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CHAIR



Jason Wren, Blackheath, Christchurch

Jason has practised exclusively in the area of family law for over 20 years. His areas of expertise relate to relationship property and care of children disputes. Jason is a Court Approved Lawyer for the child and has presented regularly in ongoing legal education matters.

SPEAKERS



Gareth Abdinor, Malley & Co, Christchurch

Gareth is a specialist employment, privacy and technology lawyer, and is a partner at Malley & Co. He has a particular interest in the legal and practical implications of new and emerging technologies and provides advice on social media and technology, claims for interference with privacy, cyber-security and cyber-bullying. Gareth also provides privacy training and has delivered training on behalf of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner. He is a member of the NZLS Canterbury-Westland Branch Employment Committee.



Jackie Behrnes, Lane Neave, Christchurch

Jackie is a specialist employment lawyer with extensive experience in New Zealand and in the United Kingdom. She advises both employers and employees on all aspects of employment law, including change processes, personal grievances, disciplinary processes, mediations and representation at Authority/Court proceedings. Jackie also has particular expertise in sports law, having represented a number of high profile international sports people and coaches.



Allister Davis, Clark Boyce, Christchurch

Allister began practising the law in 1986 and became a partner of Clark Boyce in 1993. He specialises in criminal defence work, traffic prosecutions, civil litigation, employment law for both Employers and employees, arbitrations, disputes resolution and coroners' proceedings. He has completed a LEADR mediation workshop and is available to lead mediations. Allister is a past President of the Canterbury/Westland Branch of NZLS.



Stephanie Marsden, Canterbury Chambers, Christchurch

Stephanie has practised as a lawyer since 1989, joining the independent bar in November 2011. Her practice is almost exclusively in resolution of relationship property disputes involving high value assets, complex asset ownership structures and estate claims. Stephanie is a member of the NZLS Family Law Section advisory panel making submissions on law reform. She has presented seminars for the NZLS Canterbury-Westland Branch.

SPEAKERS



Kelly Paterson, Buddle Findlay, Christchurch

Kelly specialises in commercial litigation. She advises on a wide range of commercial litigation issues, including contract disputes, insolvency and credit recovery, local government issues, property law disputes and security enforcement. Kelly has appeared in the District Court, High Court and Court of Appeal, as well as Tribunal and Arbitration hearings. She has successfully argued proceedings for recovery of land and strike-out applications, and appeared in various High Court and District Court trials and interlocutory hearings.



Craig Ruane, Riverlands Chambers, Christchurch

Craig was a litigation partner in a Christchurch firm, a senior prosecutor with the Crown Solicitor's Office in Christchurch and now practises as a barrister. A faculty member of the NZLS CLE Litigation Skills programme since the early 90's, he was the Director of the 2008 Lincoln programme and of the 2010 and 2013 programmes held in Wellington. Craig has presented various NZLS CLE seminars and criminal advocacy seminars and workshops.



Andrew Shaw, Lane Neave, Christchurch

Andrew is a specialist employment and health and safety lawyer, with significant experience in providing advice and representation in these areas. His experience in employment law ranges from specialist document drafting, change management, advice in discipline and dismissal processes, advice on post-employment obligations to representation in Mediations and Authority/Court proceedings. Andrew is a member of the NZLS Employment Law Committee.



Sarah Townsend, Duncan Cotterill, Christchurch

Sarah is an experienced employment and health and safety lawyer. She has represented clients in cases ranging from unjustified dismissals, bullying and harassment claims to enforcement of restraints of trade. Sarah has also practised employment law in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom, including experience as an in-house employment lawyer at one of the world's largest investment banks.



Ben Walker, Canterbury Chambers, Christchurch

Ben is an experienced commercial/civil litigation specialist. He has 13 years' experience in private practice in a law firm context and as in-house counsel, both in New Zealand and Australia, and joined the independent bar in August 2015. He has recently developed significant expertise in relation to earthquake insurance claims, both commercial and residential.

SPEAKERS



Dr Duncan Webb, Christchurch

Duncan is a former professor and judicial officer. He has recently entered sole practice after a number of years as a partner at Lane Neave. Duncan litigates in complex areas including professional negligence and responsibility, and insurance. He is recognised as New Zealand's leading expert in lawyer's ethics and professional responsibility. Since the Canterbury earthquakes, Duncan has emerged as a prominent insurance lawyer having previously taught and researched in the area. He has appeared in the Courts at all levels, and in the Supreme Court on a number of occasions. In 2017 Duncan is standing for Parliament in the Christchurch Central electorate for the Labour Party.