was a partner at Burgess Austin Solicitors in Newcastle (1989-1997). As a solicitor, he acquired specialist accreditation in both criminal law and advocacy in 1994 and 1996 and was appointed as an arbitrator for the Local Court of NSW (1995-2003). Justice Austin was admitted as a barrister in 1997, undertaking work in a broad range of jurisdictions, but appearing most often in criminal trials and sentences. More recently he has been an instructor for the Australian Advocacy Institute, which provides advocacy tuition to barristers and solicitors.

GRAND BALLROOM 1 BASEMENT LEVEL

WORKSHOP 11

COGNITIVE BIAS - THE GREATEST RISK TO OBJECTIVITY IN CHILD CUSTODY DISPUTES

- Chair – Mr Darren Mort
- Dr Phil Stahl
- Dr Robert Simon

When thinking of bias, we typically think of things such as gender bias, racial bias, etc. There are also potential professional beliefs such as thinking that

young children need mothers more than fathers or that young children should, or should not, have overnights with each of their parents. This workshop will focus on a different type of bias that is an even greater risk to objectivity, i.e., heuristics and cognitive biases. A heuristic is a process in which an observer, in this case an evaluator or fact-finder, over-simplifies information to reach quick conclusion and recommendations. Research shows that humans tend to oversimplify thinking as the issues become more complex. Child custody work is the most complex of all forensic work. This interactive workshop will focus on the critical heuristics associated with such oversimplification and explain ways to reduce the risk of being influenced in a negative way by the way we think and approach complex cases. Primary areas of focus will include:

- What are heuristics / cognitive biases
- The most common biases that influence forensic work
- The impact of cognitive biases on objectivity
- Ways to reduce the likelihood of being influenced by such biases

CAMBRIDGE ROOM LEVEL 3

WORKSHOP 12

THE HIGH CONFLICT SHARED -TIME FAMILY: ILLUSTRATIONS OF LOVING HATE?

- Chair - Mr Vincent Papaleo
- Associate Professor Bruce Smyth

Most shared-time arrangements tend to be made by separated parents who respect each other as parents, who cooperate, who can avoid or contain conflict when they communicate, who can compromise, and who have arrangements that are child-focused and flexible. But in some families, shared-time parenting occurs in the context of – or indeed may be the product of – entrenched parental conflict. While much is now known about high functioning cooperative shared-time families, far less is known about the high conflict shared-time family – particularly children's and parents' wellbeing in these families, and how separated parents stuck in high conflict make shared-time arrangements 'work'. In this session, new data on high conflict shared-time families will be presented, and the value (or otherwise) of 'loving hate' will be explored.

GRAND BALLROOM 2 BASEMENT LEVEL

WORKSHOP 13

PARENTING COORDINATION

- Chair - Ms Lisa Bottomley
- Ms Susan Boyan

Susan Boyan L.M.F.T. is the co-founder and director of the Cooperative Parenting Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. Practicing since 1982 Susan functions as a psychotherapist, a child specialist, divorce coach and a parenting coordinator. She has co-authored several books on divorce including Cooperative Parenting & Divorce; a Parent Guide to Effective Co-Parenting and The Psychotherapist as Parent Coordinator in High Conflict Divorce; Strategies and Techniques. She

writes a divorce related blog on a weekly basis under cooperativeparentingblog.com. Susan is a member of the IACP, CLIG, GMA, ACR, AFCC and AAMFT. She writes and trains internationally on Collaborative Multi-Disciplinary Process and Parenting Coordination. www.cooperativeparenting.com international and domestic family matters. In addition, she holds a door tenancy at 4 Paper Buildings with whom she works closely on matters of mutual specialist interest.

ESSEX LEVEL 3

AFTERNOON BREAK

3.00 PM - 3.30 PM

3.30 PM - 5.00 PM

WORKSHOP 14

THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HEARING THE CHILD'S VOICE IN FAMILY LAW MATTERS

- Chair – Ms Brigid Jenkins
- Judge Peter Cole

The Children's Committee was established to explore what, if any, further work needs to be undertaken with respect to the involvement of children in parenting cases and how the Courts might ascertain whether children feel their voices have been heard in proceedings that addressed their living arrangements.

In essence, the Committee was asked to explore whether the Courts were fulfilling their obligations pursuant to Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which says:

"In particular, children shall be provided an opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting them, either directly, or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law".

He will be discussing the work of the Committee and its ongoing projects.

GRAND BALLROOM 1 BASEMENT LEVEL

WORKSHOP 15

TO TREAT OR NOT TO TREAT: LEGAL RESPONSES TO TRANSGENDER YOUNG PEOPLE

- Chair - Chief Justice Diana Bryant, AO
- Presenter - Justice Steven Strickland, Judge of the Appeal Division

Justice Strickland will explore the significance of the landmark decision in Re: Jamie for transgender young people and their families. Key issues for analysis include the significance of Gillick competence, the limits on parental consent and whether family courts should exercise supervisory jurisdiction.

GRAND BALLROOM 2 BASEMENT LEVEL

WORKSHOP 16

HOW DO CHILDREN THINK ABOUT 'HOME' AFTER PARENTAL SEPARATION?

- Chair - Ms Lilia Szarski
- Professor Belinda Felberg
- Associate Professor Kristin Natalier

'Home' is a familiar yet complex concept in Western culture, having physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions. While its meaning is now the subject of a significant body of literature within the disciplines of sociology, anthropology, psychology, human geography, history, architecture and philosophy, 'home' has received little attention in research on children's experiences of their living arrangements following parental separation, and the extent to which the substantial body of work on 'home' emerging from other disciplines has informed our understandings of children's experiences of living within and across changed and changing households in this context has been very limited.

Our central aim in this paper is to explore the notion of 'home' as a new conceptual tool for thinking about children's living arrangements and adjustment after their parents separate. We do so by way of a literature review addressing the question: What do we know about how children conceptualise 'home' and attend to 'homemaking' (that is, the extent to which children have the opportunity to, and do, play a role in creating, constructing and shaping the physical, emotional and psychological spaces in which they live) after their parents separate? We consider the now substantial body of academic writing on the meaning of 'home' (including the less developed body of work on the meaning of 'home' for children), as well as the meaning of 'home' in Australian family law, and the concept of 'home' as it has featured so far in research on children's living arrangements after parental separation. Our key concern throughout is the perspectives of children themselves, informed by the new childhood studies in sociological literature that recognise children and young people's strengths and competencies, as well as needs for recognition, respect and participation.

As a result of our work so far, we see 'home' as the interrelationship of experience, relationships and physical context. We therefore argue that thinking about children's experiences of 'home' has the significant benefit of centring our perspectives on the elements children consider necessary to create a post-separation context that works for them. By listening to what children say about the meaning of 'home' and their efforts at 'homemaking' we may better assist their adjustment after parents separate. As a result of our analysis, and informed by plans for a British study by Mavis Maclean and Susan Golombok, we conclude that there would be significant value for children in new research addressing the current absence of specific consideration of the meaning of 'home' for children in separated families, and suggest how we might approach this project.

ESSEX ROOM LEVEL 3

WORKSHOP 17

IS THERE ANY MAGIC IN A FAMILY REPORT: HOW GOOD ARE EXPERT REPORTS IN THE FAMILY COURT?

- Chair - Ms Lisa Bottomley
- Dr Chris Lennings
- Ms Alison O'Neill
- Dr Kate Seidler

Expert reports represent a considerable cost in time and money and play an important role in court proceedings. To date there have been few evaluations of expert reports in the family court and ethical considerations have so far prevented a detailed analysis of family court reports. The current study reports on a survey of both legal practitioners and expert psychologists working in the Federal Circuit Court and Family Court and their views and evaluations of critical features of expert reports. It is hoped that by the time the paper is presented judicial views of reports will also be available. The study contrasts the differing perspectives lawyers and psychologists bring to the preparation of an expert report, and in particular identifies the gaps between rhetoric and reality about legal practitioners think is important and what experts actually do.

CAMBRIDGE LEVEL 3

WORKSHOP 18

BEYOND LITIGATION

- Ms Julie Kearney

In 1975 the *Family Law Act* created the family law jurisdiction. Since that time the jurisdiction has evolved through interactions between State and Commonwealth legislature, the courts and family law professionals.

But still families can experience long delays, disproportionate costs and irreparable emotional turmoil.

Is there more that can be done to enable this (sometimes) torturous process to work more speedily, efficiently and with less pain? An exploration of existing and future alternative dispute resolution will shine the light on possible legislative amendment that would encourage a new regime, particularly in relation to financial disputes.

ESSEX ROOM LEVEL 3

THE PRESENTERS

THE HONOURABLE DIANA BRYANT AO

was appointed Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia in 2004. Prior to her appointment she was the Chief Federal Magistrate of the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia (now the Federal Circuit Court of Australia) from 2000-2004 having guided the emergence and growth of that court as the inaugural Chief Federal Magistrate. She is one of the two Hague Network Judges for Australia and is presently chairing a working group for the Hague Permanent Bureau in relation to the Child Abduction Convention and is co-chair of the Association of International Family Judges. She has a strong interest in family law policy.

Before her appointment to the Bench, Chief Justice Bryant practised as a family lawyer with a national firm in Perth and spent 10 years at the Victorian Bar, becoming a Queen's Counsel in 1997. She has had a longstanding commitment to the advancement of women in the law and is currently the Patron of Australian Women Lawyers and a Committee member of The Australian Association of Women Judges.

Chief Justice Bryant received a Centenary Medal in 2001 for her role in the establishment of the Federal Magistrates Court and was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2011 for her distinguished service to the judiciary and to the law, particularly to family law policy reform and practice, through the establishment of the Federal Magistrates Court, and to the advancement of women in the legal profession.

CHIEF JUDGE JOHN PASCOE AO, CVO

was appointed as Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia in 2004. Chief Judge Pascoe is a graduate of the Australian National University and, after admission as a solicitor, became a partner in the legal firm, Stephen Jaques & Stephen (now Mallesons). Prior to his appointment as Chief Judge, he was Managing Director in the national law firm, Phillips Fox (now DLA Piper) and has been Chairman of a number of listed companies and statutory authorities in Australia.

Chief Judge Pascoe was Deputy Chancellor and a member of the Council of the University of New South Wales and was Deputy Chair of the Institute of Early Childhood Foundation. He is currently serving as a Patron of the LAWASIA Family Law and Family Rights Section, and a member of Board of Trustees and the Advisory Board for the Cambodian Children's Fund Australia. He is an Honorary advisor and Regional meeting Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's

Award International Association (Asia Pacific). He was appointed a member in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 1994, an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2002 and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003. He was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in January 2010.

JUDGE PETER BOSHIER

is a Law Commissioner with the New Zealand Law Commission and was the principal Judge of the Family Court.

He was born and educated in Gisborne and attended Victoria University of Wellington, obtaining a Bachelor of Laws with Honours Degree in 1975. After a period of practice in Wellington he was appointed as a District Court Judge with a specialist Family Court warrant in 1988.

Judge Boshier has a long association with Pacific judicial issues and was seconded to undertake judicial training there, based in Suva in 2002 and 2003. Judge Boshier travels regularly to Pacific Island countries to undertake workshops on the subject of family violence and youth justice.

He holds the Samoan Matai title of Misa which was bestowed in 2000.

In 2004 Judge Boshier was appointed as the Principal Family Court Judge of New Zealand and held that position until December 2012. During that time, Judge Boshier served on the Government's Family Violence Taskforce. He is now Chair of the White Ribbon Advisory Committee, Patron of the White Ribbon Trust and undertakes a variety of family violence projects each year.

In 2009 Judge Boshier was made a distinguished alumnus of the Victoria University of Wellington for his contribution to the law.

From July 2015, Judge Boshier becomes the President of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts based in the United States.

He is the first New Zealander to hold this position and does so until July 2016.

Judge Boshier is Patron of the Dwell Community Housing Trust in Wellington.

Judge Boshier's appointment as a Law Commissioner is until December 2017.

JUSTICE STEVEN STRICKLAND

1972 - Honours law degree, University of Adelaide

1973 - Admitted to practice, Supreme Court of South Australia

1979 - Masters law degree, University of British Columbia

1984 - Signed Bar Roll
1996 - Member executive FLS
1998 - Appointed QC
1998 - Chair FLS executive
1999 - Appointed Judge of Family Court of Australia
2009 - Assigned to Appeal Division

JUSTICE SIMON MONCRIEFF

currently holds a dual commission as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia and the Family Court of Western Australia; his Honour was appointed to the Court in 2009.

Justice Moncrieff graduated from the University of Adelaide with an LLB (Hons). Following his admission in 1975 he practised as a barrister and solicitor, and was called to the Bar in South Australia in 1991, where he worked until 1999, joining the Western Australian Bar in 2000. Justice Moncrieff was appointed Senior Counsel in 2008.

His Honour has also served as a member of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve (as a specialist legal officer); a delegate of The Child Support Registrar (1992-2005) and on various community boards.

Justice Moncrieff currently represents the Family Court of Western Australia on the National Children's Committee and National ICL Stakeholders Committee.

JUSTICE STEWART AUSTIN

was sworn-in as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia in July 2009.

Justice Austin holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Jurisprudence from the University of New South Wales, awarded in 1984. He was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of NSW in 1984 and the High Court of Australia in 1988. He was a partner at Burgess Austin Solicitors in Newcastle (1989-1997). As a solicitor, he acquired specialist accreditation in both criminal law and advocacy in 1994 and 1996 and was appointed as an arbitrator for the Local Court of NSW (1995-2003). Justice Austin was admitted as a barrister in 1997, undertaking work in a broad range of jurisdictions, but appearing most often in criminal trials and sentences. More recently he has been an instructor for the Australian Advocacy Institute, which provides advocacy tuition to barristers and solicitors.

JUSTICE MARGARET CLEARY

was appointed as a judge of the Family Court of Australia in July 2010. Her permanent registry is in Newcastle NSW. Prior to her appointment, Her Honour had been a barrister for 23 years practising in Sydney in Family Law and related areas. Her Honour was also a Solicitor in general practice for 4 years prior. Her Honour qualified as a Family Law Mediator and Arbitrator and conducted private and Court based mediations and arbitrations. Her Honour is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has an interest in companies in the Family Law context. However, her most enduring interest is a

focus on the protection and welfare of children involved in the Court process through disputes within their families.

JUDGE PETER COLE

graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Jurisprudence and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Australia.

He was articled to David Malcolm QC, (later the Chief Justice of WA), worked with Legal Aid in WA, then Stone James, followed by 12 years at Slee Anderson and Pidgeon, where he became a partner.

In 2000 he left the partnership to spend a year travelling with his wife, Susan.

On his return to Australia he worked with firms in Queensland (Mackay and Gold Coast), before returning to WA in 2003 to work with Kim Wilson & Associates, and Robert Parkinson & Associates.

He was President of the Family Law Practitioners' Association in Western Australia from 2006 to 2008. Judge Cole has lectured part-time at the Edith Cowan University and in programs run by Relationships Australia. He has been an accredited family law specialist since 1992. A firm believer in continuing legal education, he has organised and initiated many conferences for Family Lawyers. He is the initiating and continuing Chairman of the Bali Family Law Conference, a position he has held since 1999.

He was appointed as a Federal Magistrate to Adelaide in 2008 in the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia. In 2013 he became a Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia based in Adelaide.

As part of that court he currently serves on the National Children's Committee for the Family Law Courts of Australia.

PROFESSOR MAX BENNETT, NEUROBIOLOGIST

was born in Melbourne in 1939. He earned a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) from the University of Melbourne in 1963. This background, combined with a philosophical interest in how the human mind works, led him to the study of neurophysiology. Continuing at the University of Melbourne, he received an MSc in 1965 and a PhD in 1967. In 1969 Bennett joined the Department of Physiology at the University of Sydney and has remained there ever since. He was Director of the Special Research Centre of Excellence in Neurobiology from 1982 to 1990. Over his career, Bennett has made many significant findings and chief among these was the discovery that nerve terminals on muscles release transmitter molecules other than noradrenaline and acetylcholine, going against the prevailing scientific paradigm.

PROFESSOR MARILYN FREEMAN

was called to the English Bar (Middle Temple) in 1986 after completing an LL.M at Kings College, London. She then spent some time teaching Law, raising a family, and in practice at the Bar. She joined London Metropolitan University (previously City of London Polytechnic and London Guildhall University) in 1992 as Senior Family Law Lecturer, after which she was appointed firstly as Reader in Child and Family Law, and subsequently as Professor of Family Law. During this time, Marilyn concentrated her research efforts and practical work in the areas of international child abduction, forced marriage, and relocation, gaining her doctorate in international child abduction, and is widely acknowledged as a leading expert in these areas in which she remains actively involved.

For many years she was Head of the reunite Research Unit, and she has undertaken several ground-breaking research projects, some supported by government departments (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Justice), including research into the effects of both international child abduction and relocation. She has recently published a report into higher and further education responses to forced marriage, as well as her research into the long-term effects of abduction, an area in which there is almost no research evidence available, notwithstanding the importance of this issue both for those who have been through an abduction, as well as for those who have to administer the legal machinery designed to deal with these events. Her work has been cited approvingly by courts all over the world, and was acknowledged in the United Kingdom Supreme Court by Baroness Hale, who referred to it as "important research" (In the Matter of A (Children) (AP) [2013] UKSC 60, at para 57). With Frances Burton, she established the Centre for Family Law and Practice in 2009 at London Metropolitan University to address the interface between academe and practice in Family Law. Their many activities there attracted widespread global support and recognition, in particular the two international Family Law conferences which were held in 2010 and 2013, and which have been referred to as the best in the world! They have now both moved on to establish the International Centre for Family Law, Policy, and Practice (ICFLPP) and to develop the specialist international aspects of this work, and will be holding their next conference on "Culture, Dispute Resolution and the Modernised Family" in association with King's College, London, from 6-8 July 2016.

Although much of her work concerns international matters, Marilyn is also actively involved in domestic Family Law issues, including those relating to divorce, parental responsibility, residence and contact. This long-term involvement with Family Law matters and their outcomes has resulted in Marilyn's enduring interest in those who are affected by them, both in relation to the relevant law and practice which governs the disputes which arise in their cases, and the most helpful ways for resolving these complicated

and testing family situations. It is this commitment which has led to Marilyn qualifying as a Family Mediator trained to undertake direct consultation with children, and cases involving international child abduction, and other international family disputes.

Marilyn publishes widely, and is regularly invited to address both national and international conferences on her work and her areas of expertise, and to participate as an expert in working groups and other initiatives relating to child abduction.

PROFESSOR BELINDA FEHLBERG

is a professor of law, University of Melbourne, specialising in family law. She has a particular interest in how 'law in books' is understood, applied and experienced by professionals and families. Her research has included projects on jurisdictional overlap in the area of child protection, spousal guarantees, pre-nuptial agreements, children's contact services and links between post-separation parenting and financial arrangements. She is the lead author of *Australian Family Law: The Contemporary Context* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BRUCE SMYTH

is an Associate Professor at the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute, Australian National University (ANU), and an Australian Research Council Future Fellow. Prior to joining the ANU, Bruce worked at the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and was a member of the Ministerial Taskforce on Child Support. He has just finished a large study with Professor Bryan Rodgers evaluating the impacts of the Australian child support reforms, as well as a book chapter (with Jenn McIntosh, Bob Emery and Shelby Howarth) reviewing the latest international studies of shared-time parenting for the 2nd edition of *Parenting Plan Evaluations* (Drozd & Saini). Bruce has published widely in the area of post-separation parenting, and is on the editorial boards of *Family Court Review*, *Journal of Family Studies*, and the *Australian Journal of Family Law*.

JACQUELINE JONES

completed a BEc.LLB at Macquarie University and was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of NSW and the High Court of Australia in 1983. In 1994 Jackie achieved accreditation as a family law specialist from the Law Society of New South Wales. Jackie has completed the Arbitration Course at Bond University and Collaborative Law training at UTS Sydney. She is now applying her skills and experience on the Family Law Specialist Accreditation Committee of NSW Law Society.

Having been a Senior Associate in a major law firm and

worked in suburban practices, Jackie understands and appreciates the needs of clients. During her career, Jackie has primarily been involved in 'family' matters including extensive appearances in the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court in both financial and parenting matters. Jackie has also represented children in NSW Children's Court and has been involved in a number of the complex relocation matters.

In matters requiring court determination, Jackie has been responsible for a number of reported decisions in the Family Court of Australia and handled a matter that was determined by the High Court of Australia, establishing legal principle.

Jackie applies her experience in diverse areas of law in alternative dispute resolution to work with parties in achieving negotiated outcomes. Jackie teaches post graduate law students at UTS Sydney in Family Dispute Resolution and in the Graduate Certificate in Professional Legal Practice.

Spreading the knowledge of 'collaborative practice' is important to Jackie. As part of a team, Jackie developed and presented training for 'Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice'. She is referred to in the press and has been a guest on radio.

Jackie is on the Board of Collaborative Professionals NSW, a member of Relationships Australia practice group, Central Sydney Collaborative Forum, the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) and Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

DR CATHERINE BOLAND

is a clinical psychologist who works with children, parents and families with a particular interest in assisting those in high conflict relationships. Catherine currently runs a private clinical psychology practice in Sydney, "The Relationspace" where she sees children, adolescents, adults and couples with colleagues who are expert in these areas. Catherine and her colleagues specialise in high conflict family therapy, reunification and alienation therapy. She frequently provides expert opinion, report writing and therapy in complex family law cases.

Catherine holds a Doctor of Clinical Psychology, Master of Clinical Psychology (Hons), Bachelor of Psychology (Hons), and a Bachelor of Education. Catherine originally began working with teenagers as a high school teacher before she retrained in the field of clinical psychology. She has worked in a variety of hospital, educational and clinical settings. She is a regular speaker and provides training programs in the areas of clinical psychology and family law as well as providing supervision to other practitioners in these practice areas.

DR SARAH CALVERT

is a clinical psychologist who has spent most of her working life working in areas involving trauma and abuse. She currently works as a specialist report writer for the New Zealand Family Court and as a specialist assessor for the Accident Compensation Commission in the Sensitive Claims area which provides services for victims of sexual abuse. She has previously been a Senior Psychologist and Manager of a Specialist Services Unit within Child, Youth and Family, the statutory state sector welfare department in New Zealand. In that role she managed psychologists, specialist interviewers, family therapists and psychotherapists.

DR PETER KRABMAN

is a child, adolescent and family psychiatrist, in private practice in Sydney. He spent seven years as medical director of Coral Tree Family Service, which is a statewide program providing intensive family interventions for the families of children with severe emotional and behavioural difficulties. Dr. Krabman prepares single expert reports in family law matters. In addition to his general clinical work, he has a particular interest and expertise in the provision of therapy to parents and children in the context of current family law proceedings, or of the requirement to adapt to final orders. He serves on the Professional Advisory Group to the Children's Court Clinic in NSW. He has a background in research, addiction medicine and military medicine. He enjoys meeting with troubled and troubling children, and the adults charged with protecting, nurturing and raising them.

DR JENNIFER NEOH

is a clinical psychologist whose private practice is focused entirely on a family law population. She works as a single expert witness for the Family Court of Australia, the Federal Circuit Court of Australia and the Family Court of Western Australia. She also specialises in family therapy with separated families where the complexity of the issues range from the most difficult cases involving allegations of child sexual abuse and/or alienation of one of the parents. She has a thriving therapeutic practice with these complex cases and provides intensive solution focused interventions designed to improve the wellbeing of children and their parents. Her referrals include children who have resisted seeing one parent (sometimes up to many years), children who have changed their living circumstances under court order to live with their rejected parent, siblings who are split and different siblings reject their other parent, and the most resistant cases which often come to her after a range of other therapeutic solutions have been attempted. She regularly presents at conferences on family law issues.

DR PHILIP STAHL

is a forensic psychologist in private practice, living in Maricopa County, AZ, USA, licensed in Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Michigan. His practice consists of four areas:

- Providing consultation and expert witness testimony in child custody litigation throughout the United States and North America
- Conducting child custody evaluations
- Teaching –
 - He has conducted trainings throughout North America and internationally for attorneys, child custody evaluators, and judges.
 - He is on the faculty of National Judicial College.
 - He is a Specialist Provider in Family Law for the California State Bar.
 - His latest gig is Adjunct Faculty at Arizona Summit Law School (Phoenix), teaching a course titled, "Psychology in Family Law".
- Writing – Has written extensively in the area of high conflict divorce for over 25 years. His latest works are:
 - Conducting Child Custody Evaluations: From Basic to Complex Issues (Sage, 2010)
 - Parenting After Divorce, 2nd Edition (Impact Publishers, 2008)
 - Stahl,pm and Simon, RA, Forensic Psychology Consultation in Child Custody Litigation: A Handbook for Work Product Review, Case Preparation, and Expert Testimony, (American Bar Association Section of Family Law, 2013)
 - Stahl,pm, "Emerging Issues in Relocation Cases", Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (2014);
 - Simon, RA and Stahl,pm "Analysis in Child Custody Evaluation Reports: A Crucial Component", Family Law Quarterly, Spring, 2014.

As a former Board member of AFCC, he was on the task force that drafted AFCC's "Model Standards of Practice for Child Custody Evaluation" in both 1994 and 2006. Dr. Stahl is on the Editorial Review Board of AFCC's journal, Family Court Review. Dr. Stahl was awarded the AFCC President's Award in 2000. Dr. Stahl's child custody evaluation was cited by the California Supreme Court in its landmark decision modifying 8 years of relocation case law following Burgess (In re Marriage of LaMusga (2004) 32 Cal.4th 1072, 12 Cal.Rptr.3d 356, 88 P.3d 81).

His current area of specialty is relocation cases, including complex international relocations.

DR ROBERT SIMON

is a nationally recognized leader in forensic psychology consulting in the area of child custody disputes and family law. Based in San Diego, CA, Dr. Simon provides child custody evaluations, expert witness

services and litigation support services to attorneys throughout the country on child custody matters. He is the co-author (with Philip M. Stahl, Ph.D.) of the recently released book entitled "Forensic Psychology Consulting in Child Custody Litigation: A Handbook for Work Product Review, Case Preparation, and Expert Testimony" published by the American Bar Association. Dr. Simon is on the Board of Directors of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, a senior member of the Ethics Committee of the California Psychological Association, a member of the Committee on Professional Conduct and Responsibility of the California Bar Association and a member of the Executive Committee of the California Bar Court. He serves on the editorial board of the Family Court Review. He is licensed in California and Hawaii.

SUSAN BOYAN

is the co-founder and director of the Cooperative Parenting Institute in Atlanta, Georgia. Practicing since 1982 Susan functions as a psychotherapist, a child specialist, divorce coach and a parenting coordinator. She has co-authored several books on divorce including Cooperative Parenting & Divorce; a Parent Guide to Effective Co-Parenting and The Psychotherapist as Parent Coordinator in High Conflict Divorce; Strategies and Techniques. She writes a divorce related blog on a weekly basis under cooperativeparentingblog.com. Susan is a member of the IACP, CLIG, GMA, ACR, AFCC and AAMFT. She writes and trains internationally on Collaborative Multi-Disciplinary Process and Parenting Coordination. www.cooperativeparenting.com

PETER CUMMINGS SC

was admitted to practice in 1984 and became a partner in Thomas Laycock Solicitors in Newcastle where he conducted a wide range of cases for a substantial client base including banks and insurance companies. In 1993 he completed mediation training and has continuously practiced as a mediator, becoming accredited under the National Standard upon its inception in 2010. In 1994 he became an accredited specialist in Commercial Litigation. In 1996 he was admitted to the Bar and took silk in 2013. He has chambers in both Newcastle and Sydney and has a wide practice appears primarily in state courts in common law civil trials and appeals, and in the Family Court. He is the current president of the Newcastle Bar Association.

KAREN MARSH

has a background in psychology and social science counselling/mediation. Over the last 15 years' Karen has worked in direct practice, with children and families in the area of domestic violence/ sexual assault, and men's change behaviour program. In her role as Team Leader and Senior Practitioner,

Karen has facilitated effective operations of the domestic violence court support practice across five regional courts, and undertaken education to key community stakeholders and schools within the region, to facilitate and share specialist knowledge and promote a coordinated community response to domestic and family violence. During this presentation, Karen will be exploring the dangers of technology misuse, identifying areas of internet abuse and safety planning.

NIGEL NICHOLLS

undertook an Arts-Law Degree from Macquarie University graduating in 1985 and was admitted as a solicitor in New South Wales in 1990 and in England and Wales in 2004. He has, since admission, practised almost exclusively in family law.

From 1997 to 1999 Nigel was a Deputy Registrar and Mediator of the Family Court of Australia, before returning to private practice as a partner of Stuart Fowler and Partners. In 2004, Nigel practised in the United Kingdom undertaking child-care proceedings as for an English Local Authority and then as an associate in the firm's specialist family law team of Taylor Vinters Solicitors in Cambridge, a commercial and litigation practice of 100 partners and solicitors.

Nigel is one of the few Sydney practitioners who has practised and is an experienced family lawyer in both Australia and England. While in the UK, Nigel trained and practised collaborative family law, becoming probably the first Australian solicitor to use this innovative style of dispute resolution. Since 2007 he has been a member of the Law Council of Australia Collaborative Law Committee and was a lawyer member of the Relationships Australia Interdisciplinary Collaborative law pilot.

Nigel is a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Practice. He is a founder member of the Central Sydney Collaborative Forum. He is a member of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia and has been on the Board of NSW Collaborative Professionals (Inc.).

Nigel has now conducted more than 20 matters using the collaborative dispute resolution model and currently has 4 or 5 matters being resolved through the collaborative process. In 2014 Nigel developed and presented training for Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice for lawyers, social scientists and financial experts. In 2000, Nigel was a member of the NSW Law Society Family Law Committee and in 2002 was appointed a Fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Nigel has previously been a part-time lecturer and tutor at the University of Technology, Sydney, lecturing the undergraduate programme in family law and in the graduate programme in legal practice, including negotiation techniques, mediation skills and court presentation.

VINCENT PAPALEO

is a Clinical Psychologist who specialises in working with child and family problems, predominantly within the Family Court. He is a member of the Australian Psychological Society, and a Member of the Board of Clinical Psychologist. He is also the convenor of the Family law Interest Group, which is an official Interest Group of the Australian Psychological Society. His experience in the Family Court now spans over twenty-eight years, during which time he has been asked to complete many court reports, commenting on welfare related issues. He has previously worked in public child mental health, and was a Senior Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Child Psychiatry at the Austin Hospital for eight years prior to embarking upon full time private practice. He has extensive experience in all aspects of child assessment, diagnosis and treatment, has consulted extensively to community agencies and regularly contributes to training of fellow professionals, including regular presentations at Family Law Conferences.

Within the Family Law context, Vincent's main interest is helping people find alternative paths to conflict resolution, assisting parents who are in high conflict, and crafting child based intervention. As a staunch advocate for children and children's rights, the focus of his work is the establishment of age, stage and developmentally appropriate contact in residence plans, with particular focus on helping parents in conflict to co-operate and craft contact arrangements which maximise children's welfare.

DAVID ROBERTS

is Senior Practice Leader, Post Separation Services at Relationships Australia NSW. He has been on the cutting edge of implementing Australian government family law reforms or over the last 10 years. In 2002 he trained as a Child Consultant with Dr Jen McIntosh, Associate Professor of psychology at La Trobe University, Melbourne. Soon after the Australian Government introduced the Family Law reforms of 2006, David was employed to establish one of the first of 65 Family Relationship Centres around the nation, funded to assist families experiencing relationship difficulties. The North Ryde Family Relationships Centre was opened by the Prime Minister the Hon John Howard in 2007.

Twelve months after the opening of the FRC, influenced by developments in the US, Britain and Europe, David developed a pilot program for Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice which brings together lawyers, financial specialists, child consultants and other non lawyers to resolve family law matters while agreeing to stay out of court. This pilot was fully endorsed and launched by the Australian Government Attorney General, the Hon Robert McClelland. Research conducted by University of Technology's (UTS) Law Faculty over the last 3 years highlights both the challenges and successes of the program. It was

described by Marilyn Scott who leads the research as a “world first”.

In the last 12 months David has led the establishment of the Northern Beaches Practice Group and influenced the establishment of a practice group in Adelaide with Relationships Australia South Australia and Family lawyers, based on a similar model to that which he established in NSW. David is now a regular guest lecturer at UTS where he presents on Family Relationship Centres, the work of Child Consultants, the impact of parental conflict on children and Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice are received with great enthusiasm. In 2014 with Jackie Jones and Nigel Nicholls David was involved with developing and presenting training in Collaborative Practice for lawyers and social scientists. David is on the Board of Collaborative Professionals NSW, a member of LEADR and represents Relationships Australia on the Greater Sydney Family Law Pathways Network.

KATRINE TUROY-SMITH

is a Doctor of Psychology (Forensic) candidate at Deakin University. She has a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) and Bachelor of Laws from Murdoch University. She was admitted as a legal practitioner in 2010 and has previously practiced in family law in Perth, Western Australia.

DR PHIL WATTS

is a West Australian psychologist who is an Adjunct Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology (Uni Canberra) and an endorsed Forensic Psychologist. Dr Phil is a member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) and a past chairman of the WA Branch of their Forensic College. He is a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC); and certified by Biofeedback Certification International Alliance – Australia (BCIA-A) in the area of neurofeedback. He has written four books including “Shared care or divided lives: What’s best for children when parents separate” (2008); “IP: DIY Internet Pornography: Do it yourself treatment guide for men” (2014) and is currently writing a chapter in “The elements of applied psychological practice in Australia: Preparing for the National Psychology Exam”.

He runs national training for psychologists and lawyers and runs a busy private practice which includes family court assessments (Appointed as Single Expert Witness in over 1000 family court matters). Well known of his dynamic presentation style, Dr Phil is an invited presenter in personality testing at the APS Clinical conference (2015) and is running a workshop at the AFCC conference in New Orleans (2015). The range of his past training of lawyers, psychologists and the public is extensive.

DR SIMON KENNEDY

is a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist with a specialty in psycho-legal assessment, reporting and testimony. He holds a Bachelor of Behavioural Science, Master of Psychology (Clinical), Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology) (University of Melbourne), and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. Dr Kennedy is a Member of the Clinical, Forensic and Educational/Developmental Colleges of the Australian Psychological Society. He has been a registered Psychologist since 1984 and has undertaken private practice since 1986. Dr Kennedy has held senior positions in Clinical Psychology, was a tenured Senior Lecturer at Australian Catholic University 1991-2003, he has published over 20 papers in Australian and international journals, has presented to over 35 Australian and international conferences, and is an assessor for the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy. He is a visiting senior lecturer at RMIT University. He has been an independent examiner for the Victorian Workcover Authority since 1995, is an independent examiner for the Transport Accident Commission, and is a performance examiner for The Psychology Board of Australia, and was a member of the DHS child protection high risk infant panel of experts. Dr Kennedy is an experienced expert witness, having written over 10,000 independent psychological reports for Australian Courts regarding criminal, family, children's, civil and compensation matters, including 600 child protection matters and 750+ family law matters, including single expert family reports, individual psychological and psychosexual evaluations, and has given evidence to these Courts on several hundred occasions. He has specific training and expertise in family evaluation, psychosexual and parental risk evaluations, psychological evaluation (including evaluation of mental health and personality), secondary reviews of family court evaluations, children's testimony, and family therapy. He has published on and presented at national and international conferences on family court evaluation, family therapy, and evaluation of child sexual abuse and assessment of male sexual arousal. He is based in Melbourne and completes evaluations in 5 regional locations and interstate by arrangement.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KRISTIN NATALIER

is an Associate Professor in Sociology, in the School of Social and Policy Studies at Flinders University. She uses qualitative methods to analyse how people make sense of the joys and challenges of negotiating relationships in the context of personal and social change. Her research has included projects on the expressive dimensions of child support, the experiences of young people leaving state care, and homelessness and marginal housing.

JULIE KEARNEY

commenced her family law practice almost 20 years ago in regional Queensland, achieving specialist accreditation in family law in 2003. Moving to Newcastle, New South Wales, in 2004 she was appointed a Registrar of the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia. During her tenure she held various positions within the Family Court including as Magellan Registrar and Secretary of the Rules Advisory Committee.

Julie was called to the Bar in 2015 and is keen to expand her practice beyond family law to other civil jurisdictions.

She is a member of Newcastle Chambers.

She has appeared in both the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court in registries including Newcastle, Sydney and regional NSW.

Julie is also engaged in various editorial roles with Lexis Nexis including:-

- the looseleaf services of Australian Family Law and Australian Family Court Legislation;
- the Annotated Family Law Legislation text; and
- the Family Law Reports.

Her passion is advocating access to justice for all and in doing so recognises that the litigation pathway can be too costly for most with the consequence that the use of more efficient and cost-effective processes should be encouraged.

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They are experienced in a broad range of specialist family law services which include not only family, divorce and de facto relationship law but also specialist children's matters, complex property settlements, GLBTI and same sex relationship matters and international family law.

We handle small matters through to the biggest and most complex disputes in the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia and although our family lawyers are extremely experienced in litigation, we have a firm commitment to avoid court where it is in our clients' best interest to do so. All our lawyers are trained in alternate dispute resolution methods and we have specialists qualified in collaborative law and participating regularly in mediation.



Barry.Nilsson. is a national firm with offices in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. We have an impressive team of family lawyers based in Brisbane, including six accredited family law specialists.

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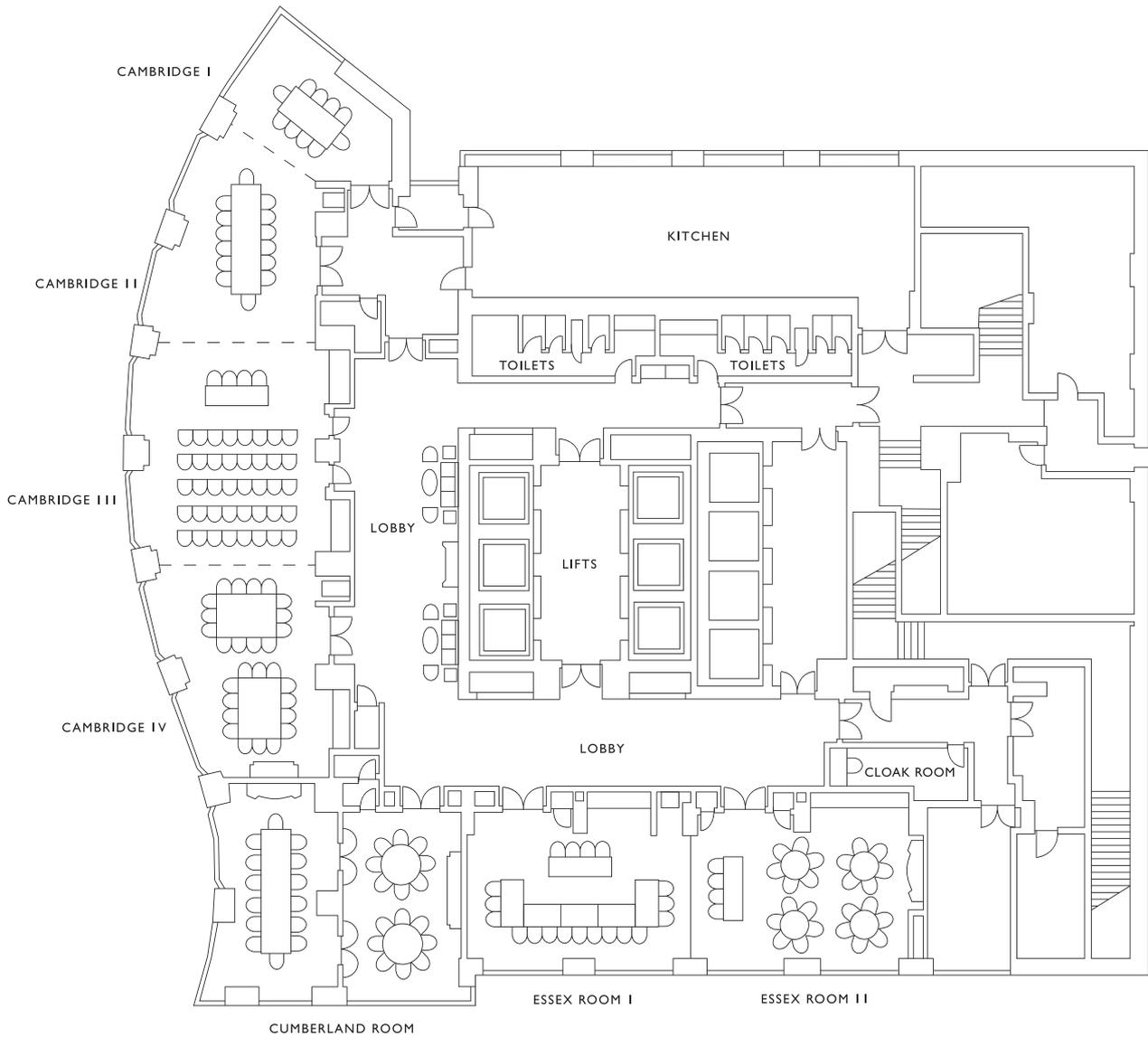
Originally with one office located in Parramatta, Watts McCray Lawyers have now grown to include seven offices across the Sydney, ACT, and Central Coast markets, including our newest office at Norwest Business Park.

With nine Partners, all specialist accredited in their particular field, supported by a team of highly experienced solicitors, having more Accredited Specialist Family Lawyers than any other firm in Australia, Watts McCray Lawyers continues to be very highly regarded by clients, the Judiciary and the marketplace overall.



Shangri-La hotel

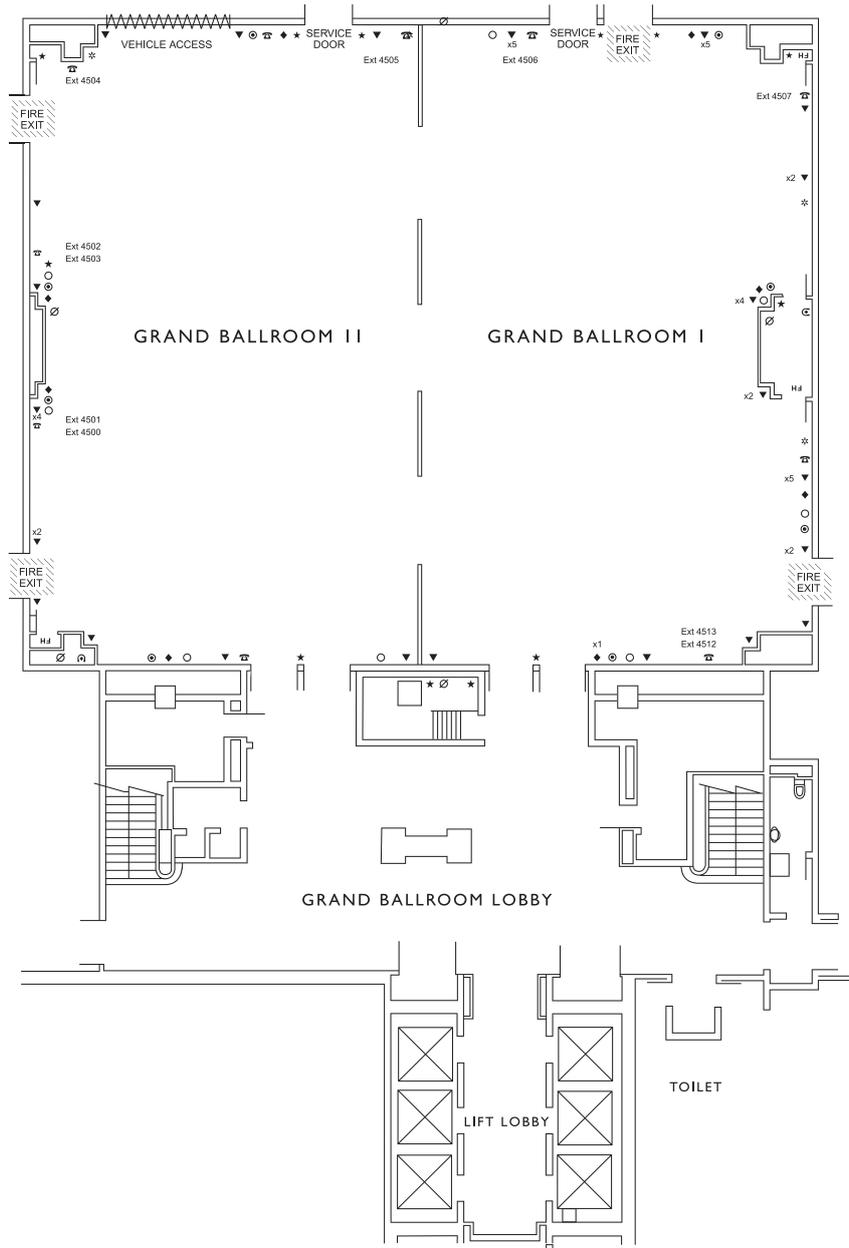
CAMBRIDGE & ESSEX ROOMS LEVEL 3





Shangri-La hotel

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