

NEXT GEN LEGAL LEADERS SUMMIT 2025

SPEAKERS



DARSHANA PAREKH
Senior Lawyer and Inclusion
Consultant



NICK BROWN
General Counsel
Airtree Ventures



KATRINA BULLOCK
General Counsel & Company
Secretary
Greenpeace Australia



KARENA NICHOLLS
Partner, Head of Injury
Compensation and
Employment Law
Coutts



KATRIN O'SULLIVAN
General Counsel
The Fred Hollows Foundation



IVANA KOVACEVIC
Group General Counsel
Tabcorp



JAMES D'APICE
Principal Lawyer
Gravamen



FIONA MCLAY
Founder
McLay Legal Consulting



JUSTIN MOSES
General Counsel
Cancer Council



VICKI MCNAMARA
Senior Research Associate
Centre for the Future of the Legal
Profession, UNSW Law & Justice



JESSICA GIAMPICCOLO
Director
JMLG Advisory Pty Ltd



ALEXANDRA TIGHE
Partner
Clayton Utz



DARSHANA PAREKH

Senior Lawyer and Inclusion
Consultant

Darshana Parekh is a Senior Legal Counsel with over 15 years of legal experience. She began her career in private practice and then moved to in-house roles. Her expertise spans various industries, including FMCG, education, and non-profit sectors.

Darshana has spoken at leading legal and corporate forums, including the Australian Corporate Counsel 2024 National Conference and Women on Boards. She has been featured in LawVu, The Career Confidence Podcast, and The Corporate Counsel Show and has contributed thought leadership to Lawyers Weekly and LSJ Online, amplifying conversations around equity in leadership and the intersection of law and inclusion.

Darshana was a Finalist for the 2024 Corporate Legend of the Year (Australian Professionals of Colour) and the Diversity Ambassador Award (Connecting Lawyer Mums Inspire Awards). She is a member of the Inner West Multicultural Local Democracy Group and has been a member of psychological safety workgroups in her previous workplaces, reinforcing her commitment to driving systemic change. Darshana's mission is to help legal professionals navigate complex conversations with courage, ensuring that DEI is a cultural practice spanning stakeholders within organisations. She is passionate about empowering professionals—particularly women and people of colour—to thrive in leadership in ways that best serve them and challenge systemic barriers in the legal industry.

Darshana's academic credentials include an LLB, LLM, and MBA.



NICK BROWN

General Counsel
Airtree Ventures

Nick is General Counsel at Airtree Ventures, a venture capital firm with a mission to back the most ambitious Australian and Kiwi founders, building the iconic technology companies of tomorrow. Nick oversees all legal matters at Airtree, including advising on investment and exit transactions, fund structuring and establishment and compliance and financial services regulation. Nick has been a corporate lawyer for nearly 25 years, spending time in London, in the M&A and ECM teams at Clayton Utz and at LegalVision. He also spent 3 years as General Counsel and Company Secretary at Oneview Healthcare, an ASX-listed healthcare software company"



KATRINA BULLOK

General Counsel & Company
Secretary
Greenpeace Australia

Katrina Bullock (she/her) is an award-winning general counsel and finance broadcaster. She began her career as a commercial lawyer at a top tier Australian law firm, before moving in house within the tech and environment industries. Katrina was appointed General Counsel of Greenpeace Australia Pacific in 2018 and is responsible for the legal, governance and integrity functions of the charity. Greenpeace uses peaceful protest and creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems and promote solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future. She is a passionate advocate for human rights, movement lawyering and climate justice.



KARENA NICHOLLS

Partner, Head of Injury
Compensation and
Employment Law
Coutts

Karena is a partner at [Coutts Lawyers & Conveyancers](#) and is the Head of the [Injury Compensation](#) and [Employment Law](#) teams. Karena has 20 years of experience in Injury Compensation. She has worked for international top tier firms and gained invaluable knowledge and skills to sit alongside her deep passion for the law and justice. She is compassionate and caring and knows the toll that claims within injury compensation and employment law take on the client, both directly and indirectly. She believes that everyone deserves to know what their rights are and she aims to give her client's clear and concise advice.

Karena has extensive experience representing the plaintiff in all areas of personal injury claims including; [workers compensation](#) and workplace negligence, [motor vehicle accidents](#), [medical negligence](#), asbestos, [public liability](#) including slip and falls, [defective product](#) and superannuation and [total permanent disability claims](#), with a particular interest in acting for major catastrophic injury claims. In addition to compensation law, Karena has experience in acting for the employee and for the employer in matters involving; [unfair dismissals](#), [redundancy](#), [workplace discrimination](#), [bullying and harassment claims](#), [employment contracts](#), adverse action and termination of employment. Karena believes in getting to the core of the issue and working through them to get the right outcome for her client every time.



KATRIN O'SULLIVAN

General Counsel
The Fred Hollows Foundation

Katrin O'Sullivan has over twenty years' experience in the development and humanitarian sectors and is currently the General Counsel for The Fred Hollows Foundation. The Foundation currently operates blindness prevention programs in over 25 countries employing 400 staff and has annual revenue of over \$100 million. Katrin advises The Foundation on its global operations, including ground-breaking initiatives such as international social impact investment and development impact bond projects.

Katrin holds an LL.B (Hons) from the University of Sydney, an LL.M from the University College London and has undertaken further post graduate studies at Harvard Business School. She has previously worked for the German Foreign Offices, with postings to Berlin and Geneva, and as a diplomat at the UN, with postings to Geneva, New York, Dubai, Afghanistan and Indonesia. At the UN, she established and led the legal department for the Middle East, Africa, Asia and acted as the Director for the office in Indonesia post-tsunami, where she was responsible for coordinating international disaster relief projects.

Katrin was awarded 2024 "General Counsel of the Year, 2024 "In House Lawyer of Year, 2023 and 2019 "Not for Profit Lawyer of the Year", was named in the "The Most Influential Lawyers in Australia" and "The Most Powerful Women in Australia" list, and is part of the ACNC consultation panel. Katrin is also passionate about mentoring students and is a professional mentor and guest lecturer at the University of Sydney.



IVANA KOVACEVIC

General Counsel
Tabcorp

GC Powerlisted, ACC GC100 member and award winning Group General Counsel and advisor to C-level executives and the Board. I have over 20 years of experience gained in ASX top 20 and top tier law firms and have extensive experience in crisis management, Board reporting and strategic advice, modern slavery and ESG, privacy and complex agreement negotiation, both across Australia and also internationally.

I am a passionate, commercial and results driven servant leader who thrives on fostering a positive, supportive and inclusive 'people first' culture that consistently delivers on commercial objectives. I enjoy running large strategic projects for the Board and the business which involve collaboration and strong stakeholder relationships. My focus is to continually improve legal processes, partner with the business and leverage legal technology to create a win:win for the business and my teams.



JAMES D'APICE

Principal Lawyer
Gravamen

Admitted as a solicitor in 2008, and after a decade and a half working at other firms including as director of a national firm, James is the principal lawyer of Gravamen.

Litigation forms the backbone of James' practice however, over time, James has found himself increasingly providing advice on his clients' conduct outside of court. James' specialty is resolving disputes between co-owners, whether that resolution is by way of contested litigation or negotiated agreement. Practising in this area has required James to develop an expertise in the law relating to shareholder disputes, partnership disputes, and disputes between trustees and beneficiaries.

James is the creator, founder and presenter of 'Coffee and a Case Note', a series of online videos and podcast episodes that sees James summarise up-to-the-minute cases in his specialty area and present them to camera over a cup of coffee. His method combines approachability and rigour.



FIONA MCLAY

General Counsel
Airtree Ventures

Fiona McLay, founder of McLay Legal Consulting, is a friendly face in the world of legal tech. Fiona helps lawyers make their firms not just more profitable, but also more enjoyable places to work, thanks to smart use of the right tech. With 25 years as a dispute resolution lawyer under her belt, she's seen it all - from the big city firms to the smaller, innovative ones, and even in-house. This journey has given her an insider's view of how different law firms use their tech - and how to help them do it better.

Fiona is a teaching fellow at the College of Law and a Geeky Guru at the Centre for Legal Innovation. Her book called "Tech Enabled Lawyer" is packed with insights on getting the most out of your current tech and figuring out what new tech you need. It has been described as "the guide the industry has been crying out for".

Fiona believes little tweaks can make a huge difference, especially for those who aren't that into tech. She loves showing lawyers how a few small changes can make their work more efficient and more fun.

If you're curious about how tech can streamline your law practice, Fiona is all about making tech feel less intimidating and more like a helpful friend. She's here to chat, guide, and help you find your way in becoming a tech enabled lawyer.

Fiona has helpful resources available at www.fionamclay.com.au and she can be contacted at fiona@mclaylegal.com



JUSTIN MOSES

General Counsel
Cancer Council

Justin has been an active participant in the evolution of the Australian in-house legal sector since joining it as graduate lawyer in 1987. Over the ensuing decades, he has amassed deep experience in the leadership of legal teams and change management in areas as diverse as team culture, engagement, high-performance, efficiency, innovation, technology and wellbeing. Before joining NSW Cancer Council, Justin was a member of in-house legal team at Westpac Banking Corporation; a Director of Legal Operations at lexvoco, and In-House Lawyer with AIME Mentoring.

Justin is an active member of the NSW Law Society, ACC Australia, the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Governance Institute of Australia and Justice Connect. He is the Co-Chair of the UTS Faculty of Law's Legal industry Advisory Board, he is an Honorary Professional fellow at UTS. Justin has been an active Mentor under programs run by most of those industry bodies (and the University) over several years.



VICKI MCNAMARA

Senior Research Associate
Centre for the Future of the
Legal Profession
UNSW Law & Justice

Vicki McNamara joined UNSW's Centre for the Future of the Legal Profession in January 2024. With an extensive career in the legal sector spanning over three decades in commercial law firms and in-house legal teams, she has expertise in legal practice, business management and legal operations. Her recent professional roles include positions at Maddocks, Woolworths Group and Herbert Smith Freehills.

Vicki's diverse skill set encompasses Knowledge Management (KM) framework development, governance and systems; knowledge and research services management; legal technology acquisition, project management and delivery; strategic business planning and execution; business process redesign and transformation; and innovation strategy and management. Vicki is admitted to practice law in NSW. Her academic qualifications include Bachelor of Economics with Honours (BEC Hons)/Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of Sydney and a Master of Business and Technology (MBT) from UNSW.



JESSICA GIAMPICCOLO

Director
JMLG Advisory Pty Ltd

Jessica is the Founder and Managing Director of JMLG, Law Firm and Business Advisory, where she leads a team of legal experts and consultants dedicated to providing innovative solutions for businesses navigating complex legal and regulatory environments. With over 20 years of experience in both legal practice and business strategy, Jessica combines deep legal expertise with a sharp understanding of business operations, positioning her as a trusted advisor to inhouse legal teams, executives and boards. Before founding JMLG Law Firm and Business Advisory, Jessica served as Group General Counsel. In this role, she oversaw a broad range of legal functions, including corporate governance, risk management, human resources and dispute resolution. She works closely with senior leadership teams to integrate legal insights into business strategies, ensuring that legal considerations support long-term growth and sustainability. Her proactive approach to legal risk management has helped numerous clients avoid costly litigation and regulatory penalties.



ALEXANDRA TIGHE

Partner
Clayton Utz

Alex is recognised as a leading Australian regulatory investigations and commercial disputes lawyer. Specialising in complex commercial disputes, Alex has particular expertise in large scale Royal Commissions, regulatory investigations and public inquiries. Alex has substantial general commercial litigation experience in both Victorian and Federal jurisdictions and acts for a variety of clients, from large corporations, to privately held family businesses and trusts. Alex also regularly advises Commonwealth and State Government Departments and Agencies.

With particular expertise in royal commissions and public inquiries, Alexandra has over 20 years' experience acting in commercial disputes and regulatory investigations. She is regularly briefed by government and corporate clients in complex, multi-party disputes, investigations and Royal Commissions.

Alex is also listed as a leading commercial litigation and dispute resolution lawyer in Doyle's Guide and listed in Best Lawyers for Litigation and Government practice.

Alongside her legal practice, Alex is an executive director of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, and a non-executive director of the Mercy Health Foundation.

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