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CHAIR



Niamh McMahon, McMahon Butterworth Thompson, Auckland

Niamh is a partner in the firm of McMahon Butterworth Thompson and practises primarily in the commercial law area. She has been a member of the PLS Executive Committee since 2013. Niamh is a member of Standards Committee 5 (Auckland) – NZLS and a costs assessor. She was a convenor of ADLSI's Documents & Precedents Committee for seven years and drafter of the 4th ed ADLSI/REINZ Standard Agreement for Sale and Purchase of a Business. She is a regular presenter for NZLS CLE. In her spare time, Niamh is a keen scuba diver. She says diving is very similar to the practice of law. There isn't a lot of air time, it's important not to get out of your depth and there are a fair number of sharks to watch out for.

SPEAKERS



Katherine Anderson, General Counsel, Auckland Council, Auckland

Katherine is a senior lawyer who has practiced in both private and public law contexts (Chapman Tripp and the Crown Law Office). Katherine subsequently took up a legal policy role in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet as an advisor to the Prime Minister. In 2011 she represented the Police in the Pike River Royal Commission, later joining its executive team as General Manager: Policy, Performance and Legal. She is a member of the Human Rights Review Tribunal. She joined Auckland Council as a member of its Executive Team in February 2014 in the role of General Counsel.



Vanessa Bruton, Barrister, O'Connell Chambers, Auckland

Vanessa is an Auckland barrister, practising almost exclusively in trust and estate disputes, including relationship property disputes where trusts are involved. Her practice includes both domestic and international trust disputes where there is a New Zealand law or jurisdiction aspect. She is a member of STEP (Society for Trust and Estate Practitioners) and a frequent speaker at NZLS, ADLS and other seminars.



Brendan Cash, Bell Gully, Wellington/Auckland

Brendan is a general commercial litigator at Bell Gully but with particular experience in resolving disputes in the construction and infrastructure sectors. He has helped owners, consultants, contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and guarantors develop and execute successful dispute resolution strategies. Brendan has resolved numerous leaky building claims in the commercial and residential sectors. He is the principal adviser to Master Build Services, which guarantees all the residential building work of Registered Master Builders. Brendan has also acted for both insureds and insurers on range of insurance related disputes over the years, including fire and general liability claims, professional indemnity and D&O claims.

SPEAKERS



Vivienne Crawshaw, Barrister, Unity Chambers, Auckland

Vivienne has been in practice as a barrister sole since 2008. She has appeared as counsel in a number of relationship property and children's cases. Vivienne has presented papers on a range of family law issues to NZLS CLE and other conferences.



Sally Fitzgerald, Russell McVeagh, Auckland

Sally is an experienced litigator, who has practised for over 20 years in major law firms in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom. She is ranked as a leading lawyer in dispute resolution by both Chambers Asia Pacific and the Legal 500. Sally specialises in complex commercial disputes, regulatory investigations, and tax litigation. Sally regularly advises on Fair Trading Act matters, and was counsel for Cavalier Bremworth in the High Court and Court of Appeal, in recent proceedings brought by Godfrey Hirst. The Court of Appeal's judgment is now a leading decision on the Fair Trading Act's application to advertising.



David Jones QC, Barrister, Lorne Street Chambers, Auckland

David worked at Meredith Connell between 1982 and 1987 as a prosecutor. He has been a barrister sole since 1987 concentrating on criminal and civil litigation and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2005. He has been a member of the Crown prosecution panel since 1988 and was a member of the Serious Fraud Office prosecution panel for over 10 years.



Lynda Kearns, Barrister, Bastion Chambers, Auckland

Lynda is a barrister specialising in family law, particularly the division of property on separation and related trust issues. She has presented seminars for the NZLS CLE, ADLS and LexisNexis on a variety of property matters, including sham trusts, estate planning, the death provisions under the act and best remedies for clients. She previously chaired the ADLS Family Law Sub-committee and has served on committees of the Family Law Section. She has acted in numerous cases involving spousal maintenance issues.



Mike Moodie, General Counsel, Auckland Council, Auckland

Mike is a Senior Solicitor in the Litigation and Regulatory team at Auckland Council. He has worked in both the private and public sector focusing primarily on environmentally related legal issues. One of his current roles is to provide legal support to Auckland Council's Housing Project Office. He provides advice and guidance on issues arising from the implementation of the Housing Accords and Special Housing Areas Act 2013 in the Auckland context.

SPEAKERS



Robyn Pearce, Getting a Grip, Auckland

In the 80s Robyn was a burnt out real estate agent and poor time manager. 23 years ago, having conquered her own time challenges, people started asking her for help. Today this mother of 6 and grandmother of 17 works around the globe helping clients solve their time problems, including many in the legal sector. She's written 8 books, is a regular columnist for the NZ Herald Online, a keynote speaker and a very in-demand corporate educator.



Neil Rasmussen, Resource Management Solutions Ltd, Auckland

Neil is a founding Director of RMS Ltd which is a specialist planning and resource management consultancy based in Auckland. He advises clients on a wide range of land use and development issues for residential and commercial projects. He has previously held positions in central, regional and local government. Neil's current work is focussed on residential developments within the Auckland area, together with hearing proceedings for the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan (PAUP).



Penny Swarbrick, Swarbrick Beck Mackinnon, Auckland

Penny is a partner at Swarbrick Beck Mackinnon. She has extensive experience in all aspects of employment law, and in the course of her career has worked in the health and safety area both as a prosecutor and defence lawyer. In her practice her clients include major corporates, smaller companies, government agencies, and individuals. She regularly advises on health and safety matters, on issues ranging from how to comply with the law through to dealing with the aftermath of a workplace accident or incident.



Helen White, Barrister, Auckland

Helen has experience representing both unions and their members. She has represented a range of unions representing workers of many walks of life, from airline workers to bus driver during industrial action and restructuring. Recently she has represented unions and their members in matters of contractual interpretation, industrial action, classification with regard to vulnerability and dismissal. She pursued the successful reinstatement of the "Harlem Shakers". She is particularly interested in solving the problem of exploitative use of contracting.



Peter Wright, Barrister, Shortland Chambers, Auckland

Peter joined Shortland Chambers in 1998 prior to which he was a partner at Grove Darlow & Partners. A graduate of the University of Auckland, he gained a Senior Law Prize in 1984 and subsequently an LLM Hons. He specialises in civil and commercial litigation including construction disputes. Peter's experience includes sale of land and other land law issues; tort liability; company, director and shareholder disputes; body corporate disputes; wills and trusts; insurance; insolvency; financial and general commercial disputes.