

NJCA Symposium 2026

Memory, Trauma, Evidence and the Courts



NJCA

NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE
OF AUSTRALIA



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WELCOME FROM THE NJCA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Welcome to the National Judicial College of Australia's 2026 Symposium – Memory, Trauma, Evidence and the Court.

The National Judicial College of Australia is an independent, not-for-profit entity established under an agreement between the Commonwealth, State and Territory Attorneys-General. Since 2002, the College has designed, developed and delivered judicial education and training programs for Australian judicial officers, judicial registrars and tribunal members across all court hierarchies and jurisdictions. Uniquely, it is judge-led and its programs respond to the needs of the judiciary, courts and tribunals.

As the Australian court landscape is forever changing and increasingly complex, the College also supports the quest of all members of the broader legal community to maintain a steady commitment to career-long education and training. In this context, the College leads in the development and delivery of presentations on current and emerging issues of relevance and importance to judicial officers *and* members of the broader legal community. One of these relevant issues is memory.

Contemporary academic research has expanded the understanding of how memories are formed, consolidated and retrieved and raises important questions about evidentiary standards and safeguards, which all participants in the justice system have a responsibility to understand. This Symposium is designed to challenge conventional wisdom, interrogate current frameworks and promote collaboration on a consistent and well-informed approach to memory within the legal profession.

I would like to thank the committee members, led by Justice Glenn Martin, for their individual and collective efforts in putting together an exceptional program of Australian and international experts for this Symposium. I would also like to thank the Chair of the College's Council, Chief Justice Lucy McCallum and the College's Program Advisory Committee Chair, Chief Justice Helen Bowskill for their governance and stewardship.

I hope you enjoy the Symposium and come away with a greater understanding of contemporary thinking about memory in legal proceedings.



Ms Karen Gregory

Chief Executive Officer

National Judicial College of Australia



SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM – DAY ONE

Friday 21 August 2026

8.00am	Registration, Tea and Coffee
8.30am	Welcome and Opening Remarks
Presenters	Chief Justice Helen Bowskill, <i>Chair, NJCA Program Advisory Committee, Supreme Court of Queensland</i> Chief Justice Laura Stein, <i>Supreme Court of South Australia</i>
8.45am	Session 1: Keynote Address - What Courts Need to Understand about Human Memory
Presenter	Professor Barbara Spellman, <i>University of Virginia</i>
Session Rationale	Behavioural science can explain and critique many of the rules of evidence inherited from the common law tradition, and this has been a core focus of Professor Spellman's academic work. In this keynote address, Professor Spellman will open the symposium by explaining what Australian courts need to understand about human memory.
9.30am	Session 2: The Neurobiology of Memory
Chair	Justice Sam Doyle, <i>Supreme Court of South Australia</i>
Presenter	Professor Richard Bryant, <i>University of New South Wales</i>
Session Rationale	Neuroscientific research has revealed the unique ways in which experiences are encoded in the brain, while psychological studies have documented phenomena such as dissociation, fragmentation and delayed disclosure that frequently characterise the testimony of trauma survivors. What is memory? How does it work? What is encoding? This session will explore errors in recall, confidence–accuracy illusions, and the impact of factors such as stress and delay on reliability in legal settings.



10.15am	Morning Tea
10.45am	Session 3: Trauma and Memory Phenomena
Chair	Judge Kate Hughes, <i>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia</i>
Presenters	Professor Richard Bryant, <i>University of New South Wales</i> Dr Loraine Lim, <i>Loraine Lim Psychology</i>
Session Rationale	The adoption of a contemporary understanding of trauma as the mental, emotional, psychosocial and physical impact on an individual's experience is a relatively new development in the justice system. The sensations imprinted during the trauma may be experienced not as memories, but as disruptive physical reactions in the present. This session will explore the broad categories of psychological trauma and resulting sub-categories and their interplay with memory.
11.30am	Session 4: Memory Malleability, Suggestibility and False Memories
Chair	Justice Katrina Banks-Smith, <i>Federal Court of Australia</i>
Presenter	Professor Ullrich Ecker, <i>University of Western Australia</i>
Session Rationale	Our understanding of the psychological and cognitive processes about how information is stored and retrieved from memory has expanded in recent years. Facts can be 'excluded' by normal frailty and the passage of time, as well as by traumatic incidents, both past and present. This session will address the nature of false memories and their legal implications
12.15pm	Lunch



1.00pm	Session 5: Interviewing, Memory and Ethical Boundaries
Chair	Magistrate Jay Pandya, <i>Magistrates Court of South Australia</i>
Panel	Professor Martine Powell, <i>Griffith University</i> Mr Mark Steele SC, <i>7 Wentworth Selborne</i> Dr Celine van Golde, <i>University of Sydney</i>
Session Rationale	In this session, the panel will explore the mechanisms by which false details can be implanted, the use of suggestive questioning, and strategies to reduce errors in investigations.
1.45pm	Session 6: What is “Good” Memory? What Can/Should Courts Rely On?
Chair	Chief Justice Helen Bowskill, <i>Supreme Court of Queensland</i>
Panel	Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty, <i>University of Newcastle</i> Professor Ullrich Ecker, <i>University of Western Australia</i> Professor Mark Nolan, <i>Charles Sturt University</i>
Session Rationale	This session will apply the insights from the previous session to judicial and other legal decision-making, where the judgment by the tribunal of fact is inevitably made under conditions of uncertainty and imperfection. This panel discussion will explore misconceptions about memory, and the kinds of flaws in memory which are, or are not, ‘red flags’ in terms of reliability. It will consider, in a practical sense, the kinds of questions that elicit reliable memory, and the triggers of accurate recall. It will also discuss ways in which memory can be carefully ‘handled’ to protect it. This practical session will be beneficial to investigators and lawyers, as well as to judicial decision-makers and others who oversee decisions made by others, such as jurors.



2.45pm	Session 7: What Psychology can Offer Law – a USA Perspective
Chair	Justice Glenn Martin AM, <i>Supreme Court of Queensland</i>
Presenter	Professor Barbara Spellman, <i>University of Virginia</i>
Session Rationale	Legal proof is a human cognitive process, and unless courts understand the psychology of memory, perception, reasoning, and decision-making, they cannot reliably determine the truth. This can be achieved by: • Better education for judges and lawyers about cognitive science • Evidence-based interviewing and investigative practices. • Improved jury instructions that reflect psychological realities • More rigorous standards for expert evidence
3.45pm	Closing Remarks Chief Justice Helen Bowskill, Chair, NJCA Program Advisory Committee, <i>Supreme Court of Queensland</i>
4.00pm	Day One Close
6.00pm for 7.00pm	John Doyle Oration and Dinner



SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM - DAY TWO

Saturday 22 August 2026

8.30am Tea and Coffee

9.00am Session 8: Event Repetition and Memory

Chair Justice Katrina Banks-Smith, *Federal Court Australia*

Presenters Dr Celine van Golde, *University of Sydney*
Family violence and family law: cycles of abuse, and the episodic memory failure that comes from schema-based encoding of repeated harm.

Professor Mark Nolan, *Charles Sturt University*
Criminal proceedings: persistent sexual offences and coercive control, and the way in which event repetition collapses episodic detail into generic memory.

Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty, *University of Newcastle*
Civil proceedings: Historical/institutional abuse/class actions — long-delayed claims, event-repetition trauma, recovered memory, and the role of therapeutic intervention on memory over decades.

Session Rationale Many of the most difficult memory problems in litigation arise not from a single event, but from repeated, similar events over time — the so-called 'event repetition' problem. This session addresses the scientific realities and their practical consequences across three areas.

10.30am Morning Tea

11.00am Session 9: Children's Memory, Trauma and Suggestibility

Chair Justice Jim Henry, *Supreme Court of Queensland*

Presenter Professor Martine Powell, *Griffith University*

Session Rationale Participants will develop practical skills in evaluating child witness evidence against the science of children's memory, suggestibility, and trauma responses.

12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Session 10: Judicial Notice, the Trial Judge's Advantage and <i>Fox v Percy</i>
Moderator	Justice Sam Doyle, <i>Supreme Court of South Australia</i>
Panel	Chief Justice Laura Stein, <i>Supreme Court of South Australia</i> Justice Rowena Orr, <i>Supreme Court of Victoria</i> Justice Mark Livesey, <i>Supreme Court of South Australia</i> Judge Lisa Dunlop, <i>District Court of South Australia</i>
Session Rationale	This session will consider the implications of memory science for the roles of both trial and appellate judges. An understanding of the science helps us to see how and why memories may be unreliable, and what may or may not indicate unreliability. To what extent can, or should, judges rely upon their own understanding of these matters? To what extent can, or should, they draw on what they 'know' from the science without hearing expert evidence? To what extent can, or should, they provide juries with assistance? Given the difficulties in assessing the reliability of human memory, what are the implications for a trial judge's 'advantage' and appellate judges' deference? Is it time to revisit the rationale for that deference?
3.00pm	Closing Remarks Chief Justice Lucy McCallum, NJCA Council Chair, <i>Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory</i>
3.15pm	Symposium Close



NJCA SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

Justice Glenn Martin AM – Chair, *Supreme Court of Queensland*

Justice Glenn Martin is a graduate of The University of Queensland—Bachelor of Arts (1978), Bachelor of Laws (1979) and Queensland University of Technology—Master of Laws (1993).

He was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1979 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 1998. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2007. He had additional appointments as President of the Industrial Court of Queensland and President of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission from 2013 to 2020.

He was appointed Senior Judge Administrator of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2022.

In 2013, His Honour was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the law, particularly through contributions to the Australian Bar Association, and to the community of Queensland.

He is a life member of NJCA, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Australian Bar Association, and the Australian Judicial Officers Association.

Justice Katrina-Banks Smith, *Federal Court of Australia*

Katrina Frances Banks-Smith was appointed to the Federal Court of Australia on 12 February 2018. Prior to her appointment, her Honour had been a justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia since 2016.

Her Honour grew up in Tasmania and graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours in 1988. In 1993 her Honour obtained a Master of Laws degree with First Class Honours from the University of Cambridge, which she attended on a Commonwealth Government Scholarship.

Her Honour was a partner of the firm now known as Herbert Smith Freehills in Perth for many years before joining the Independent Bar in 2009. Her Honour was appointed Senior Counsel for Western Australia in 2013.

Prior to her Honour's appointment as a judge, she practised in commercial litigation, particularly in the areas of contract, banking, insolvency and mining law, as well as undertaking regulatory work.

Chief Justice Helen Bowskill, *Supreme Court of Queensland*

The Honourable Helen Bowskill was sworn in as Chief Justice of Queensland on 22 March 2022, having served as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland from 10 July 2017, and as the Senior Judge Administrator of the Supreme Court of Queensland from 24 August 2021. Her Honour previously served as a Judge of the District Court of Queensland from 10 November 2014, in that capacity also sitting as a Judge of the Children's Court of Queensland and the Planning and Environment Court.



Her Honour holds the degree of Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) from the Queensland University of Technology and was awarded the University Medal in 1995. In 2022, her Honour was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of the University by the Queensland University of Technology.

Her Honour served as the Associate to the Honourable Justice Drummond of the Federal Court of Australia in 1996 and completed articles of clerkship with Minter Ellison in 1997. Her Honour was admitted as a solicitor in January 1998, and as a barrister in July 1998. She commenced practice at the private Bar in Brisbane in July 1998. Her Honour took silk in November 2013. As a barrister, she practised widely in public, administrative and commercial law areas, with a particular focus on native title law.

Her Honour is a member and current Chair of the Judicial Council on Diversity and Inclusion, Co-Chair of the Programs Advisory Committee of the National Judicial College of Australia, and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.

Justice Sam Doyle, Supreme Court of South Australia

Justice Doyle graduated with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce from Adelaide University and a Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford University.

Justice Doyle was an associate to the Honourable Justice Lander from 1995-1996, before joining the legal firm of Fisher Jeffries, working as a solicitor from 1997-2001. Justice Doyle was a member of Jeffcott Chambers between 2002-2015 and took silk in 2012. He was Vice President of the SA Bar Association from 2014-2015.

Justice Doyle was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia in December 2015. He spent five years hearing matters in both the civil and criminal jurisdictions of the Court, regularly sitting as member of the Full Court of the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeal.

In December 2020 Justice Doyle was appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeal.

Judge Kate Hughes, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

Judge Hughes holds Economics and Law degrees from the Australian National University. After graduating from university, she worked for two years as a crisis intervention worker for the Domestic Violence Crisis Service in Canberra, attending family violence incidents with police and providing intervention services, advice and court support to families affected by family violence.

In 1990 Judge Hughes was admitted to legal practice. For the next 16 years she worked in the legal aid sector, practising in areas of crime, family violence, family law and child protection. She was head of the Family Law practice at the ACT Legal Aid Commission for 8 years and then for 2 years at the NT Legal Aid Commission. She was a solicitor advocate, appearing on an almost daily basis in the Family Court of Australia, Federal Circuit Court of Australia and the Magistrates Courts of the ACT and the Northern Territory.

Throughout her years as a solicitor, Judge Hughes served on various Law Society committees, including the Criminal Law committee, Family Law committee and Complaints.

Magistrate Jay Pandya, Magistrates Court of South Australia

Magistrate Pandya is a graduate of Adelaide University Law School. She pursued criminal defence work in Adelaide before undertaking an internship at the District Attorney's Office in Los Angeles. On returning to Adelaide, she accepted an offer as a prosecutor at the Office



of the Director of Public Prosecutions and was in that role for 18 years before being appointed to the Magistracy in 2011.

As a Magistrate, she has taken a special interest in the area of domestic violence. From 2018, she spent two and half years as the Manager of the Family Violence Court. Magistrate Pandya seeks to develop improved outcomes within the Courts by reviewing administrative processes, liaison and information sharing with the judiciary, police, the legal fraternity, support services for victims and other relevant agencies.

Magistrate Pandya has regularly undertaken circuits to remote Indigenous communities and other rural regions. She is a trained facilitator with the National Judicial College of Australia and has presented extensively in her role as the Family Violence Manager to the judiciary and other stakeholders both locally and interstate. She is a committee member of the Australian Association of Women Judges and recognises the important role of women in justice.

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTER AND FACILITATOR BIOGRAPHIES

Professor Richard Bryant, *University of New South Wales*

Professor Richard Bryant is an internationally renowned authority in the field of mental health following traumatic events. His research has focused on identification of people at risk of mental health problems after trauma, early intervention strategies, treatment strategies for posttraumatic stress, and complicated grief. His work on major projects includes the Australian NHMRC PTSD treatment guidelines, the world's only PTSD treatment guidelines for emergency service workers, partnership with WHO in developing the most widely used interventions for low-and-middle-income-countries, and identification of factors that contribute to PTSD in emergency service workers. He leads Australia's largest research clinic for emergency service workers and has worked on the largest international legal class actions involving emergency service workers.

Professor Bryant's development of assessment tools for identifying recently traumatised people who may subsequently develop PTSD became the international gold standard. He also served on the workgroup that developed the current PTSD diagnostic definitions for both the American Psychiatric Association (DSM-5) and World Health Organization (ICD). He has published six books, 90 book chapters, and 840 peer-reviewed journal articles.

Judge Lisa Dunlop, *District Court of South Australia*

Judge Dunlop was appointed to the District Court of South Australia in May 2025. She has been sitting in criminal trials and sentencing matters since that time. Prior to her appointment, Her Honour worked as a criminal prosecutor with the SA Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and as a solicitor with the ODPP prior to that.

As a prosecutor, Judge Dunlop conducted a variety of trials but had a particular interest in the prosecution of sexual crimes with respect to adults and children. Many of the trials Her Honour conducted were for dated offending, including one matter that related to charges alleged to have occurred 50 years prior to the trial. Having experienced the challenges of memory as counsel, Judge Dunlop is now seeing a different perspective as a judge.



Professor Ullrich Ecker, University of Western Australia

Professor Ullrich Ecker is a cognitive psychologist. His research focuses on the impacts of misinformation on memory, reasoning, and behaviour, as well as communication strategies to counter these impacts. Professor Ullrich received his PhD at Saarland University, Germany in 2007 and then moved to the University of Western Australia (UWA), where he is a Professor in the School of Psychological Science and a Fellow of the UWA Public Policy Institute. He is also a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and was named Australia's Research Field Leader in Cognitive Science in The Australian's 2023 Research Awards.

With his students and collaborators, he has published more than 100 journal articles and book chapters, and he holds editorial roles at multiple international journals. He has provided expert advice to German and Australian courts of law, parliamentary committees in Singapore and Victoria, and the Australian Government as a member of a national COVID-19 "Roadmap to Recovery" taskforce. He currently holds an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship to work on a project titled "Combating Misinformation".

Dr Celine van Golde, University of Sydney

Dr Celine van Golde is an Associate Professor in the School of Psychology at the University of Sydney. Her expertise is the study of memory recollections for various parties in the criminal justice system. She explores the effects of (repeated) stressful events on the memory of different stakeholders (e.g., victim-survivors, suspects, police), looking for ways to obtain the most accurate accounts of these events, while ensuring psychological wellbeing. She does this both for children as well as adults.

Dr van Golde further investigates which factors play a role in fact finders, like jurors and judges' decision making. She gives regular guest lectures within the NSW Police Force Child Abuse Squad, the Domestic Violence Investigators, and the Detective Training Program, as well as advising judges and lawyers on issues related to eyewitness memory.

Recently, her focus is on gender-based violence where her research facilitates the investigation and prosecution of these offences. She focuses both on physical forms of violence, as well as non-physical forms, such as coercive control and emotional abuse.

Professor Jan Goodman-Delahunty, University of Newcastle

Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty is a Professor of the University of Newcastle Law School and a Member of the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Trained in Law and Cognitive Psychology, she conducts transdisciplinary empirical studies to promote evidence-based practice to enhance justice. She has secured over \$9 million in research funding and published over 200 scholarly articles and books.

She was a Visiting Professor in China, England, Hong Kong, India, and Japan. Appointed a Fellow of the American Psychological Association in 1996, she was Editor of Psychology, Public Policy, and Law. Before moving to an academic appointment in Australia, she practiced law for 20 years in the private and public sectors. She was an Administrative Judge for the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and a mediator with JAMS.

Professor Goodman-Delahunty has led international research projects and produced important recommendations for justice reform on topics such as sexual harassment, police interrogations, questioning processes, legal interpreting, and assessments of psychological injuries. Professor Goodman-Delahunty works internationally as an expert consultant in relation to human memory, jury behaviour, and child and adult sexual assault.

Justice Jim Henry, *Supreme Court of Queensland*

Justice Jim Henry (BA LLB University of Queensland) was admitted as a barrister in 1986. He prosecuted for the Queensland Office of Director of Prosecutions, ultimately as Consultant Crown Prosecutor for its Northern Region, before joining the private bar in Cairns. He took silk in 2006. He was appointed a Supreme Court Judge, the Far Northern Judge and a Land Appeal Court Judge in 2011. His Honour has taught with the NJCA since 2020.

Dr Loraine Lim, *Loraine Lim Psychology*

Dr Loraine Lim is an endorsed Forensic Psychologist in private practice who has Masters qualifications in psychology, child and adolescent mental health, criminology, and a PhD in psychology, whereby she studied a mental health diversionary and court intervention program in South Australia and how therapeutic jurisprudence principles can be applied to effect positive change. She is currently an adjunct Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Adelaide and was the former State Chair of the Australian Psychological Society (SA Branch) from 2019 to 2021.

Dr Lim was employed by the South Australia's Treatment Intervention Program for a decade, which included the Youth Treatment Intervention Court between 2006 to 2016. She has a special interest in working with youths and adults who are on the autism spectrum and is an accredited diagnostician with Autism SA. She is currently in private practice full time and has extensive experience providing medico-legal reports for court and a range of diagnostic and intervention services to at-risk, vulnerable youths and adults. She continues to take an active interest in psychological research and the training of new psychological registrars and is a keen proponent of the applications of research into psychological practice.

Justice Mark Livesey, *Supreme Court of South Australia*

The Hon Justice Mark Livesey was appointed to the Supreme Court of South Australia and the Court of Appeal on 28 January 2020. On 1 September 2021 he was appointed President of the Court of Appeal. Before his appointment to the Court, he worked in commercial and insurance litigation.

He joined the Bar in July 2000 and was appointed Queen's Counsel on 6 February 2006. His Honour had a broad practice in commercial and civil litigation, as well as appeals.

Justice Livesey served as President of the South Australian Bar Association in 2011-2012 and President of the Australian Bar Association in 2014-2015.

He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is currently the Chair of the Judges' Forum of the International Bar Association.

Chief Justice Lucy McCallum, *Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory*

Chief Justice Lucy McCallum graduated with a BA/LLB from the University of New South Wales in 1986, majoring in philosophy. She commenced her legal career as a commercial litigation solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jaques in Sydney before moving to Canberra to take up a position as a prosecutor in 1988. In 1990, her Honour joined the Queensland DPP as a trial advocate. She returned to Sydney in 1991 to become a barrister, taking silk in 2005.

In 2008, her Honour was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in the Common Law Division. In 2016, Chief Justice McCallum was appointed Chair of the NSW Judicial Commission Ngara Yura Committee, which works to educate judicial officers on matters relating to contemporary socio-cultural issues that have an impact on Aboriginal people in the justice system. In February 2019, she was elevated to the New South Wales Court of Appeal. Her Honour was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Australian Capital Territory on 8 March 2022. Her personal interests include a range of outdoor adventure sports as well as cooking, music and reading.

Professor Mark Nolan, *Charles Sturt University*

Professor Mark Nolan is an interdisciplinary legal scholar with qualifications in law, honours and doctoral training in social psychology, and a Masters of Asia Pacific Studies majoring in Thai language.

Prior to becoming Director of the Centre for Law and Justice at CSU in April 2020 until 9 Dec 2024, Professor Nolan worked at the Australian National University College of Law, since 2002. At the ANU, Mark taught undergraduate and postgraduate students and researched criminal law and procedure, including codified Australian federal criminal law, law and psychology, military discipline law, foundations of Australian Law, advocacy, and human rights law.

Other research interests include citizenship law, social cohesion, intergroup relations, stereotyping, prejudice, social justice theory, and sentencing law. Professor Nolan held a range of administrative positions at the ANU including HDR Director, Associate Dean (Education), JD Director (including of an online JD), and Director of Postgraduate Programs.

Justice Rowena Orr, *Supreme Court of Victoria*

Justice Rowena Orr has been a judge of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Victoria since April 2024.

Prior to her appointment, Justice Orr served as the Solicitor-General for Victoria. Before becoming Solicitor-General, Justice Orr spent nearly two decades as a barrister at the Victorian Bar, appearing in cases involving constitutional, administrative, criminal, regulatory and commercial law. She was appointed Senior Counsel in 2014. Justice Orr had significant roles in several royal commissions and inquiries, including Victoria's landmark Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2015 and the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry in 2018-2019.

She was the inaugural chair of the Australian Bar Association's ethics committee, a member of the advisory panel to the Australian Law Reform Commission's Inquiry into Judicial Impartiality and chair of the public law section of the Victorian Bar's Commercial Bar Association.

Justice Orr has a Master of Philosophy (Criminology) from the University of Cambridge and holds degrees in law and economics from the University of Queensland.



Professor Martine Powell, *Griffith University*

Professor Martine Powell is a Professor at Griffith University and Founding Director of the Centre for Investigative Interviewing (based in the Griffith Criminology Institute). She is a world-leading expert on investigative interviewing, particularly the questioning of children and other vulnerable witnesses. Prior to her current role, she was a clinical psychologist, working with child victims of abuse.

Professor Powell's outputs are extensive - she has produced more than 380 peer-reviewed publications, supervised 39 doctoral/PhD students, and has been lead or co-chief investigator on numerous competitive research grants. The influence of her research has been recognised by several lifetime career awards (including membership into the prestigious Australian Academy of the Social Sciences). Professor Powell's training and advice have helped people from over 700 organisations across the globe improve their questioning skills.

Professor Barbara Spellman, *University of Virginia*

Professor Barbara Spellman joined the faculty of the University of Virginia Department of Psychology in 1997 and moved to the Law School in 2008. She teaches evidence and various courses on the intersection of psychology and law (e.g., Behavioral Decision Making and Law; Empirical Methods in Law).

Professor Spellman received her law degree from New York University in 1982. In the mid-1980s she practiced tax law at Chadbourne & Parke in New York City and worked as a writer and editor at Matthew Bender Company. She then moved to University of California and earned a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology. Her psychology research focused on memory, analogical reasoning and causal reasoning. Now she writes about judicial reasoning, forensics and the replication crisis in science.

Professor Spellman has published in both psychology journals and law reviews. She edited a special issue of *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* (2010) on emerging trends in psychology and law research. From 2011-15 she served as editor-in-chief of *Perspectives on Psychological Science*. Her book (with Michael Saks), *The Psychological Foundations of Evidence Law*, was published in 2016.

Mr Mark Steele SC, *7 Wentworth Selborn*

Mr Mark Steele SC holds an LLB with First Class Honours and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Melbourne and a Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford University. He practices at the Commercial Bar in Sydney and was appointed senior counsel in 2013.

Currently he is engaged in research towards a PhD from the University of Sydney on the subject: "The Practice and Regulation of Witness Preparation in Civil Proceedings in Australia".

Mr Steele has published several articles on this topic in recent years, including "Witness Preparation and the Corruption of Memory: A Survey of Australian Trial Judges" (2024) 48 MULR 152 (reporting on a survey of trial judges of the Federal Court and the Supreme Courts of NSW, QLD and VIC) and "Witness Preparation, the Corruption of Evidence in Civil Proceedings and Practice Direction 57AC: Where do we go from Here?" (2026) 45 Civil Justice Quarterly 109 (reporting on interviews with 35 judges, counsel and solicitors practicing in commercial litigation in London).

Chief Justice Laura Stein, *Supreme Court of South Australia*

Chief Justice Laura Stein was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia on 3 September 2021. On 15 January 2026, her Honour was appointed as Chief Justice of South Australia, effective from 19 February 2026.

Chief Justice Stein was the Crown Solicitor for South Australia before her Honour's appointment to the Supreme Court.

While employed in the Crown Solicitor's Office and before appointment as Crown Solicitor, Chief Justice Stein occupied roles as Executive Solicitor responsible for commercial litigation, Special Counsel to the Crown Solicitor and Assistant Crown Solicitor Civil Litigation.

Before joining the Crown Solicitor's Office, Chief Justice Stein worked in private practice at Fisher Jeffries after an associateship to High Court Justice Michael McHugh.

Chief Justice Stein's academic qualifications include a Bachelor of Laws, Master of Laws and Bachelor of Economics. While in practice her Honour specialised in the conduct of large and complex commercial litigation.



JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Forthcoming Programs

Oral Decisions

7 - 8 October 2026, Brisbane

24 - 25 June 2027, Sydney

This program is a must for judges and magistrates who want to improve their oral and ex tempore judgments. In this two-day program, experienced judicial officers and oral communication experts will transform the demeanor, appearance and communication skills pertinent to the making of oral rulings.



Advanced Judicial Skills and Techniques

22 - 23 October 2026, Perth

11 - 12 February 2027, Adelaide

Court craft skills are a powerful, specific and critical judicial skills. This program has been designed and developed based on years of feedback from judicial officers seeking a deeply practical skills-based program, tailored for judicial officers who have at least three to six years of experience of the bench.



Writing Better Judgments I

7 - 9 April 2027, Sydney

20 - 22 October 2027, Adelaide

The Writing Better Judgments I program is designed to enhance participants' judgment writing skills through analysis, discussion and rewriting of judgments in small groups. This program provides participants with practical tools and tips for better judgment writing; a high level of interactivity including group workshops; and individual feedback.

