



Law Council  
OF AUSTRALIA

*Federal Dispute Resolution  
Section*

# Immigration Law Conference

The Joy of Change – A Strategy  
for Reform

Program

Sponsor



MIGRATION MANAGER  
UPGRADE TO FIRST CLASS





# 2024 Immigration Law Conference

## A message from the President of the Law Council of Australia



Mr Greg McIntyre SC

There is no question we face globally uncertain times and as our world changes so too must our migration policies and laws.

The Law Council of Australia's role is to monitor and advise on decisions taken at a federal level that are designed to address new challenges and needs.

A major change before us in 2024 is the transition from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal to the Administrative Review Tribunal. The ART will remain responsible for review of migration and refugee visa and Australian Citizenship decisions.

Both administrative and judicial review processes are fundamental to ensuring that visa decisions are correct, and it is vital that these pathways are accessible and open to all applicants.

In the face of increasing demand, to ensure fair and timely decisions and for all who require assistance to be able to access legal representation, we cannot underestimate the importance of innovation and reform.

It is very exciting to have so many thought leaders and esteemed experts come together to consider some of the major issues facing Australia today and the strategies needed to address them.

Thank you for joining us for the 2024 Immigration Law Conference and thank you to our hosts, the Law Council of Australia's Migration Law Committee.

I look forward to a thought-provoking, valuable and diverse program through which we will together explore the breadth of migration law reform in this country.

# 2024 Immigration Law Conference

## A message from the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Migration Law Committee



Ms Carina Ford, Chair  
Mr Chris Spentzaris, Deputy Chair

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On behalf of the Migration Law Committee, it is our great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all attendees of the 2024 Immigration Law Conference in Melbourne. As Chair and Deputy Chair, we are honoured to host this year’s event, which centres around the theme, “The Joy of Change: A Strategy for Reform.”

In an ever-evolving landscape of migration policies and practices, the need for innovation and reform has never been more apparent. This conference provides a unique platform for legal professionals, policymakers, academics, and industry experts to come together and engage in insightful discussions on the strategies needed to bring about positive change in the field of immigration law. It also provides practical skill sessions focusing on fine tuning legal skills in areas of immigration law practice.

This conference promises to be an enriching experience, filled with insightful discussions, expert presentations, and opportunities for networking and collaboration. It’s also a fully in person event, a return to pre-covid times to ensure to enhance that

experience. We have curated a diverse agenda that encompasses the latest developments, challenges, and innovations in immigration law, reflecting the dynamic nature of our field.

As Chair, it’s been a wonderful experience to lead the committee in organising this conference alongside our dedicated Deputy Chair, Chris Spentzaris. Special thanks also to our conference organising sub-committee. Our goal is to create a platform where professionals can engage in meaningful dialogue, share valuable insights, and foster connections that will contribute to the advancement of immigration law.

We have an exceptional lineup of keynote speakers, panel discussions, and interactive sessions that will delve into various aspects of immigration law reform. We encourage all participants to actively engage in these conversations, share experiences, and contribute their perspectives to foster a rich and diverse dialogue.

Feel free to reach out to us throughout the conference with any feedback or suggestions. Your

# 2024 Immigration Law Conference

input is invaluable as we work together to make this event an informative and memorable experience for all. Thank you for being a part of the 2024 Immigration Law Conference. We look forward to engaging with you and building a stronger, more connected community within the realm of immigration law.

Migration Committee Membership as at 14 March 2024:

- Ms Carina Ford, Chair
- Mr Chris Spentzaris, Deputy Chair
- Mr Eugene Alexander
- Ms Karyn Anderson
- Ms Valerie da Gama Pereira
- Ms Sarah Fisher
- Ms Sarah Frankel
- Mr Min Guo
- Ms Katherine Hooper
- Ms Liz Huang Hughes-Brown
- Ms Lena Hung
- Ms Maria Jockel
- Ms Joanne Kinslor
- Ms Victorian Lenton
- Ms Anne O'Donoghue
- Ms Leah Perkins
- Mr David Prince
- Ms Emily Rutherford
- Mr Mitchell Simmons
- Ms Jennifer Wilson

## CPD requirements

Each State or Territory may have its own requirements for the purposes of meeting CPD compliance for solicitors and barristers. It's up to a solicitor or barrister to ensure they meet such requirements but as a guide, we have incorporated into the conference at least 1 session on the following:

- ethics and professional responsibility
- practice management and business skills;
- professional skills (or barristers' skills); and
- substantive law

Note that the requirements for barristers are also slightly different, so please ensure that you are familiar with the CPD Rules that apply to you. It's also up to you to attend the relevant session for the purposes of CPD compliance.

# Program

Time	Wednesday, 13 March 2024
6.30pm - 8.30pm	<p><b>Welcome Drinks</b></p> <p>Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia</p> <p>Chris Spentzaris, Deputy Chair, Migration Law Committee, Federal Dispute Resolution Section, Law Council of Australia</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Honourable William Alstergren AO, Chief Judge, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)</li> <li>The Honourable Deputy Chief Judge Mercuri, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)</li> <li>Matthew Hibbins, President, Law Institute of Victoria</li> </ul>
Time	Thursday, 14 March 2024 Room 1
8.30am	<p><b>Registration</b></p> <p>Park Hyatt, 1 Parliament Square Off, Parliament Place, Melbourne</p>
9.00am	<b>Conference Commences</b>
9.00am - 9.30am (30 mins)	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Carina Ford, Chair, Migration Law Committee, Federal Dispute Resolution Section, Law Council of Australia</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greg McIntyre SC, President, Law Council of Australia</li> <li>The Honourable Justice Emiliios Kyrou AO, President, Administrative Appeals Tribunal</li> <li>Peter Woulfe, Chair, Federal Dispute Resolution Section, Law Council of Australia</li> </ul>
9.30am - 10.15am (45 mins)	<p><b>Minister's Introduction and Address</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Carina Ford, Chair, Migration Law Committee, Federal Dispute Resolution Section, Law Council of Australia</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs</li> </ul>

# Program

Time	Thursday, 14 March 2024	
	Room 1	
10.15am - 11.10am (55 mins)	<p><b>Session 1 - Update from the Department of Home Affairs</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Jennifer Wilson, Director, KPMG</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damian Kilner, First Assistant Secretary of Immigration Programs Division, Department of Home Affairs</li> </ul>	
11.10am - 11.30am (20 mins)	Morning tea	
Time	Room 1	Room 2
11.30am - 12.30pm (60 mins)	<p><b>Session 2 - Drafting Originating Applications and Affidavit Evidence</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Katherine Hooper, Barrister, NSW Bar</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nigel Dobbie, Director, Dobbie and Devine Immigration Lawyers Pty Ltd</li> <li>Lawson Bayly, Senior Lawyer, Victoria Legal Aid</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session 2 (Concurrent) - Free and Equal: Visions for the Future of Migration and Detention from the Australian Human Rights Commission</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Emily Rutherford, Senior Lawyer, Australian Human Rights Commission</p> <p><u>Speaker:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM, President, Australian Human Rights Commission</li> </ul>
12.30pm - 1.25pm (55 mins)	Lunch	

# Program

Time	Room 1	Room 2
1.30pm - 2.30pm  (60 mins)	<p><b>Session 3 - The Latest News in Employer Sponsored and General Skilled Migration</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Lena Hung, Lena Hung &amp; Associates</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amanda Dansie, Director, Labour Agreements, Department of Home Affairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session 3 (Concurrent) - Family Violence - Its Impact in Immigration</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Leah Perkins, Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa Fowler, Women’s Legal Service, Victoria</li> <li>Dr Daye Gang, Barrister, Parnells Barristers</li> <li>Sarah Rose, Director, Partner Program Delivery Victoria, Department of Home Affairs</li> </ul>
2.30pm	5 minute break - Changeover of speakers	
2.35pm - 3.35pm  (60 mins)	<p><b>Session 4 - Ministerial Requests and Guidelines, Bar Lifts and the Need for Reform</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Mitch Simmons, Special Counsel, Estrin Saul Lawyers &amp; Migration Specialists</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jarrold Town, A/g Assistant Secretary, Status Resolution Programs and Capability, Department of Home Affairs</li> <li>Reuben Saul, Partner, Estrin Saul Lawyers &amp; Migration Specialists</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session 4 (Concurrent) - Worker Exploitation, Strengthening Employer Compliance Bill and Nixon Report</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Chris Spentzaris, Partner, Fragomen</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate Professor Anna Boucher, University of Sydney</li> <li>Louise Peters, Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman</li> <li>David Gavin, AS, Department of Home Affairs</li> <li>Laurie Berg, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney and Co-Executive Director, Migrant Justice Institute</li> </ul>



# Program

<p>3.35pm - 4.00pm (25 mins)</p>	<p>Afternoon tea</p>	
<p>4.00pm - 5.00pm (60 mins)</p>	<p><b>Session 5 - Skills Assessments / State Nomination - Tips and Challenges</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Valerie Pereira, Principal, Da Gama Pereira and Associates</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damian Marquardt, Manager, Migration Services, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (VIC)</li> <li>• Betsy Gregg, Australian Computer Society (ACS)</li> <li>• Natalie Beck, VETASSESS</li> <li>• Matthew Newton, VETASSESS</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session 5 (Concurrent) - Interviewing Skills, How to Handle Challenging Conversations</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Karyn Anderson, Partner, Clothier Anderson Lawyers</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ahmad Sawan, Supervising Senior Solicitor, RACS</li> <li>• Rachel Saravanamuthu, Senior Solicitor, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)</li> </ul>
<p>5.00pm</p>	<p>Day 1 concludes</p>	
<p>6.30pm - 10.00pm</p>	<p>Conference Dinner</p> <p>Park Hyatt, 1 Parliament Square Off, Parliament Pl, Melbourne</p> <p><u>MC:</u> Rick Gunn, Partner, Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers</p> <p><u>Presenter of the Award:</u> Christian Bell, Migration Manager</p> <p>"John Gibson AM - Migration Manager - Award for the Young Australian Migration Lawyer of the Year"</p> <p><u>Entertainment:</u> Dilruk Jayasinha, Comedian</p>	

# Program

Time	Friday, 15 March 2024
8.30am	<b>Registration</b> Park Hyatt, 1 Parliament Square Off, Parliament Place, Melbourne
8.50am	<b>Conference commences</b>
8.50am - 9.00am (10 mins)	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <u>Speaker:</u> James Popple, Chief Executive Officer, Law Council of Australia
9.00am - 9.30am (30 mins)	<b>Shadow Minister for Immigration Address</b> <u>Chair:</u> Chris Spentzaris, Deputy Chair, Migration Law Committee, Federal Dispute Resolution Section, Law Council of Australia <u>Speaker:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship</li> </ul>
9.30am - 10.15am (45 mins)	<b>Migration in the FCFCOA: Reflecting on the Journey</b> <u>Speaker:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Honourable Deputy Chief Judge Mercuri, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)</li> </ul>
10.15am - 11.00am (45 mins)	<b>The Future of Migration Litigation in the Federal Court of Australia</b> <u>Chair:</u> Carina Ford, Chair, Migration Law Committee, Federal Dispute Resolution Section, Law Council of Australia <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hon Justice Geoffrey Ross Kennett, Judge, Federal Court of Australia and Deputy President, Administrative Appeals Tribunal</li> <li>The Hon Justice Christopher James Horan, Judge, Federal Court of Australia</li> <li>Simon Haag, National Judicial Registrar, Federal Court of Australia</li> </ul>
11.00am (30 mins)	<b>Morning tea</b>

# Program

Time	Friday, 15 March 2024	
11.30am - 12.30pm (60 mins)	<p><b>Session 1 - New in Judicial Review</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Sarah Frankel, Practice Leader - Skilled Migration, Estrin Saul Lawyers &amp; Migration Specialists</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Thompson, Partner, HWL Ebsworth</li> <li>• Sophie Lloyd, Partner, MinterEllison</li> <li>• Min Guo, Victorian Bar</li> </ul>	
12.30pm - 1.15pm (45 mins)	Lunch	
Time	Room 1	Room 2
1.20pm - 2.20pm (60 mins)	<p><b>Session 2 - Running Character-Related Cases in the AAT's General Division</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> David Prince, Principal Solicitor, Kinslor Prince Lawyers</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katherine Hooper, Barrister, Level 22 Chambers, NSW</li> <li>• Tony Munro, Senior Lawyer, Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session 2 (Concurrent) - Workshop on Ethical Issues for Immigration Lawyers</b></p> <p><u>Co-ordinators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phillip Yip, Principal Director, Phillip Yip &amp; Associates Pty Ltd</li> <li>• Carina Ford, Managing Partner, Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers</li> </ul>
2.25pm - 3.25pm (60 mins)	<p><b>Session 3 - The New Administrative Review Tribunal</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Victoria Lenton, Principal Lawyer, Lenton Lawyers</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan Redfern PSM, Deputy President and Division Head (Migration &amp; Refugee Division), Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)</li> <li>• Joanne Kinslor, Principal Solicitor, Kinslor Prince Lawyers</li> </ul>	

# Program

<p>3.25pm - 3.55pm</p> <p>(30 mins)</p>	<p>Afternoon tea</p>	
<p>4.00pm - 4.50pm</p> <p>(50 mins)</p>	<p><b>Session 4 - The Joy of Bridging Visas</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Madeline Keating, Managing Associate, Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Prince, Principal Solicitor, Kinslor Prince Lawyers</li> <li>• Ahmad Sawan, Supervising Senior Solicitor, RACS</li> <li>• Jarrod Town, A/g Assistant Secretary, Status Resolution Programs and Capability, Department of Home Affairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session 4 (Concurrent) - Discussion on Hybrid Practices or Multi-Disciplinary Partnerships: Compliance and Minimising Complaints</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Valerie Pereira, Principal, Da Gama Pereira and Associates</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Rodger Fernandez, Senior Lawyer, FCG Legal</li> <li>• Jennie Pakula, The Lawyers Friend</li> </ul>
<p>4.50pm - 5.30pm</p> <p>(40 mins)</p>	<p><b>Session 5 - Implications of NZYQ V Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs</b></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Hannah Dickinson, Principal Solicitor, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanmati Verma, Human Rights Law Centre</li> <li>• Kate Bones, Barrister, NSW Bar</li> </ul>	
<p>Conference concludes</p>		

## Speaker Bios



**The Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs**

Andrew Giles was first elected to the Australian Parliament as Member for Scullin on 7 September 2013, representing the Australian Labor Party

(ALP). He is currently serving his fourth term in Parliament representing the Scullin community. Andrew is the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs. He previously served as Shadow Assistant Minister for Schools from July 2016 to May 2019, and as Shadow Minister for Cities and Urban Infrastructure, Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and Shadow Minister Assisting for Immigration and Citizenship from May 2019 to May 2022.

Andrew has served on a number of parliamentary committees: Electoral Matters (as Deputy Chair); Privileges; and Infrastructure, Transport and Cities. Andrew's policy interests include cities, education, the future of work, climate change, immigration and social policy. He has contributed to public debate as well as policy formulation within the ALP on these issues and on improving the health of our democracy. A particular interest of Andrew's is that of loneliness in Australia, and how governments can respond to deal with this public health challenge. In 2021 Andrew launched the Parliamentary Friends of Loneliness and is co-chair of the group. Prior to his election to Parliament Andrew was a principal lawyer at Slater & Gordon practising in employment law. He also worked as lawyer at the firm Holding Redlich, where he acted on behalf of the asylum seekers on the MV Tampa, and in a number of political roles for the Victorian Government. He has been a member of the ALP since he was 18. Andrew is married to Dr Jillian Constable, and they have two children - Daniel and Alice.



**The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship**

Mr Tehan was elected to Federal Parliament in 2010 and has held positions including as the Chair of the Parliamentary Joint

Committee on Intelligence and Security, Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Youth Mental Health, and; Chair of the Coalition Friends of Tourism.

Mr Tehan has served as Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment; Minister for Education; Minister for Social Services; Minister for Veterans' Affairs; Minister for Defence Personnel; Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac.

Mr Tehan is currently the Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.

## Speaker Bios



**The Honourable William Alstergren AO**  
Chief Judge, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

The Chief Justice of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia is the Honourable William Alstergren AO.

Chief Justice Alstergren is also Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia. Chief Judge Alstergren was appointed Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia on 10 December 2018.

His Honour was appointed Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia in October 2017. His Honour held a dual appointment as Deputy Chief Justice of the Family Court from December 2017 and he has presided over the Appeals Division of the Family Court since March 2018.

Chief Justice Alstergren has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne. He also has a Master of Laws. He practised as a barrister in Melbourne from 1991, and took silk in 2012. He was the Chairman of the Victorian Bar in 2013 and President of the Australian Bar Association in 2017.



**The Honourable Justice Emilios Kyrou AO**  
President, Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT)

The Hon Justice Emilios Kyrou AO was a Judge of Appeal of the Victorian Court of Appeal from July 2014 until he was appointed a Judge of the

Federal Court of Australia. Between May 2008 and July 2014, Justice Kyrou was a Trial Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria, where he was one of the judges in charge of the Supreme Court's Judicial Review and Appeals List.

From July 1990 until May 2008, Justice Kyrou was a senior litigation partner at the international legal firm that is now known as King & Wood Mallesons, where he specialised in administrative law and insurance law.

Justice Kyrou commenced his legal career in 1983 as an articled clerk at the firm that is now known as Corrs Chambers Westgarth and was a partner of that firm from July 1988 until July 1990. Justice Kyrou was born in Greece. His family migrated to Australia when he was eight years of age.

Justice Kyrou was an inaugural member of the Judicial Council on Diversity and Inclusion. He is the patron of the Australian Greek Welfare Society ('Pronia') and the Victorian patron of the Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association.

## Speaker Bios



The Honourable Justice Christopher James Horan  
Judge, Federal Court of Australia

Justice Horan was admitted in the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1992. After practising as a solicitor and as a government lawyer, he

commenced practice at the Victorian Bar in 2000, and was appointed senior counsel in 2015. Justice Horan was appointed to the Federal Court on 5 September 2023.

In 1990, Justice Horan graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours). In 1992, Justice Horan completed his articles and worked as a solicitor at Arthur Robinson & Hedderwicks. In 1993, Justice Horan was an Associate to then Justice of the High Court of Australia, the Hon Sir Francis Gerard Brennan AC KBE QC. From 1994 to 2000, Justice Horan worked for the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Government Solicitor, including in the Office of General Counsel and as Counsel Assisting the Solicitor-General.

At the Bar Justice Horan specialised in administrative law, constitutional law, migration, revenue, native title, and commercial and equity matters.



The Honourable Justice Geoffrey Ross Kennett  
Judge, Federal Court of Australia  
Deputy President,  
Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Justice Kennett graduated from the Australian National

University with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in 1985, a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) in 1988 and a Master of Public Law in 1993. His Honour also studied at the University of Sydney, graduating with a Master of Law in 2013.

Justice Kennett commenced his career in the Australian Public Service. His Honour held various roles, including as counsel assisting the Solicitor-General of the Commonwealth, before he commenced practice at the NSW Bar in 1998. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2010.

At the Bar Justice Kennett specialised in administrative, constitutional, customs, native title, taxation and competition and consumer law matters. His Honour served for several years as chair of the Administrative Law Committee of the Law Council of Australia and a member of its Constitutional Law Committee.

From March to December 2022 Justice Kennett was a Resident Judge of the Supreme Court of the ACT. His Honour is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.



## Speaker Bios



**The Honourable Patrizia Mercuri**  
**Deputy Chief Judge**  
**(General and Fair Work)**  
**(Division 2) of the Federal**  
**Circuit and Family Court**  
**of Australia**

Her Honour Deputy Chief Judge Mercuri was appointed to the

Melbourne registry of the Federal Circuit Court in September 2017. In September 2021, her Honour was elevated to Deputy Chief Judge (General and Fair Work) (Division 2) of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

Her Honour presides over both family law matters and general federal law matters, including migration, fair work, child support and human rights matters. Prior to her appointment, her Honour practiced extensively in industrial, discrimination and employment law.



**Emeritus Professor**  
**Rosalind Croucher AM**  
**President, Australian**  
**Human Rights**  
**Commission**

Emeritus Professor Croucher was appointed President of the Australian Human Rights Commission on 30 July

2017, after 10 years at the Australian Law Reform Commission. Her term concludes on 29 July 2024. Prior to this she was Dean of Law at Macquarie University (Nov 1999-Feb 2007) and Interim Dean at Sydney Law School (1997-1998). She has lectured and published extensively, principally in the fields of property, equity and legal history, and increasingly in public policy and in 2007, she became a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. Professor Croucher has been acknowledged for her contributions to public policy and outstanding contributions to the legal profession.

In 2011, she was recognised as one of the 40 'inspirational alumni' of UNSW, where she gained her PhD in legal history 1994. In 2014, Professor Croucher was acknowledged for her contributions to public policy as one of Australia's '100 Women of Influence' in the Australian Financial Review and Westpac awards; and for her 'outstanding contribution to the legal profession' role in supporting and advancing women in the legal profession she was awarded the Australian Women Lawyer's award. In 2015, she was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for 'significant service to the law as an academic, to legal reform and education, to professional development, and to the arts'. In October 2016, Macquarie University conferred on her the title of Emeritus Professor and in 2018 and 2020 she was awarded honorary LL.Ds by UNSW and Macquarie University respectively.



## Speaker Bios



**Karyn Anderson**  
Partner, Clothier  
Anderson Lawyers

Karyn graduated from the University of Melbourne in Arts and Law and holds a Master of Laws (cum laude) in Public International Law from the University of Leiden,

the Netherlands. She was admitted to legal practice in 1993 and has practised solely in the areas of immigration and refugee law for over 20 years, becoming a registered migration agent in 1996. She established her own legal practice with Michael Clothier in 2003 and continues to be the managing partner of Clothier Anderson Immigration Lawyers after Michael's retirement in 2019.

Karyn has extensive experience in all areas of immigration and refugee law including preparing primary visa applications and complex submissions to the Department and representing applicants in merits review applications in the AAT as well as judicial review applications in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, Federal Court of Australia and High Court of Australia.

Karyn became an accredited immigration and refugee law specialist in 2000 and has served on the Law Institute of Victoria's Immigration Law Advisory Committee, which sets the examinations for lawyers wanting to be accredited as specialists most years since then.



**Lawson Bayly**  
Senior Lawyer, Victoria  
Legal Aid

Lawson Bayly is a Senior Lawyer at Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) who practises in judicial review of migration decisions. Before coming to VLA, he was a sole practitioner

solicitor for around ten years, and his practice included primary applications, merits review and judicial review. He is an Accredited Specialist in Immigration Law.



**Natalie Beck**  
Team Leader - Skills  
Assessment Support  
(SAS) Pre-assessment  
Consultation Services,  
Skills Recognition  
Professional  
Occupations, VETASSESS

Natalie's background in the legal industry spanned ten years prior to joining VETASSESS in the Skills Assessment arena in 2001 when the skilled migration scheme was in its infancy. With expertise built over 22 years as a Senior Assessment Officer and Team Leader, Natalie has extensive experience working with stakeholders at all levels.

She has also presented at domestic & international levels advising on modifications on VETASSESS policies and procedures across Australia, Europe and India as well as delivered occupation specific Masterclasses to migration agents and other legal professionals.

## Speaker Bios



**Laurie Berg**  
Associate Professor,  
Faculty of Law, University  
of Technology Sydney  
and Co-Executive  
Director, Migrant Justice  
Institute

Laurie Berg is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of

Technology Sydney, and Co-Executive Director of Migrant Justice Institute, Australia's first national research and policy organisation dedicated to addressing migrant worker exploitation. Laurie is one of Australia's leading legal researchers on migrant workers' rights.

Over the past decade she has led numerous national and global research teams on migrant workers' access to justice for wage theft, technology for migrant empowerment, migrants' housing rights and the impact of COVID-19 on temporary migrants.



**Kate Bones**  
Barrister, Banco  
Chambers

Kate Bones is a barrister with expertise in public and administrative law. She has extensive experience in migration matters, appearing

regularly in judicial review proceedings and in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. Prior to coming to the Bar, Kate was a solicitor in the government law area at Legal Aid NSW.

Kate holds an LLM from Harvard Law School, where she studied as a Frank Knox Memorial Scholar. She has lectured in administrative law at the University

of Sydney. Kate is an author of *Children and Young People in Asylum and Refugee Processes: Towards Best Practice* (Federation Press) and of articles on migration law published in the *Sydney Law Review* and the *Melbourne Journal of International Law*.



**Anna Boucher**  
Associate Professor,  
University of Sydney

Anna is Chair of the Discipline of Government of International Relations and an Associate Professor in Public Policy and Comparative

Politics at the University of Sydney. She is also an admitted solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW, having undertaken her Diploma in Practical Legal Training at the College of Law, with a placement at Clayton Utz law firm (Sydney). She currently undertakes part-time legal consultancy for the boutique law firm Violet Co & Legal specialising in employment and anti-discrimination law. A frequent public speaker, she sits of the Executive Committee of The Australian Institute of Employment Rights and the Advisory Panel of the NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner



**Hannah Dickinson**  
Asylum Seeker Resource  
Centre

Hannah is the Principal Solicitor of the Human Rights Law Program at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC). An Accredited Specialist

in Immigration Law, she has particular expertise in refugee law, visa cancellation, merits review and

## Speaker Bios

litigation in all Australia's federal courts. Hannah is the Chair and founding member of the Visa Cancellations Working Group, Secretary at Liberty Victoria, one of Australia's leading civil liberties organisations, and a member of the Migration and Refugee Law Committees of the Law Institute of Victoria.

She is a member of the Advisory Committee on the Safe Landing Program and an advisor on the Crimmigration Research Project. Hannah has extensive experience in private, government, and community legal work. Prior to joining ASRC, Hannah worked at Victoria Legal Aid, litigating migration decisions, as well as at Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers and Clothier Anderson Immigration Lawyers.



**Nigel Dobbie,  
Dobbie and Devine  
Immigration Lawyer**

Nigel Dobbie is one of Australia's leading immigration law practitioners. He is the Legal Practitioner Director of the leading

Australian immigration law firm, Dobbie & Devine Immigration Lawyers Pty Ltd, based in Sydney, New South Wales. He is accredited by the Law Society of New South Wales as an Accredited Specialist in immigration law and was a member of its prestigious Specialist Accreditation Advisory Committee.

Nigel is admitted to practice in the High Court of Australia and New Zealand and the Supreme Courts of New South Wales and Victoria. Nigel's second language is French.



**Dr Rodger Fernandez  
Senior Lawyer, FCG Legal**

Dr Rodger Fernandez is a Senior Lawyer at FCG Legal with over 35 years experience as an Australian legal practitioner. He practises in the areas of Administrative Law,

Migration Law, Litigation (including proceeds of crime). He is accredited by the Law Institute of Victoria as a Specialist Solicitor in Immigration Law and was the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee to the Specialisation Board of the Law Institute of Victoria in immigration law for many years.

Rodger is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the College of Law and Justice, Victoria University and lectures in migration law and practice. He has lectured at Victoria University for over 35 years. Rodger was also a member of the Program Advisory Committee, Immigration Advisers Authority New Zealand as well as the Independent Reference Group of the Office of the Migration Agents Registration Authority (OMARA).

He is also listed in 'Australia's Best Lawyers'. He is the co-author of numerous publications in Australian Immigration Law.

## Speaker Bios



**Carina Ford**  
**Chair, Migration Law**  
**Committee, Law Council**  
**of Australia**

Carina is the current Chair of the Law Council's Federal Dispute Resolution Section's Migration Committee.

She is a regular presenter

of CPD topics in immigration law for a range of bodies and writes for the Immigration Law service for Lexis Nexis. She has an extensive review practice at the AAT, IAA and Judicial Review. Her firm, Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers, has a vast area of practice ranging from refugee cases, sports related visa issues, overseas students, character and identity cancellation cases, employer sponsored and labour agreements, global talent and business visas as well as an extensive pro bono practice with a particular focus on vulnerable persons.

Carina also runs some high profile cases, including the "Home to Bilo" case seeking the return of a family detained to their home town to Biloera, Queensland. She also practices in NZ immigration law and is an accredited Immigration and Administrative law specialist.



**Lisa Fowler**  
**Deputy Director of Legal**  
**Services and manager**  
**of Migration Practice at**  
**Women's Legal Service**  
**Vic**

Lisa Fowler is an experienced community lawyer and works

extensively with victim-survivors of abuse, trauma and gender-based harm. As Deputy Director of the

Legal Practice at Women's Legal Service Victoria, Lisa manages a large integrated practice including lawyers, social workers, financial counsellors and paralegals to support women experiencing family violence to find safety and gain independence for themselves and their children. Lisa and the migration team advise and assist women on temporary visas or with a precarious migration status to understand their rights and options to stay or leave Australia and ensure their visa status in Australia is fairly determined.

Lisa contributes to policy and advocacy work for Women's Legal, is deputy chair of Women's Legal Services Australia Migration Working Group and is a member of various migration sector working groups. Prior to joining Women's Legal Service, Lisa worked at knowmore Legal Service and Refugee Legal.



**Dr Daye Gang**  
**Barrister, Pernells**  
**Barristers**

Dr Daye Gang was called to the Bar in 2019. She takes all migration law briefs from prospects advices to merits review to judicial review appeals.

She has had two s 501 cancellations set aside at the AAT and has represented several clients who were victims or perpetrators of family violence. Her PhD was on restorative justice for sexual and family violence. In 2020, she won the International Bar Association Outstanding Young Lawyer Award for her international human rights advocacy including on violence against women in North Korea.



## Speaker Bios



**David Gavin**  
**Assistant Secretary**  
**Compliance and**  
**Community Protection**  
**Policy, Immigration Policy**  
**Group**  
**Department of Home**  
**Affairs**

Assistant Secretary Gavin leads the Compliance and Community Protection Policy Branch within the Immigration Policy Group, Department of Home Affairs. Immigration Policy Group provides policy advice and develops frameworks for Australia's immigration programs. The Immigration Policy Group contributes to the Department of Home Affairs mission to secure Australia's economic prosperity and social unity, through the effective delivery of orderly and planned immigration programs, and the development of effective policies and legislation to support the immigration continuum and enhance community protection outcomes.

Having over 20 years of experience with Australia's immigration program, David Gavin's expertise includes immigration policy development, leading and managing Australia's visa and citizenship programs, and whole-of-government collaboration by building trusted relationships with Australian Government departments, and non-government and international partners.

Assistant Secretary Gavin has represented the Australian Government internationally through diplomatic postings as a Senior Migration Officer at the Australian High Commission in New Delhi and as a Principal Migration Officer at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. Along with representing Australia as co-chair for the Bali Process Technical Experts Group on Returns and Reintegration, he leads reform to address temporary

migrant worker exploitation and coordinates the portfolio's contribution to the reform of Australia's Administrative Appeals Tribunal.



**Betsy Gregg**  
**Australian Computer**  
**Society (ACS)**

Betsy Gregg is a creative, people-oriented leader with over a decade of experience supporting education in tertiary, non-accredited, and RTO settings preparing students and international graduates for the world of work. As ACS Director, Migration Pathways, Betsy leads ACS's critical pathway services including Migration Skills Assessment and the Professional Year Program in IT. Since 2015, Betsy has supported multiple innovations in education delivery and customer service through ongoing collaboration with partners, educators, participants, and government.

ACS's key aim is to grow the nation's digital skills capabilities, industry capacity, and inspire the next generation of technology professionals. Betsy is passionate about supporting people's journey to Australia and building pathways through skills development and industry engagement.



**Rick Gunn**  
**Partner, Carina Ford**  
**Immigration Lawyers**

Rick joined CFIL in 2005 having previously worked as a commercial litigation lawyer at Middletons Lawyers, Melbourne (now K&L Gates). He

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is a practicing lawyer, and also an LIV Accredited Immigration Law Specialist since 2012. Rick has extensive experience with all areas of migration law, including skilled migration, business migration (in particular TSS, ENS and RSMS applications), complex appeals and family migration. He is a regular presenter of migration law Continuing Professional Development for migration agents, and sits on the LIV Accredited Specialisation Committee. He is a member of the MIA, LIV and ILAA. Rick is also a member of the Hockey Victoria Disciplinary Tribunal, and is listed with both Doyle's and Best lawyers as one of Australia's leading immigration lawyers.



**Min Guo**  
Victoria Bar

Min Guo is a commercial and public law barrister. He practises broadly across these areas, but has special interests in class actions, judicial review, and immigration.

He also appears for defendants in criminal matters, particularly fraud and white-collar crime matters.

Min is presently briefed in a number of commercial law class actions in various state Supreme Courts and the Federal Court. He also has an extensive judicial review practice, appearing in the Federal Circuit Court and Federal Court regularly, and also appearing in the High Court.

Min also routinely appears in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal on merits reviews of immigration, citizenship and other matters. His immigration practice also includes tort proceedings arising from the mistreatment of people in immigration detention. Min also brings distinctive experience to the Bar, having previously worked as a management consultant advising executives of ASX 200 companies, industry groups and governments on

financial, strategy and public policy matters. He also previously was an independent IT consultant. Because of this and his engineering qualifications, he has a particular interest in litigation involving financial, quantitative and scientific issues.

**Simon Haag**  
National Judicial Registrar, Federal Court of Australia

Simon has overview of case management of migration matters in both the Federal Court and the Federal Circuit and Family Court, assisted by a team of Registrars and lawyers. Simon also oversees the operation of the dedicated national migration team in Registry.

In the Federal Court, Simon assists the Chief Justice with determinations regarding migration case management and listing arrangements by reviewing and analysing the body of migration cases before the High Court, Federal Court and Circuit Court at any given time, and the issues they raise.

Simon has been working in the area of migration law since 2006, including volunteer work with the Refugee and Casework Service in NSW. He came to the Court from an 11-year career in migration and citizenship law private practice, with six of those as a Senior Associate at Fragomen. During that time he consulted regularly with the Department of Immigration regarding the design and policy settings of various visa programs, wrote a number of articles on migration law developments for law journals, and appeared before Senate Committees to provide evidence regarding the operation of migration legislation.

## Speaker Bios



**Katherine Hooper**  
Barrister, Level 22  
Chambers, NSW

Katherine is a barrister at Level 22 Chambers in Sydney. Her core practice area is administrative law. She acts for both private parties (applicants, appellants)

and government agencies and has considerable experience defending agencies as respondents to merits and judicial review applications. Since 2016, Katherine has been regularly listed by Best Lawyers in the categories of Government Practice and Immigration Law. She was recognised by Best Lawyers as the 2023 'Lawyer of the Year' award recipient for her work in Immigration Law in Sydney.

Notable 2023 cases in which Katherine appeared unled before the Full Federal Court include *Mailau v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs* [2023] FCAFC 12 (concerning the application of the standard of satisfaction discussed in *Briginshaw* to administrative decision-making) and *BKX23 v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs* [2023] FCAFC 184 (whether a Tribunal had acted under dictation by reference to another Tribunal decision).

Katherine recently relied upon the materiality jurisprudence developed in the migration context in an appeal in the District Court from a decision of a costs review panel (A.C.N. 627 087 030 Pty Ltd trading as *Yates Beaggi Lawyers v Poche* [2023] NSWDC 551). She also has an extensive practice involving professional disciplinary matters in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Katherine is a passionate advocate for wellness at the Bar and in the legal profession. When she's not appearing in court, you will likely find her on the tennis court.



**Lena Hung**  
Lena Hung & Associates

Lena Hung is the Principal of Lena Hung and Associates and is an Accredited Immigration Law Specialist based in Melbourne, with over 18 years of experience in migration law. Lena has

been awarded the Law Institute of Victoria's (LIV) President's Award for Outstanding Service in 2021 for her dedication and hard work in various LIV committees including the Migration Law Committee and advancing the cause of migration law practitioners. Lena has also been recognised by her peers as Best Lawyers in Australia in Immigration Law for 2021, 2022 and 2023.



**Madeline Keating**  
Managing Associate,  
Carina Ford Immigration  
Lawyers

Joanne Madeline is a Managing Associate at Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers (CFIL) and Law

Institute of Victoria Accredited Immigration Law Specialist, who has over 8.5 years of post-admission experience in immigration law with CFIL. Madeline also worked for 5 years as a Judge's Associate at the County Court of Victoria, assisting a Judge sitting across the criminal, common law and commercial jurisdictions. During this time Madeline also undertook additional duties as a Learning and Development Associate and was involved in training and development for judicial staff and involvement in a variety of projects across the Court.

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Madeline has a broad practice, encompassing all types of complex primary skilled, partner, family sponsored, student, employer sponsored, protection and other visa applications. She also represents clients at the AAT in the Migration and Refugee Division as well as the General Division, as well as in relation to judicial review proceedings before the Federal Circuit and Family Court and the Federal Court of Australia.

in Immigration Law (NSW and Qld). Victoria has a unique background: she has the benefit of a 13 year career with the Department of Home Affairs (previously Department of Immigration), including over six years on overseas diplomatic postings in South America and Africa.

She is one of only six Accredited Specialists in Immigration Law in Queensland.



**Joanne Kinslor**  
Principal, Kinslor Prince  
Lawyers

Joanne Kinslor is a specialist immigration lawyer who has extensive experience and exceptional knowledge of immigration law. Her

clients appreciate her dedication to solving complex immigration problems and winning difficult cases. Joanne has been accredited as an immigration specialist by the Law Society of New South Wales since 2006. There are fewer than 40 accredited immigration solicitors in New South Wales. Joanne is Course Convenor and Principal Lecturer of "Australian Immigration Law and Practice" at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) as part of the university's law degree programme. She is also an affiliate member of the Andrew and Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law.



**Sophie Lloyd**  
Partner, MinterEllison

Sophie co-leads the MinterEllison public law practice. She is a public and administrative law specialist, advising in relation to all types of government decision

making, from first instance decisions to merits and judicial review proceedings, as well as commissions of inquiry, legislative reform and statutory interpretation. She regularly appears as a solicitor advocate for government clients in proceedings before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia and Federal Court of Australia.

She is dual qualified, having been admitted to the Senior Courts of England and Wales in 2018 and practising public law in London for several years in government and private practice roles. Sophie has acted for the Minister in migration litigation for over a decade, including appearing as solicitor advocate in merits and judicial review proceedings, instructing counsel before the Full Federal Court and High Court and managing cohorts of matters.



**Victoria Lenton**  
Principal Lawyers, Lenton  
Lawyers

Victoria Lenton is the Director and Principal Lawyer of Lenton Migration Law and an Accredited Specialist



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**Damian Marquardt**  
**Manager, Migration**  
**Services, Department of**  
**Jobs, Skills, Industry and**  
**Regions (VIC)**

Damian is the Manager of the Migration Services team for Victoria's Skilled and Business Migration Program in the Policy,

Talent and Migration branch. He is responsible for the delivery of Victoria's state nominated skilled and business innovation and investment programs



**Greg McIntyre SC**  
**President, Law Council of**  
**Australia**

Greg McIntyre SC commenced practice with the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia in 1976 in Kalgoorlie, having

completed his Articles of Clerkship with the Crown Solicitor of Western Australia. The bulk of the first six years of his practice was in criminal law with the ALSWA in Kalgoorlie and Perth and in Cairns with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service of Queensland and the Njiku Jowan Legal Service.



**Toniey Munro**  
**Senior Lawyer, Carina**  
**Ford Immigration**  
**Lawyers**

Over Toniey joined CFIL in June 2021 after working as a lawyer with Clothier Anderson Immigration Lawyers for

over two years. Prior to her position with Clothier Anderson, she worked as a Registered migration agent in Queensland. Toniey was conferred a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Arts majoring in Politics and International Relations in 2013. She was admitted to practice in Queensland in 2014.

Toniey lived in Shenzhen, China, between 2014 and 2016 where she worked as an English Teacher. After Toniey returned to Australia in 2016, she completed a Graduate Certificate of Australian Migration Law and Practice and her Arts Honours dissertation that explored Chinese transmigrants experiences of identity and belonging in regional Queensland. Toniey has practiced exclusively in the area of migration law. Toniey has a particular interest in complex primary applications, across family, skilled, protection, character, cancellation, ministerial intervention requests and citizenship matters with the Department of Home Affairs, and complex applications on review at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Toniey also works on litigation matters on judicial review and other compliance matters with the Department of Home Affairs. As of November 2022, she is also an LIV Accredited Immigration Law Specialist.

Toniey is an active participant within the Victorian legal community, including volunteering with Refugee Legal and, previously, ASRC, and being part of the Law Institute of Victoria Refugee and Migration Sub-committees and the Migration Institute of Australia Policy and Advocacy Sub-committee. Toniey has a passion for migration law and policy and assisting clients with their migration journeys.

## Speaker Bios



**Siobhan O'Sullivan**  
Chief Growth Officer,  
Director, Migration  
Pathways, Australian  
Computer Society (ACS)

Over Siobhan's 25+ year career she has worked in fintech, mortgages, logistics and retail. She is a passionate supporter

of Australia's innovation ecosystem and is currently Chief Growth Officer, Director, Migration Pathways and Acting Director, Communities at the ACS (Australian Computer Society) based in Sydney.

Siobhan is also a Director/Advisory Board member for Wych (Banking as a Service), Director for Silicon Beach Australia, the oldest innovation community, Advisory Board Member and Mentor with Enterprise Ireland helping Irish businesses successfully scale into Australia, Innovation Mentor and Lecturer for Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS), Education Board Advisor to SP Jain Global School of Management and Board Advisor to BrainSTEM helping raise the next generation of STEM leaders.

She has an MBA from Macquarie Graduate School of Management (MGSM), a Diploma in Project Management and a Bachelor of Commerce, Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations and Associate Degree of Applied Science, Hospitality Management + Black Belt in Hap Ki Do.



**Jennie Pakula**  
Lawyer Regulation  
Expert, Innovation  
Enabler, Principal, The  
Lawyer's Friend

Jennie worked in legal services regulation from 1994-2023. She has been an ethics adviser and complaint

handler with the Law Society of NSW, and in Victoria, she has conducted investigations and prosecutions. From 2010-2018, she managed the team that dealt with the bulk of complaints and enquiries. In that role, she read and allocated about 14,000 client complaints, pioneered the innovative Rapid Resolution approach to complaint handling, instigated a number of policy initiatives and designed the first iteration of the VLSB+C's compliance auditing program.

Jennie's last role at the VLSB+C was as Manager, Innovation & Consumer Engagement. In that role, she gained a deeper understanding of the consumer experience of legal services and worked closely with our expert Consumer Panel. Jennie conceived and executed many initiatives designed to overcome barriers to innovation, including devising and running the 'Innovation In-box', where legal services innovators receive regulatory guidance on new ways of working. She was responsible for a series of practical regulatory guidance pieces, the most recent relating to lawyers' use of generative AI.

Throughout her career, Jennie has seen and deeply understood systemic problems and common issues and has converted these insights into practical guidance for consumers and the profession. She particularly loves encouraging and helping lawyers who want to do things differently.

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**Valerie Pereira**  
Principal, **Da Gama Pereira and Associates Pty. Ltd**

Valerie is the immediate past Chair of the Federal Dispute Resolution Section's Migration Committee. Since joining the LCA Migration

Committee, Valerie have been an active participant and been instrumental in organising the Migration Law Conferences in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Valerie also has a boutique law firm in Melbourne with a particular speciality in work and talent visas for Silicon Valley clients who wish to migrate to Australia. Valerie is registered as a foreign legal consultant with the State Bar of California.



**Leah Perkins**  
Managing Associate  
**Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers**

Leah Perkins is a Law Institute of Victoria Accredited Specialist in Immigration Law, and a

Managing Associate at Carina Ford Lawyers. Leah joined Carina Ford Lawyers as a lawyer in 2013 and has over 10 years of work and volunteer experience with migrants and refugees. Leah advises across all visa subclasses and regularly appears before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (Migration & Refugee Division and General Division) in merits review appeals, and is experienced in representing clients in judicial review matters. In addition to her interest in humanitarian issues, Leah specialises in complex family cases, visa cancellations, identity issues in visa and citizenship applications and

child protection matters. Leah also coordinates the firm's large pro bono practice. Outside work, Leah is a board member of Outer Urban Projects, a performing arts organisation in Melbourne's North. In October 2021, Leah was shortlisted as a finalist in the Women in Law Awards 2021 - Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year. This award recognises outstanding women influencing the Australia Legal Profession.



**Louise Peters**  
Executive Director,  
**Engagement Branch, Fair Work Ombudsman**

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) is an independent statutory office responsible for ensuring compliance with Australia's workplace

laws and promoting harmonious, productive and cooperative workplace relations. The agency works with employees, employers, stakeholders and communities to educate workplace participants, and monitor and enforce compliance with Australia's workplace laws.

Louise Peters is the Executive Director of the FWO's Engagement Branch. She leads the FWO's contributions to cross government programs relating to migrant workers and small business, and manages strategic stakeholder engagement and community engagement activities.

## Speaker Bios



**James Popple**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Law Council of Australia

James Popple is the Chief Executive Officer of the Law Council of Australia. James was previously Official Secretary to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and

Safety and the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. He was also the inaugural Freedom of Information Commissioner, a Senior Member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and a member of the ACT Remuneration Tribunal. Before that, James worked for 12 years in the Australian Attorney-General's Department. Before joining AGD, he was a judge's associate, then Deputy Registrar of the High Court of Australia.

James has degrees in law and arts, and is admitted as a barrister and a solicitor. He is also a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, and an Honorary Professor of the Australian National University (in the College of Law and the College of Engineering, Computing and Cybernetics) where he conducted his doctoral research in artificial intelligence and the law.



**David Prince**  
Principal Solicitor,  
Kinslor Prince Lawyers

David Prince graduated from the University of NSW with a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Laws. Since 1995, David has practiced

extensively in all areas of primary visa application, merits review and judicial review. Since 2010, David has been a Principal Solicitor with Kinslor Prince

Lawyers in the Sydney CBD. David has been an accredited immigration specialist of the Law Society of NSW since August 2000. He was on the Specialist Accreditation Committee of the Law Society since from 2014-2023 and the Co-Chair of that committee from 2016-2023.

David is also a Member of the Immigration Lawyers Committee of the Law Council of Australia. Through the Law Council, he participates in national debate on immigration law and policy and contributes to Parliamentary submissions and he was the Chair of the body between 2017-2019.

In 2003 and 2006 David edited the Immigration, Citizenship, and Passports Chapters of *Halsbury's Laws of Australia* and has also authored the Citizenship and Migration sections of *Australian Encyclopaedia for Forms and Precedents*. David has been voted as amongst Australia's finest specialist immigrations lawyers in the *Australian Financial Review* in all years between 2008 and 2024.



**Jan Redfern PSM**  
Deputy President and  
Division Head of the  
Migration & Refugee  
Division, Administrative  
Appeals Tribunal

Deputy President Jan Redfern PSM is Deputy President and Division

Head of the Migration & Refugee Division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. She was appointed to this role on 21 March 2016. Ms Redfern previously served on the AAT as a part-time Senior Member from 2009 to 2014. During this time, Ms Redfern also worked as an independent consultant, served on several advisory committees, and was appointed a part-time legal member, then Deputy President, of the NSW Guardianship Tribunal. She was appointed



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as a Principal Member of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal's Guardianship Division and Appeal Panel from January 2015 before accepting the appointment to the AAT.

Prior to these appointments, Ms Redfern held a number of senior executive positions with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission from 1999 to 2008, including as Executive Director of Enforcement. In 2007 she was awarded a Commonwealth Public Service Medal for outstanding service to corporate and financial services regulation and enforcement. Ms Redfern was admitted to practice in 1983, serving as a partner of a national law firm for 10 years. She also currently holds sessional appointments as a Deputy President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal and Senior Member of NCAT in the Administrative and Equal Opportunity and Occupational Divisions.



**Emily Rutherford**  
**Senior Lawyer,**  
**Australian Human Rights**  
**Commission**

Emily is a senior lawyer with the Australian Human Rights Commission where she conducts inquiries

into complaints of human rights breaches. In this role, she examines complaints by people held in immigration detention including complaints of inappropriate uses of force or arbitrary detention.

Previously, Emily has been recognised as an accredited specialist in immigration law, and held positions in private practice and legal aid. She has been a teacher of administrative law practice, and held a voluntary position as Deputy Chair of the Refugee Advocacy Service of South Australia for many years.



**Reuben Saul**  
**Partner, Estrin Saul**  
**Lawyers & Migration**  
**Specialists**

Reuben Saul is a Partner of the firm and a lawyer with significant experience across a wide range of Australian immigration law. He has managed teams of refugee lawyers under the Australian government's Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme (IAAAS), obtained working visas for businesses and assisted individuals with family reunion and General Skilled Migration.

Reuben regularly represents clients in review tribunals, the Federal Circuit Court, Federal Court and High Court and has an exceptional understanding of government processes and document procurement. Reuben is chair of the Migration Institute of Australia's Continuing Professional Development Committee and often delivers training sessions on complex migration matters to other agents and lawyers. Recently he has presented on judicial review matters to the College of Law, as well as "Immigration Essentials for lawyers".



**Mitch Simmons**  
**Special Counsel,**  
**Estrin Saul Lawyers &**  
**Migration Specialists**

Mitch practices exclusively in immigration law and is one of three accredited specialists in immigration law practicing in South Australia. Mitch primarily works on review

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applications in the Migration/Refugee and General divisions of the AAT and judicial review matters in the Courts, and has particular expertise in complex family visa issues, refugee and protection visa applications, and visa cancellations.

Mitch won the John Gibson AM Award for the Young Australian Migration Lawyer of the Year by the Law Council of Australia in 2018, became an accredited specialist in immigration law by the Law Society of South Australia in 2020, and is recognised as a leading immigration lawyer by "Best Lawyers" and Doyles' guide since 2021. Mitch is also a member of the Migration Law Committee of the Law Council of Australia.



**Chris Spentzaris**  
Partner, Fragomen

Chris is a Partner of the Australian practice of Fragomen and has responsibility for the Melbourne office, in addition to leading the firm's Advisory,

Compliance and Government Relations Group and the Professional Practices Group. He is also heavily involved in the management and development of operations across all Australian offices.

Chris is currently the Deputy Chair of the Migration Law Committee of the Federal Dispute Resolution Section, Law Council of Australia and the Co-Chair of the Migration Law Committee of the Law Institute of Victoria in addition to being an Accredited Immigration Law Specialist.

As an experienced commercial and administrative law litigator and having practiced immigration law since 1995, Chris has extensive experience in providing immigration legal advice.



**Sarah Thompson**  
Partner, HWL Ebsworth

Sarah Thompson is a Partner at HWL Ebsworth Lawyers in the Commonwealth Government Practice. She has 20 years' experience in immigration law and has been an accredited

specialist in immigration law since 2016. Sarah has acted for both applicants and the Minister, advising on judicial review applications in the Federal Courts and High Court of Australia and appearing as a solicitor advocate in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, the Federal Court and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.



**Sanmati Verma**  
Managing Lawyer,  
Human Rights Law  
Centre

Sanmati Verma is a Managing Lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre and leads the Centre's work on

migrant and refugee rights. She is a Law Institute of Victoria accredited specialist in immigration law and has practised in field for over a decade. Before joining the Human Rights Law Centre, Sanmati was a partner at Clothier Anderson Immigration Lawyers where she had a substantial public interest litigation practice. Sanmati is an adviser to the United Workers Union, deputy chair of the national Visa Cancellation Working Group and serves on the board of the Migrant Workers Centre.

She was the recipient of the Law Institute of Victoria's 'Emerging Lawyer' Award (2016) and the

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International Commissions of Jurists' John Gibson Award for contribution to refugee law and advocacy (2022).



**Jennifer Wilson,**  
Director, KPMG Law

Jennifer is a Director at KPMG Law and has over 20 years' experience working in Australian migration and citizenship law. Prior to providing services in the

private sector, Jennifer spent over a decade as an executive at the former Department of Immigration and Border Protection and was involved in the establishment of the Federal Circuit Court.

Jennifer has a broad practice in administrative law, employment law and dispute resolution. She has experience advising a range of governments, global corporations, employer bodies, trade unions and small businesses. Jennifer established KPMG Law's pro bono partnership with the Redfern Legal Centre and regularly acts in matters involving migrant worker exploitation. Jennifer is a member of the Law Council's Migration Law Committee and enjoys contributing to law reform initiatives and efforts to advance Australia's migration program.



**Peter Woulfe**  
Chair, Federal Dispute  
Resolution Section, Law  
Council of Australia

Peter Woulfe is a barrister with a civil practice in a range of practice areas, with a particular focus on government

and administrative law. Peter is one of Australia's

leading Commonwealth compensation barristers, having worked on various matters of importance to the application of the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (Cth).

Peter is the Chair of the Federal Dispute Resolution Section of the Law Council of Australia, within which he is also the Chair of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Liaison Committee and the Commonwealth Compensation and Employment Law Committee. One of Peter's recent projects is chairing the Law Council of Australia's Federal Administrative Law Reform Working Group, working with the Commonwealth in relation to the abolition of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and its replacement with the Administrative Review Tribunal.

**Philip Yip**  
Principal Director, Phillip Yip & Associates Pty Ltd

Phillip Yip is the principal solicitor and director of Phillip Yip & Associates Pty Ltd. Phillip and his team represent overseas and local employers to provide temporary and permanent work visa solutions for employees to work and live in Australia. Phillip's clients range from Fortune 500 companies to boutique niche businesses and startups that operate across all major and emerging industries. Phillip also represents private individuals in relation to residence and citizenship applications. He holds specialist accreditation in Immigration Law from the Law Society of New South Wales. He is a Fellow of the Migration Institute of Australia and a Public Notary.



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