

Family Law Intensive Melbourne 2026



8.30- 9.00am

Registration

9.00 - 10.30am

Latest and Greatest Part One

The Hon Justice Altobelli AM, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)
The Hon Justice Christie, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)
Jason Walker, Chair, Family Law Section (Session Chair)

This session will provide an overview of recent developments in family law, highlighting significant judgments and emerging trends.

Competency Area 4 - Substantive Law, 1.5 CPD Point

10.30-11.00am

Morning Tea

11.00-12.00pm

Neurodiversity and what it means for parenting disputes

Dr Ben Jones, Forensic Psychologist
Trevor McKenna, Tasmania Executive Member (Session Chair)

This session will explore the intersection between neurodiversity and family law in the context of parenting disputes.

Drawing on contemporary research and practice experience, the discussion will address how neurodivergent experiences may influence parenting capacity, communication, and dispute resolution, and how practitioners can best support neurodiverse families through the legal process.

Competency Area 3 - Professional Skills, 1 CPD Point

12.00-1.00pm

Harnessing AI in family law practice: practical tools and techniques

Jamie Burreket, NSW Executive Member and Deputy Chair

This practical session will provide guidance on the effective and ethical use of artificial intelligence in family law practice.

Participants will receive hands-on instruction in how AI tools can assist with case preparation, affidavit drafting, and information management, while maintaining compliance with professional and ethical obligations.

The session will focus on practical application and sound practice management in an evolving technological landscape.

Competency Area 3 - Professional Skills, 1 CPD Point

1.00-2.00pm

Lunch

Family Law Intensive Melbourne 2026



2.00-3.00pm

Maintaining Professionalism

Melissa Gillies SC, Culwulla Chambers

Matthew O'Grady, Barrister (VicBar)

Peter Cummings SC, NSW Executive Member (Session Chair)

This interactive session will provide strategies for managing challenging courtroom dynamics and maintaining professionalism in the face of difficult advocacy.

The panel will draw on their extensive experience to discuss effective communication with the bench, managing conflict with opponents, and upholding ethical and strategic best practice in complex or high-conflict matters.

Competency Area 3-Professional Skills, 1 CPD Point

3.00-4.00pm

Latest and Greatest Part Two

The Hon Justice Altobelli AM, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)

The Hon Justice Christie, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1)

Dr Robin Colesmith, VIC Executive Member (Session Chair)

Concluding the day, this session will continue the exploration of key judicial decisions in family law, highlighting the cases you need to know.

Competency Area 1 - Ethics or Professional Responsibility, 1 CPD Point

4.00-5.00pm

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