



Solution Focused Justice

A Cross Jurisdictional Symposium

20 - 21 February 2026

Presented By :

Bugmy Bar Book



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION



Supported By :



Front cover artwork © 2026 Jeremy Worrall (Wright)

Artwork description

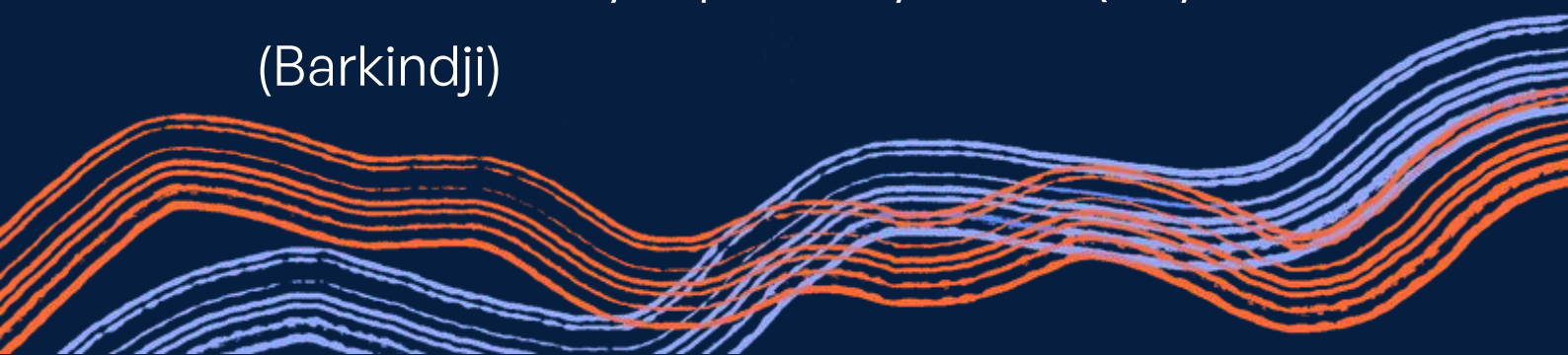
This artwork is a representation of the life cycle of the Squiggly Gum Moth and Larvae. The artwork takes place on a Gum tree bark face, each colour representing a layer. The larvae of the Squiggly moth burrows into the tree and consumes the fresh inner layer of the tree bark forming intricate linework (black lines), reminiscent of a bus trail or river system. I wanted the larvae to represent the journey that you all are taking, or have already taken, to reach your meeting place (circle lifework). I also believe that the larvae undertaking of eating, moving and growth is reminiscent of the undertaking someone must endure when dealing with mental health.

The outcome of this journey is a period of great change where the larvae stops its journey and breaks down into a moth through metamorphosis, its final burrowing out of the tree and into the world, free to fly and unbound from its original path. As you all converge on this place and share knowledge, you take those learnings to your homes and help others with them, similar to the moths path.

Artist biography

Jeremy Worrall (Wright) is a Gomerōii/Ngarabal man living on Gadigal land. Jeremy creates artworks that blend modern styles with traditional linework. He also works on multimedia animations. Jeremy was shortlisted for the Ena Noël Award for his illustration of Etta and the Shadow Taboo in 2025 and won the 2025 National NAIDOC Week Poster Competition with an artwork titled Ancestral Lines.

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- 



Welcome Message

Thank you for your attendance at the Solution Focused Justice - A Cross Jurisdictional Symposium to be held at the New South Wales Supreme Court and University of Technology Sydney on the 20th and 21st of February 2026.

This event is hosted by the *Bugmy Bar Book*, the NSW Bar Association, Te Kura Kaiwhakawā (Aotearoa, New Zealand Institute of Judicial Studies), and the University of Technology Sydney and is supported by the NSW Judicial Commission and the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration.

Solution-focused courts (sometimes referred to as specialist or problem-solving courts) are generally specialised court programs designed to address the root causes of why the person before the court has committed a criminal offence, for example, by identifying and focusing on supporting the person's mental health, substance dependence or experience of family violence. Solution focused justice can also be applied to mainstream courts to enhance the courts responsiveness to issues underlying crime and improve the quality of the justice process.

This symposium will showcase the way in which solution focused justice is operating in Australia and Aotearoa, New Zealand, highlight examples of best practice and foster connections between judicial officers, legal professionals, academics, students, and community organisations committed to trauma-informed, culturally safe and solution-focused justice.

We welcome attendees joining in person and online. Following this symposium, copies of the recordings will be made available on the *Bugmy Bar Book* website.

Thank you on behalf of the Symposium Committee Co-Chairs: The Honourable Justice Dina Yehia and Anthony McAvoy SC, and the Symposium Committee, The Honourable Justice Louise Taylor, Her Honour Judge Sophia Beckett, Her Honour Judge Sarah Hopkins, Her Honour Magistrate Pauline Spencer, Her Honour Special Magistrate Lucinda Wilson, Rebecca McMahon, Damian Beaufile, Lauren Davies, Catherine Kenny, Alison MacDonald, Chris McDonald, Crystal Triggs, Janine McIntosh, Mereana White, Rachel Geare, Laura Toren, Vin Gajanayake, Professor Thalia Anthony and Kenneth Wu.

Purposes

The purposes of the solution focused justice symposium

1. An opportunity to showcase the way in which solution focused courts and therapeutic and restorative approaches to justice are operating in Australia and New Zealand
2. Identify examples of best practice
3. Share experiences
4. Create ongoing connections between members of the legal profession and the judiciary who are involved in delivering justice in solution focused courts
5. Consider how mainstream courts can adopt solution focused elements into practice and procedure
6. Consider how judicial bodies can support solution focused courts and implementing elements of therapeutic and restorative approaches to justice in mainstream courts
7. Strengthening partnerships with government to deliver solution focused justice



Sponsors

The organisers of the event are very grateful to our sponsors who have contributed to our event



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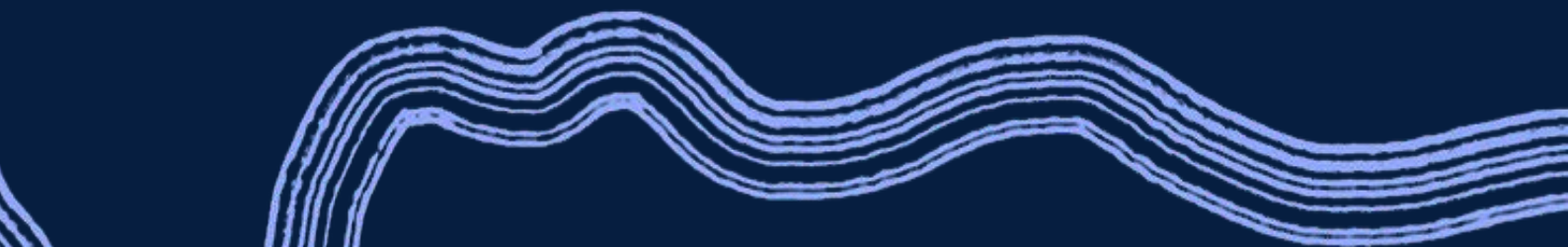
Program Overview

Friday 20 February 2026, Banco Court, Level 13, Supreme Court of NSW	
4:15 – 4:45	Doors Open
4:45 – 4:55	Welcome and Acknowledgements
4:55 – 5:30	Opening of Symposium
5:30 – 7:05	Solution Focused Justice - Panel Presentation
7:05 – 7:15	Closing Remarks
7:15 – 8:00	Refreshments and Discussion
Saturday 21 February 2026, Peter Johnson Building, UTS, 702 - 730 Harris Street, Ultimo	
8:30 – 8:50	Doors Open Refreshments
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome, Acknowledgements and Opening Remarks
9:35 – 10:10	Te Ao Mārama – Enhancing Justice for All
10:15 – 11:55	Showcasing Solution-Focused Courts: Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 1:15	Graduate Stories - Peer Programs
1:15 – 2:00	Respect your Elders
2:00 – 2:10	Cultural Safety, a poem
2:10 – 3:00	The importance of cultural safety and trauma informed Courts
3:00 – 3:20	Afternoon Tea
3:20 – 3:35	Enhancing First Nations courts with Aboriginal Community Justice Reports
3:35 – 4:20	Partnerships and Place: the Critical Role of Government and Community-Based Organisations
4:20 – 4:35	Parramatta West Referral List – a case study
4:40 – 5:10	Papua New Guinea Village Courts
5:10 – 5:30	Closing Words

Detailed Program

Friday

Friday 20 February 2026, Banco Court	
4:15 – 4:45	Doors Open
4:45 – 4:55	Welcome and Acknowledgements Anthony McAvoy SC (Wirdi)
4:55 – 5:10	Opening of Symposium The Honourable Andrew Bell, Chief Justice of New South Wales
5:10 – 5:20	The Honourable Michael Daley, Attorney General of New South Wales & Member of the Legislative Assembly.
5:20 – 5:30	National Legal Aid and <i>Bugmy Bar Book</i> Partnership Launch Annmarie Lumsden, NLA Chair, CEO Legal Services Commission SA Kimberley Hamer, NLA First Nations Advisory Group Chair, Director, Aboriginal Services Legal Aid NSW
5:30 – 7:05	The Honourable Justice Dina Yehia, Supreme Court of New South Wales in discussion with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Honourable Justice Sir Joe Williams (Ngati Pūkenga, Waitaha and Tapuika), Supreme Court of New Zealand• The Honourable Justice Kofi N. Barnes, Judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Canada• Her Honour Magistrate Pauline Spencer, Magistrates Court of Victoria• Anthony McAvoy SC (Wirdi), New South Wales Bar Association
7:05 – 7:15	Closing Remarks The Honourable Justice Dina Yehia, Supreme Court of New South Wales
7:15 – 8:00	Refreshments and Discussion



Detailed Program - Saturday

Saturday 21 February 2026, UTS Sydney

Conference Host: Rebecca McMahon, Forbes Chambers and co-chair of the *Bugmy Bar Book*

8:30 - 8:50

Doors Open
Refreshments

9:00 - 9:25

Welcome
Anthony McAvoy SC (Wirdi)

9:25 - 9:30

Welcome and Introduction to UTS
Professor Tracey Booth, Acting Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney

9:35 - 10:10

Te Ao Mārama – Enhancing Justice for All
His Honour Chief Judge Heemi Taumaunu (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Konohi, Ngāi Tahu), District Court of New Zealand

10:15 - 11:55

Showcasing Solution-Focused Courts: Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand
Crystal Triggs, Project Director, *Bugmy Bar Book* and Adjunct Professor Southern Cross University, Faculty of Business, Law and Arts in discussion with:

- The Honourable Justice Dina Yehia, Supreme Court of New South Wales
- His Honour Judge John Walker, District Court of New Zealand & Director, Justice Innovation Centre, New Zealand
- Her Honour Judge Ida Malosi, Principal Youth Court Judge, New Zealand
- Her Honour Judge Jacquelyn Moran, Principal Family Court Judge, New Zealand
- His Honour Judge David Sexton, County Court of Victoria
- Her Honour Magistrate Rose Falla, (Wotjobaluk/Wemba Wemba/Mutti Mutti), Magistrates Court, Koori Court of Victoria

Detailed Program - Saturday

12:00 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 - 1:15	Graduate Stories - Peer Programs Angela Maclean and Darren Sims, Self Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC)
1:15 - 2:00	Respect your Elders: Damian Beaufils (Gundungurra), Black Chambers and His Honour, Judge Greg Davis (Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Kahungunu), District Court of New Zealand and Matariki Court in Kaikohe, in discussion with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matua Mokena Peeni (Ngāpuhi)• Whaea Huri Peeni (Ngāpuhi)• Aunty Barbara O’Neill, Walama list Elder (Dhangatti)
2:00 - 2:10	Cultural Safety A poem by Keith Quayle (Barkindji)
2:10 - 3:00	The importance of cultural safety and trauma informed Courts The Honourable Justice Louise Taylor (Kamilaroi), Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory in discussion with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vanessa Edwige (Ngarabal), senior psychologist, Chair of Australian Indigenous Psychologist Association• Michael Naera (Te Arawa), project leader in Rotorua for Kia Piki te Ora, the Ministry of Health’s National Maori Suicide Prevention Program
3:00 - 3:20	Afternoon Tea

Detailed Program - Saturday

3:20 - 3:35	Enhancing First Nations courts with Aboriginal Community Justice Reports Professor Thalia Anthony, University of Technology Sydney Co-Convenor UTS Criminal Justice Cluster
3:35 - 4:20	Partnerships and Place: the Critical Role of Government and Community-Based Organisations Her Honour Judge Sarah Hopkins, District Court of New South Wales in discussion with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• His Honour Judge Tony FitzGerald, District Court of New Zealand and Judge of the New Beginnings Court• Izzy Rayson, Tangentyere Council Brown Men's behaviour change program, Alice Springs, Northern Territory• Arrin Hazelbane, (Warai/Kokatha), Director, Aboriginal Practice and Partnerships, Department of Human Services, South Australian Government
4:20 - 4:35	Parramatta West Referral List – a case study Her Honour Judge Sophia Beckett, District Court of New South Wales
4:40 - 5:10	Papua New Guinea Village Courts Stacey Levakia Wali (Tolai and Mengen people of East New Britain), A/Director and Programs Officer, Pacific Centre for Judicial Excellence
5:10 - 5:30	Closing Words The Honourable Justice Sir Joe Williams (Ngati Pūkenga, Waitaha and Tapuika), Supreme Court of New Zealand The Honourable Justice Kofi N. Barnes, Judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Canada

Hosts and MCs

The Honourable Justice Dina Yehia



The Honourable Justice Yehia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts/Law from the University of NSW and subsequently completed a Masters in International Criminal Law at Sydney University. Her Honour was admitted as a solicitor in 1989 and worked with the Western Aboriginal Legal Service from December 1989 until September 1996. In that capacity, her Honour appeared for thousands of Aboriginal people in towns such as Bourke, Brewarrina, Wilcannia and Broken Hill.

Her Honour worked as a Solicitor Advocate with the Legal Aid Commission and was called to the Bar in 1999. Her Honour was then appointed a Public Defender. Her Honour took silk in 2009 and became the first female Deputy Senior Public Defender in 2013.

Her Honour's practice in the Supreme Court included murder trials and the year-long terrorism trial at Parramatta in 2009. In 2013, her Honour appeared as lead counsel in the High Court case of *Bugmy v The Queen* and in the Special Leave application in Honeysett.

Her Honour was appointed a Judge of the District Court in May 2014.

Between 2019 and November 2022, her Honour was the Chairperson of Diverse Women in Law, an organisation which has been formed to mentor women of diverse backgrounds in the profession. In that position, she has mentored many women in the law and commenced the Court Observation Program which provides an opportunity for a woman from a diverse background, studying law, to spend a day with a Judge in either the Supreme or District Court, observing proceedings and generally engaging with the Judge and her/his staff. Her Honour is currently a Board Member of Diverse Women in Law.

Her Honour is also the current Chair of the Ngarra Yura Committee. The Ngarra Yura Program aims to increase awareness among Judicial Officers about First Nations social and cultural issues.

On 23 June 2022, her Honour was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. Her Honour was sworn in on 4 July 2022.

In January 2023, her Honour became an Adjunct Professor at the Law School of the University of New South Wales. Her Honour currently teaches a newly devised sentencing course to undergraduate and postgraduate law students at the University of New South Wales.

As a District Court Judge Her Honour was the Chairperson of the Walama Court Working Group, which established an Indigenous sentencing court as part of the NSW District Court. The Walama List commenced operating in the District Court on 31 January 2022 and continues today.

Hosts and MCs

Anthony McAvoy SC (Wirdi)

Anthony (Tony) McAvoy SC is a part-time Commissioner of the ALRC and was appointed on 3 July 2024 to lead the ALRC's inquiry into the future acts regime in the *Native Title Act 1993*.

A Wirdi man from Central Queensland, Tony McAvoy SC holds a Bachelor of Laws, a Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa), and is an eminent barrister and mediator. Mr McAvoy was called to the New South Wales Bar in 2000, and in 2015 was the first First Nations person to be appointed Senior Counsel. Mr McAvoy was Acting part-time Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court from 2011 to 2013, Acting Northern Territory Treaty Commissioner between 2021 and 2022, and Commissioner of the NSW Independent Planning Commission from 2021 to 2024. Mr McAvoy currently practices at the NSW Bar, specialising in native title and land rights.

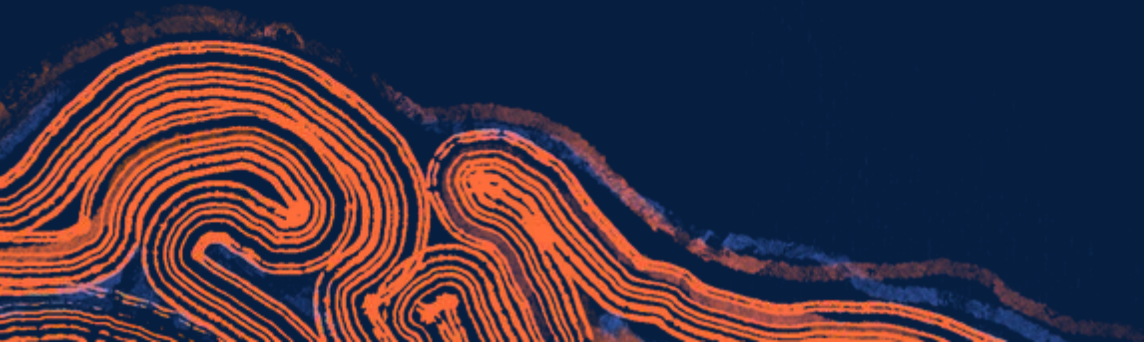


Rebecca McMahan



Rebecca is a barrister at Forbes Chambers in Sydney and an adjunct Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales and is an affiliate member of the Centre for Criminology, Law & Justice at that University. Rebecca is the co-chair and one of the founding members of the [Bugmy Bar Book project](#). She is a member of the NSW Bar Associations Criminal Law and First Nations committees and a member of the Law Council of Australia's criminal law committee.

Prior to commencing at the Bar, Rebecca was the principal lawyer of her private law firm and has also held positions at the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT, NSW Legal Aid Commission and the NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecution. Rebecca was the 2021 recipient of the Terry Keaney Memorial award which recognises dedication to the profession, excellence as a criminal lawyer, commitment to clients and concern for social justice.



Friday Speakers

The Honourable Chief Justice A S Bell Chief Justice of New South Wales



The Honourable Andrew Bell was sworn in as Chief Justice of New South Wales on 7 March 2022. Prior to being appointed as Chief Justice, his Honour was President of the New South Wales Court of Appeal, having been appointed to that position on 28 February 2019. His Honour is also President of the Judicial Commission of New South Wales.

His Honour was admitted to the Bar in 1995 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2006. During his time at the Bar, his Honour had a broad national practice at trial and appellate levels, and was also engaged in numerous international arbitrations. At the time of his appointment to the Bench, his Honour was Senior Vice-President of the New South Wales Bar Association. He is also Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Sydney where he taught part time for many years.

The Honourable Michael Daley, Attorney General of New South Wales

Michael Daley is NSW Attorney General and the Member for Maroubra where he has lived his whole life. Growing up in South Maroubra, he attended St Mary, St Joseph Primary School and then Marcellin College in Randwick.

He was elected to NSW Parliament in 2005 and has held various positions including as Police, Roads and Finance Minister.

Mr Daley joined the Labor Party to make a difference and help create a fairer and more prosperous society. Before coming to Parliament, he was Deputy Mayor of Randwick City Council for four years and a councillor for another 13 years.

Mr Daley also worked as a customs officer, private legal practitioner and senior corporate lawyer with NRMA Motoring & Services.

He is an active community member with roles including as President of the Marcellin College Randwick Ex Students' Association (since 1998), former President of the Randwick Rugby Club and a former director of Randwick Rugby Foundation Limited.



The Honourable Justice Sir Joe Williams (Ngati Pūkenga, Waitaha and Tapuika)



Justice Williams has a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the Victoria University of Wellington and a Master of Laws (LLM) (Hons) from the University of British Columbia. He became a partner at Kensington Swan in 1992 and went on to co-found Walters Williams & Co in 1994. In 1999 he became Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court and was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Waitangi Tribunal shortly after in 2000. He was made Chairperson of the Waitangi Tribunal in 2004. Justice Williams was appointed a judge of the High Court in September 2008, a judge of the Court of Appeal in February 2018, and a judge of the Supreme Court in May 2019.

The Honourable Justice Kofi N. Barnes

The Honourable Justice Kofi N. Barnes, Judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and a former judge of the Ontario Court of Justice. Born in Ghana, Justice Barnes made history as the first person born on the African continent to be appointed a judge in Canada.

As the founder of a number of Treatment Courts including as a co-founder of Canada's first Drug Treatment Court in Toronto, Justice Barnes has helped pave the way for multidisciplinary approaches that integrate legal case processing with treatment and rehabilitation, transforming lives and enhancing individual and community safety.

In 2020, Justice Barnes founded the Association of Justice and Treatment Professionals (www.justicetreatment.org) a professional development forum for justice and treatment professionals to dialogue and learn from each other.



Her Honour Magistrate Pauline Spencer

Her Honour Magistrate Pauline Spencer was appointed as a Magistrate in 2006. She currently sits at Dandenong Magistrates' Court, one of Victoria's busiest mainstream courts.

Pauline previously worked as a lawyer in private practice, and in the community legal centre movement. Prior to her appointment, Pauline was the Executive Officer of the Federation of Community Legal Centres, the peak body for over 50 community legal centres in Victoria.

Pauline has an interest in solutions-focused sentencing practices, improved responses to family violence and improving connections between the court and the community. She is a member of the Advisory Group for the International Therapeutic Jurisprudence in the Mainstream.



Saturday Speakers



Welcome to UTS

Professor Tracey Booth, Acting
Dean, UTS Law

Professor Tracey Booth is UTS's Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law. Tracey is a leading international scholar whose work explores public confidence in legal processes.

Tracey's research is inter-disciplinary and crosses a range of fields, including criminology, psychology, sociology and law. She is an expert on victim impact statements, victims of crime in legal processes, the impact of emotion on courtroom proceeding and judicial emotion. Tracey is well-known for her legal ethnographic approach that seeks to build on theory and legal doctrine with empirical insights to create an evidence base for the development of policy and law reform. With UTS colleagues Associate Professors Jane Wangmann and Miranda Kaye, she completed a research project on the impact and effect of self-representation in family law proceedings involving allegations of family violence. The project, funded by Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), made a number of important recommendations to improve the safety and experiences of those involved in such proceedings. The report from this research was awarded the 2022 Non-Traditional Research Output Award, Australian Legal Research Awards.

Tracey was a member of the NSW Sentencing Council 2014-2022.





Te Ao Mārama – Enhancing Justice for All

His Honour Chief Judge Heemi Taumaunu (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Konohi, Ngāi Tahu)

Judge Taumaunu was appointed Chief District Court Judge of New Zealand in 2019 and leads a bench of more than 170 judges and 18 community magistrates across 59 locations.

He is the first Māori to be appointed to the role and is a fluent Te Reo Māori speaker. His tribal affiliations are Ngāti Pōrou and its sub-tribe Ngāti Konohi, and Ngāi Tahu.

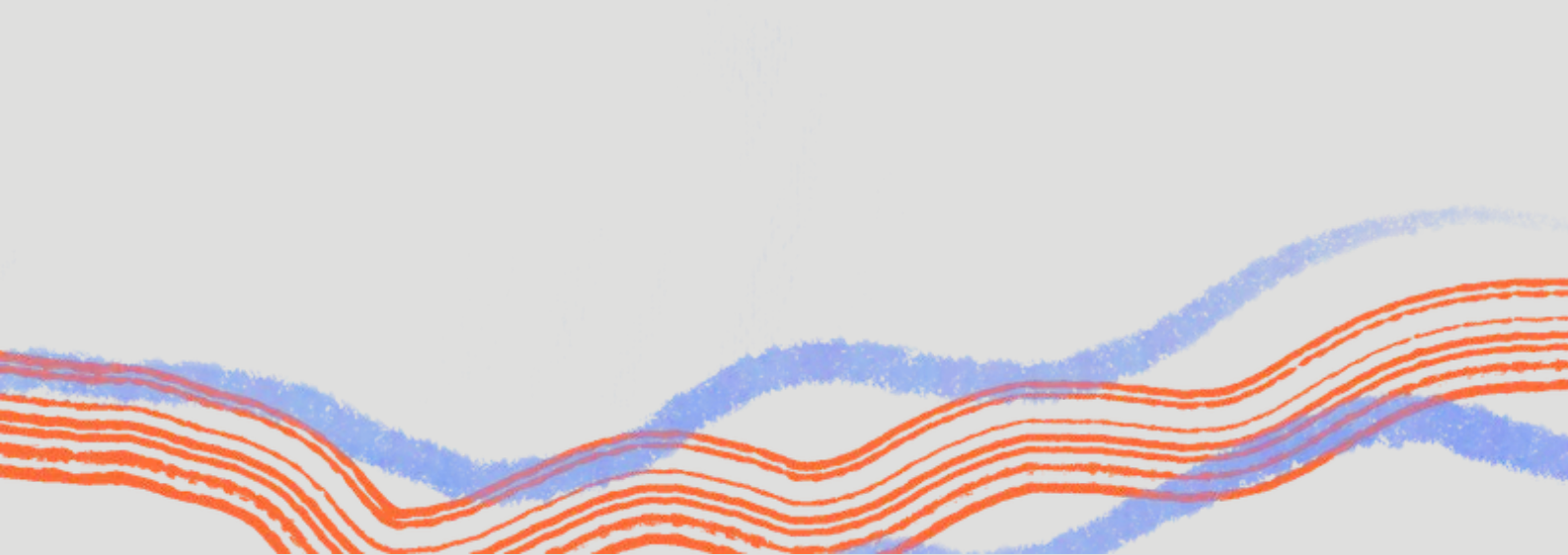
His legal journey began at Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington in 1989, where he was the first person from Ngāti Konohi to earn a Bachelor of Laws and go on to practise as a barrister and solicitor. He practised in his hometown of Gisborne for a decade before being appointed to the District Court bench in 2004, becoming the first judge to swear the oaths of office in both English and Te Reo Māori.

Judge Taumaunu is a pioneer of Ngā Kōti Rangatahi o Aotearoa (Rangatahi Courts), in 2008 developing the first of what would become sixteen. His work has been internationally recognised, earning the Veillard-Cybulski Award (2017) for innovative youth justice initiatives.

Judge Taumaunu had a previous career in the New Zealand Army, joining the Regular Force Cadet School Webb Class in 1984 and then serving in the Royal New Zealand Signals Corp.

Since 2012, he has also served as a judge of the Court Martial of New Zealand.

Outside of law, he enjoys the outdoors and time with his family.



Showcasing solution-focused courts

His Honour Judge John Walker

John Walker is a recently retired District Court Judge from New Zealand. He was appointed to the bench in 1994 and since that time he has held various leadership roles as an Executive Judge, Acting Chief Judge at various times and The Principal Youth Court Judge for New Zealand from 2016 to 2022.

He was instrumental in establishing the Youth Drug Court in Christchurch, the Young Adult Court in Porirua, establishing the Porirua Court as a court connected with its community, and has played a leading role in improving the courts' approach to family violence cases, as well as responses to individuals with drug and alcohol dependency.

He is now a Director of the Centre for Justice innovation at Victoria University Law School .



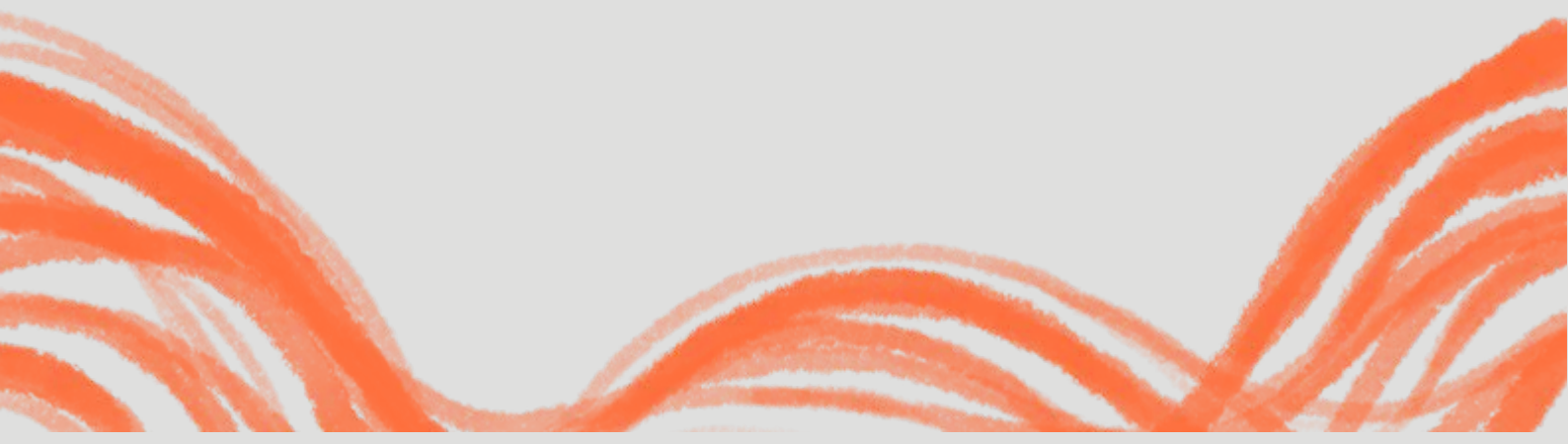
Her Honour Judge Ida Malosi



Her Honour was born and raised in Southland and graduated from Victoria University of Wellington. She was a founding member of the first all-Māori and Pasifika law firm specialising in family law and youth justice, which received the Auckland District Law Society's EEO "Most Innovative" Award in 2000.

She became New Zealand's first female Pasifika Judge upon her appointment to the Family Court, where she primarily served in both the Family and Youth Courts. In 2013, she was appointed as Samoa's first Samoan Supreme Court Judge.

Her Honour went on to serve as the Executive Judge of the Manukau Court before being appointed National Executive Judge in 2021. In November 2022, she was appointed Principal Youth Court Judge.



Showcasing solution-focused courts

Her Honour Judge Jacquelyn Moran

Her Honour Judge Jacquelyn Moran was appointed to the Family Court in 2003 and became Principal Family Court Judge in November 2018. She is New Zealand's fifth Principal Family Court Judge, and the first woman to hold the role since the Court's establishment in 1981.

Born in Ngāruawāhia, Judge Moran was educated at Baradene College in Auckland and the University of Auckland, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws in 1979. After admission to the bar in 1980, she practised for 23 years, primarily in family law, in Ōtāhuhu, Whanganui, and Invercargill.

Her Honour co-founded the Southland Abuse Intervention Programme, chaired the Southland Care and Protection Resource Panel, and served as President of the Southland Family Courts Association. She also contributed to the Southland District Law Society Family Law Committee, as well as the New Zealand Law Society's Family Law Section and its Matrimonial and De Facto Property Committee.

Upon her appointment as a District Court Judge with a Family Court warrant, Judge Moran was based in Christchurch. For six years, she served as the Administrative Family Court Judge for the Southern Region, and briefly acted as Principal Family Court Judge in 2014. She has been a member of the Canterbury Family Justice Network and played a leading role in the design and national rollout of the Early Intervention Process under the *Care of Children Act 2004*. Between 2013 and 2014, she was also a judicial member of the working party on the Family Court reforms introduced at that time.



His Honour Judge David Sexton

Judge David Sexton was appointed a Judge of the County Court of Victoria in 2018. His Honour is the Head of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Court, and has a strong interest in therapeutic justice. Prior to his appointment as a judge, his Honour was a Barrister in criminal law, specialising in sexual offences.

His Honour has extensive involvement in advocacy teaching and has been a senior Instructor with the Victorian Bar and the Australian Advocacy Institute. He has undertaken advocacy training for lawyers interstate, in the Pacific, and at the International Criminal Court in the Hague and also lectured in this area at Monash University.



Showcasing solution-focused courts

Her Honour Magistrate Rose Falla (Wotjobaluk/Wemba Wemba/Mutti Mutti)



Magistrate Falla is a proud Wotjobaluk/Wemba Wemba/Mutti Mutti woman born and raised in Melbourne.

In 2013, Her Honour became the first Indigenous Magistrate appointed in the state of Victoria. Magistrate Falla's involvement with Koori Court began in 2001 when she was working in the legal policy unit of the Department of Justice to help establish the first Koori Courts in Shepparton and Broadmeadows.

In October 2019, Magistrate Falla was awarded an Honorary Doctorate, from Deakin University in recognition of her career in law and her service to the community through the establishment of the first Koori Courts in Victoria.

In 2020, Magistrate Falla was appointed to the role of Supervising Magistrate for Koori Justice. As well as sitting in both Koori Court and Mainstream Court, Magistrate Falla works with other Supervising Magistrates and Heads of Division to supervise and support Koori programs at the Magistrates' Court of Victoria

Crystal Triggs



Crystal Triggs is the Project Director of the *Bugmy Bar Book* and an Adjunct Professor at Southern Cross University. In 2023 she was recognised with the New South Wales Regional Practitioner of the Year Award in recognition of her work on the *Bugmy Bar Book* and as managing lawyer for the northern region of the Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) during the 2022 Lismore Floods.

Crystal was also previously a lawyer in the youth team at the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) when the Royal Commission into Youth Detention and Child Protection in the Northern Territory was announced and continued to represent her youth clients in the Royal Commission, one of her clients becoming a significant case study published in the final report. Crystal went on to manage the NAAJA youth team. Crystal has also worked as a teaching fellow at the University of New South Wales.



Graduate Stories - Peer Programs

Self Help Addiction Resource Centre

Angela Maclean Peer Services Coordinator, Peer Projects, Self Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC)

Angela oversees the Peer Mentors in Justice Program, which operates within the Magistrates Drug Court (Melbourne, Dandenong, Ballarat, and Shepparton), the County Drug Court (Melbourne), and the Family Drug Treatment Court programs (Broadmeadows and Shepparton). Her work focuses on supporting individuals through peer-led initiatives in these justice settings. Angela brings lived experience to her role as a previous graduate of the Melbourne Magistrates Drug Court program.

Darren Sims Senior Peer Mentor, Self Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC)

Darren was the first Peer Mentor in Justice Program in Victoria and has been part of the Peer Mentors in Justice Program at SHARC for more than 11 years. He's worked across all seven Drug Courts in Victoria and has supported hundreds of participants during that time.

He also started the first Peer Listener Program in Victorian prisons, which is still running today and is now used in most prisons across the state. Darren brings strong lived experience to his work and is passionate about supporting people as they move through their journey.

The SHARC logo is displayed in a dark blue rounded rectangle. The letters 'sharc' are in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The 's' is blue, while the 'h', 'a', 'r', 'c' are white. The background of the page features a stylized orange and white graphic of a hand or a flame-like shape on the right side.

Respect your Elders

His Honour Judge Greg Davis (Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Tai, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Kahungunu)



Judge Greg Davis was appointed to the New Zealand District Court bench in June 2010. Prior to his appointment he held roles with the Māori Trust Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and worked at law firms Rudd Watts and Stone, Henderson Reeves, and Palmer Macauley. He was a partner at Tumanako Law where he practiced primarily in the civil jurisdictions of the High Court and District Court and also led a significant practice in the Māori Land Court and the Waitangi Tribunal, serving as lead counsel for numerous claimants in the Te Paparahi o Te Raki Waitangi Tribunal inquiry, and as lead advisor to Ngāpuhi in the settlement of its Treaty claims with the Crown.

Since 2022, Judge Davis has served as Executive Judge for Northland and has been instrumental in developing innovative court initiatives aimed at addressing the unique needs of the community. He has played a key role in the establishment of the Rangatahi and Matariki Courts, as well as the Young Adult List for the region, all of which he presides over, as well as the Criminal and Youth Courts.

Judge Davis is of Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāi Tai and Ngāti Raukawa descent, and is a fluent speaker of Te Reo Māori.

Respect your Elders

Damian Beaufils (Gundungurra)

Damian is a descendent of the Gundungurra people and was born and raised off Country on the Dharawal lands of coastal Sydney. He began his legal career in 2011 as a solicitor at Legal Aid NSW after completing a law degree with the University of Sydney. He joined the NSW Bar in 2016 where he has appeared in a variety of different jurisdictions and acted as counsel assisting in the NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'Ice'. In 2022, Damian became the first Aboriginal person to be appointed as a Crown Prosecutor in NSW and was a commissioned as an officer with the Royal Australian Navy. In 2025, Damian was awarded the Ngalaya First Nations Lawyer of the year. Commencing in 2026, Damian is now a member of the private bar at Black Chambers



Aunty Barbara O'Neill (Dhangatti)

Aunty Barbara completed a Bachelor of Indigenous Knowledges Majoring in Aboriginal Health (Southern Cross University Lismore). She then completed a Diploma in Counselling (ACAP Sydney) followed by a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Trauma Recovery and Practice (Distinction) at University of Wollongong.

These qualifications have ensured that Aunty Barbara's work in the Walama List has academic credibility, which has strengthened acceptance of the Trauma Informed Approach to recidivism that is vitally necessary to lay the groundwork on which to build a future for Aboriginal Peoples wishing to leave custody permanently.



Respect your Elders



Pāpā Mokena Peeni (Ngāpuhi) and Whaea Huri Peeni (Ngāpuhi)

Matua Mokena Peeni and Whaea Huri Peeni from Maungatapere near Whangārei have been pou of the Kōti Tamariki in Whangārei for a number of years. Kaumatua and kuia in the Rangatahi courts play a key role in guiding the young people towards gaining the cultural knowledge that they are expected to demonstrate to the Court. Together, in collaboration with court professionals and under the leadership of the judge, the elders hold their rangatahi (young people) to account. Both Mokena and Huri are ex-schoolteachers.

Cultural Safety, a poem

Keith Quayle (Barkindji)

Keith Quayle (he/him pronouns), a proud Barkindji man, community advocate, writer, and organiser whose work sits at the intersection of justice, culture, and identity. Raised on Dharug Country in Sydney's west, Keith brings both lived experience and cultural knowledge to his advocacy.

He is the founder of NSW Community Advocates for People in Prison, a First Nations-led, grassroots mutual aid movement supporting people inside and pushing for systemic reform. Keith is recognised nationally for his leadership in improving outcomes for trans and gender-diverse people in custody, serving on advisory bodies and working directly with communities to challenge harmful policies and practices.

Keith is also a published essayist and storyteller whose work explores incarceration, sovereignty, queerness, and survival. His voice has contributed to platforms such as Overland and Queerstories, where he uses narrative as a tool for truth-telling and change.

Through all his work, Keith calls us to build justice systems rooted in humanity, cultural safety, and self-determination.



The importance of cultural safety and Trauma Informed Courts

The Honourable Justice Louise Taylor (Kamilaroi)



Justice Louise Taylor was sworn in as a Judge of the ACT Supreme Court on Wednesday 16 August 2023. A Kamilaroi woman, she was the first (and remains the only) Aboriginal woman appointed to a superior court in Australia.

Justice Taylor was a senior prosecutor at the ACT and Commonwealth Offices of the Director of Public Prosecutions before her appointment as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the ACT Legal Aid Commission in 2013. Justice Taylor was appointed as a Magistrate and Coroner of the ACT Magistrates Court in 2018.

Prior to her appointment as a judicial officer, Justice Taylor contributed to the community sector with a decade of service as Chair of the Women's Legal Centre (ACT) board as well as appointments to the ACT Domestic Violence Prevention Council, the ACT Ministerial Advisory Council for Women and the Indigenous Legal Issues Committee of the Law Council of Australia.

Justice Taylor is currently presiding over a pilot program for the introduction of circle sentencing for First Nations offenders in the ACT Supreme Court.

The importance of cultural safety and Trauma Informed Courts

Vanessa Edwige (Ngarabal)

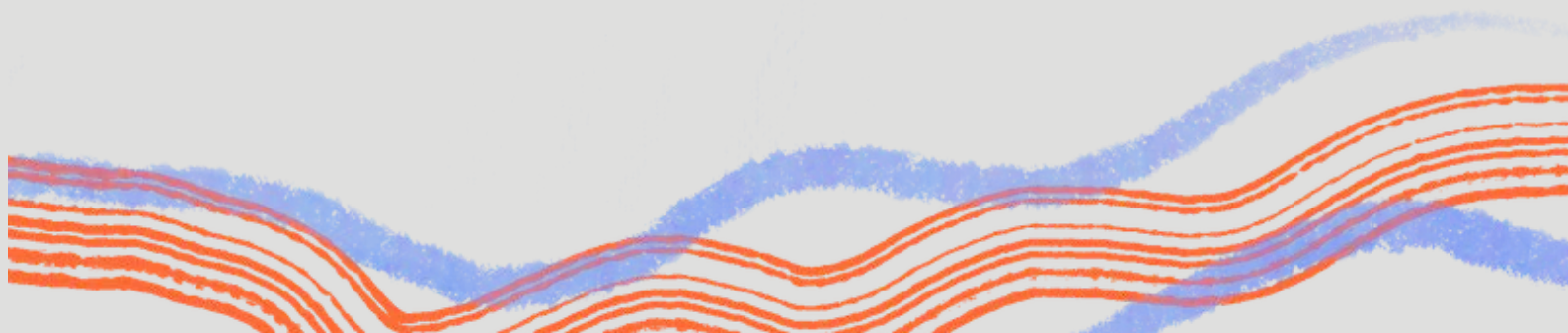


Vanessa Edwige is a Ngarabal woman from Emmaville, NSW. Vanessa is a registered psychologist and the Chair of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association. Vanessa has worked in Redfern, NSW as a psychologist providing culturally responsive psychological support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, families and community. Vanessa currently works privately conducting assessments and preparing psychological reports for people involved in the judicial system and medicolegal reports for civil matters. Vanessa has been writing these reports for over 20 years. Vanessa is a member of the independent advisory panel for the *Bugmy Bar Book* and is co-author of the *Significance of Culture to Wellbeing, Healing and Rehabilitation Report* which was commissioned for the *Bugmy Bar Book Project*. Vanessa also sits on the First Nations Advisory Group for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions NSW.

Michael Naera (Te Arawa)

Michael Naera is a respected leader whose journey is deeply rooted in service to his people, embodying humility, resilience, and unwavering commitment. As a son, brother, father, uncle, and proud grandfather, Michael's leadership reflects the values of whānau, hapū, and iwi as he works tirelessly to uplift Māori health and well-being.

Michael has built a distinguished career across health, social services, education, and justice. His roles demonstrate a steadfast dedication to empowering Māori communities.





Enhancing First Nations courts with Aboriginal Community Justice Reports


Professor Thalia Anthony



Professor Thalia Anthony's research examines the role of criminal laws and procedures in reproducing social relations and enforcing dispossession. She also has expertise in relation to First Nations Stolen Wages claims, legal redress for the Stolen Generations, the harms of carceral systems, and coercive controls of First Nations homelands, housing and mobility.

Grounded in a critical examination of legal institutions; emancipatory fieldwork with First Nations people, organisations and communities; legal history and theory; and activist struggles, Professor Anthony's research identifies law enforcement as a key device in the colonial project in Australia and overseas and explores sites of resistance.

Professor Anthony's research informs her teaching that seeks to challenge the dominance of Western doctrines and introduce First Law and perspectives in the Law curricular. In 2008, she organised the inaugural Australian and New Zealand conference on Incorporating Indigenous Perspectives in the Law Curricular. Since 2017, she has chaired the UTS Waran-gi Pyalla Indigenous Graduate Attribute in Law Working Group.



Partnerships: the role of government and organisations

Her Honour Judge Sarah Hopkins

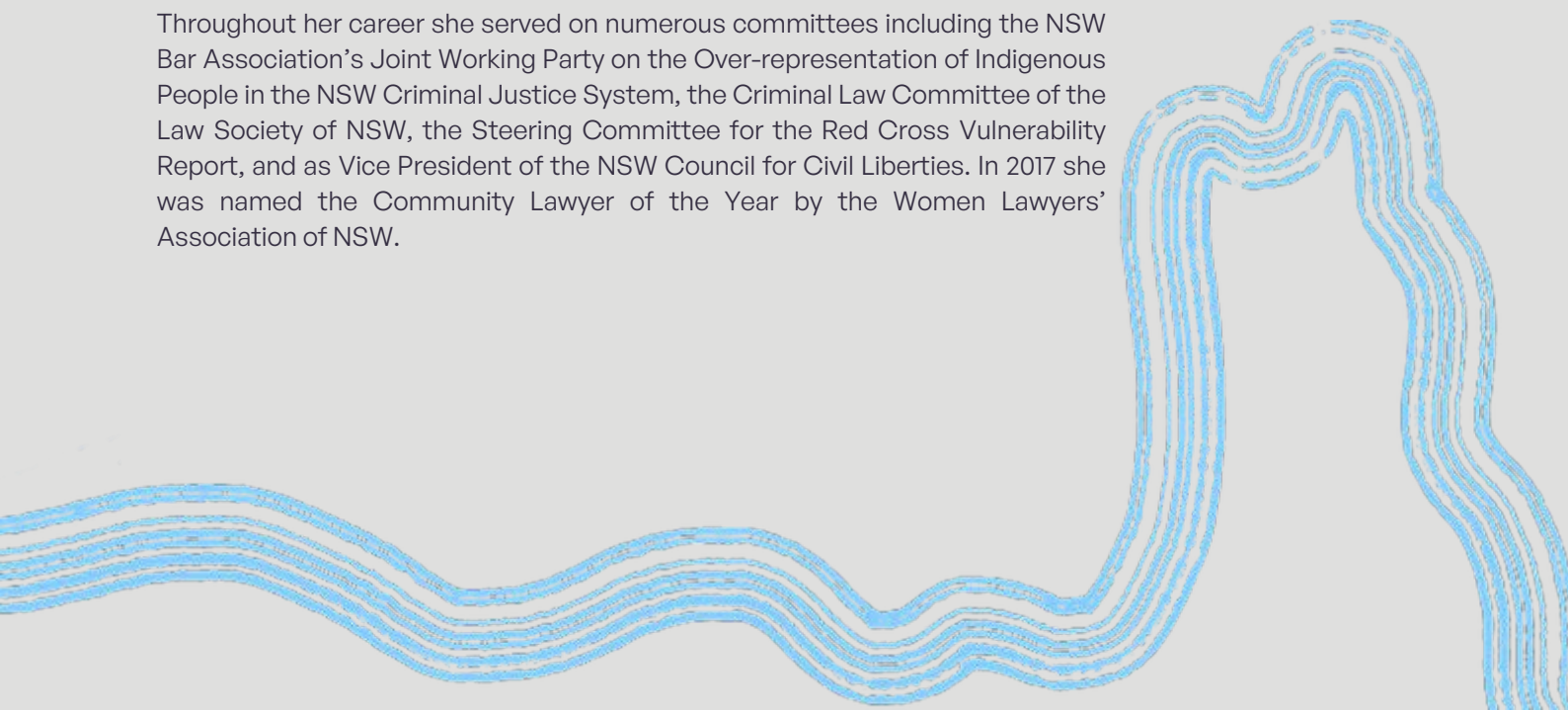
Judge Hopkins is one of three judges of the District Court of NSW presiding in the Walama List, an alternative procedure for sentencing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons charged with criminal offences, with aims including the reduction in the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in custody in NSW. She is the co-chair of the Walama Working Group and the Walama Users' Forum.

Judge Hopkins is the District Court of NSW's representative on the NSW Aboriginal Justice Partnership Committee, co-chaired by NSW DCJ and the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT. She is also a member of the Independent Advisory Panel for the *Bugmy* Bar Book.

Prior to her appointment to the District Court, Judge Hopkins held various positions at the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT over a 25 year period, including the Principal Solicitor of Justice Projects, Policy and Practice, in which role she co-chaired the Closing the Gap Justice Targets Working Group, tasked with the design and implementation of the NSW program of work. An accredited specialist in criminal law, she lectured in crime and the criminal process at the University of New South Wales.

Judge Hopkins was the founder and co-chair of Just Reinvest NSW. In that role, she worked with the Bourke community on the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project, which was the recipient of the 2015 National Rural Law and Justice Award, with Just Reinvest NSW receiving the 2019 HESTA Community Organisation Award and 2019 Australian Human Rights Commission Community Organisation Award.

Throughout her career she served on numerous committees including the NSW Bar Association's Joint Working Party on the Over-representation of Indigenous People in the NSW Criminal Justice System, the Criminal Law Committee of the Law Society of NSW, the Steering Committee for the Red Cross Vulnerability Report, and as Vice President of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties. In 2017 she was named the Community Lawyer of the Year by the Women Lawyers' Association of NSW.



Partnerships: the role of government and organisations

His Honour Judge Tony Fitzgerald



His Honour Judge Tony Fitzgerald has been a Family, Youth Court and District Court Judge for 26 years. Judge Fitzgerald says the work from the Oranga Tamariki Tāmaki Makaurau Specialist Team, Ngā Pā Harakeke, is making a stand-out difference in the lives of young people.

He says the team has been empowering disadvantaged, vulnerable and at-risk Tamariki and rangatahi to make positive choices and turn their lives around.

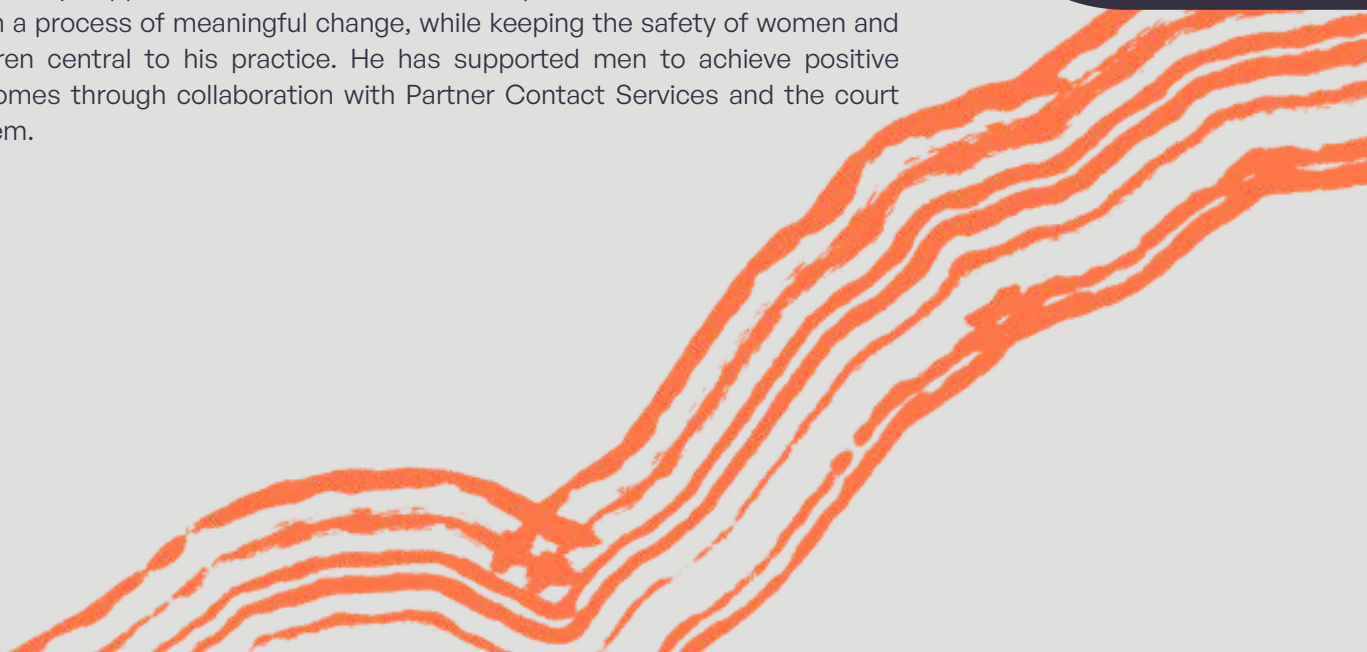
“The Ngā Pā Harakeke team come up with plans to address Care and Protection needs. They support young people out of an [Oranga Tamariki Youth Justice Residence](#), into a suitably supported option with whānau.”

“They also make sure the plans support the whānau and people the young person is being placed with,” says Judge Fitzgerald.

Izzy Rayson

Izzy Rayson is a Group Facilitator with the Tangentyere Men’s Behaviour Change Program and a Men’s Outreach Assessment and Referral Service (MOARS) worker in Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

Working within the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence List at the Local Court, Izzy supports men to take accountability for their use of violence and begin a process of meaningful change, while keeping the safety of women and children central to his practice. He has supported men to achieve positive outcomes through collaboration with Partner Contact Services and the court system.



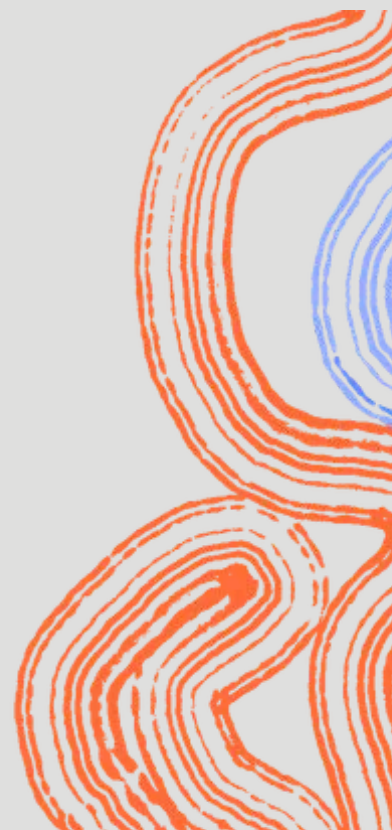
Partnerships: the role of government and organisations

Arrin Hazelbane (Warrai/Kokatha)

Arrin Hazelbane is a proud Warai and Kokatha man with strong connections to the Finniss River region in the Northern Territory and the Far West Coast in South Australia.

He is the Director of Aboriginal Practice and Partnerships in the Department of Human Services. Arrin is responsible for strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal people across South Australia and improving outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people, their families and communities.

Arrin has held senior and executive positions across the public service working on policy and strategic initiatives to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal people.



Parramatta West Referral List

Her Honour Judge Sophia Beckett



Judge Sophia Beckett is a Judge of the District Court of New South Wales and sits as the List Judge at Parramatta District Court. Prior to being appointed to the bench, she was the Deputy Senior Public Defender. She has had a distinguished legal career spanning more than 30 years across all criminal court jurisdictions, appearing in complex criminal trials, appeals, inquests and inquiries prior to her ascension to the bench.

After being admitted to practice in 1990, she moved to Dubbo to take up a role at the Western Aboriginal Legal Service (WALS). Since that time, she has lent her expertise in criminal law to the Attorney General's Department advising on legislative reforms; later worked as a senior solicitor in the Indictable Appeals Unit at the Legal Aid Commission; spent a decade at the private bar at Forbes Chambers before being appointed a Public Defender; and in 2019 was elevated to the bench.

Judge Beckett was one of the founding members of the *Bugmy* Bar Book committee in 2018 and also involved in the NSW Bar's Indigenous mentoring program.

Judge Beckett initiated the Parramatta West Referral List, working with Marrin Weejali Aboriginal Corporation and other First Nations organisations and therapeutic organisations in 2022 from Penrith District Court. The List now operates from Parramatta District Court and the Parramatta West Referral List and sits every 5 to 6 weeks.

Papua New Guinea - Village Courts

Stacey Levakia Wali (Tolai and Mengen people of East New Britain)

A/Director and Programs Officer, Pacific Centre for Judicial Excellence

Stacey is an experienced lawyer, admitted to the Supreme and National Court of Papua New Guinea in 2016. She has cultivated her expertise through roles in both private practice and with the PNG Department of Justice & Attorney General. Currently, as the Assistant Director at the PNG Centre for Judicial Excellence, she plays a key role in the Pacific Law and Justice sector. Stacey collaborates with a diverse cross-section of stakeholders including Judges, Lawyers, and Court Officers in the wider Pacific and PNG to formulate and deliver tailored training programs on judicial education.



Statement of Principles

The following principles have been developed by the Symposium Planning Committee

Introduction

Recognising that justice systems must operate not only as instruments of accountability but as places to encourage and foster rehabilitation, reconciliation, and social cohesion,

Affirming the inherent dignity and equal rights of all persons, including complainants, victims, witnesses, accused persons, offenders, and communities,

Accepting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Restorative Justice Programmes and the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Confirming the importance of research, expert opinions and evidence which overwhelmingly supports the need for the criminal justice systems to identify and address the causes of crime on an individualised basis,

Acknowledging the unique role of First Nations, local, and culturally grounded practices in fostering restorative and therapeutic justice,

Advancing legal frameworks and processes that heal harm and trauma, reduce recidivism, strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of individuals, families and communities,

In recognition of the right of all individuals to justice systems that promote human dignity, healing, and harmony,

The participants in the 2026 Solution Focused Justice Symposium adopt and recommend the following principles for solution focused, therapeutic and restorative approaches to justice as a guide to governments, judicial institutions, communities, and individuals:

Article 1: Dignity and respect

All persons shall be treated with dignity, compassion, and cultural respect throughout every stage of the justice process.

Article 2: Voluntariness and consent

Participation in solution focused, therapeutic and restorative justice mechanisms shall be based on the informed, voluntary, and ongoing consent of all parties involved.

Article 3: Participation and empowerment

Mechanisms shall empower individuals, families and communities through active participation, dialogue, and shared decision-making.



Article 4: Holistic well-being

Outcomes shall prioritise the mental, emotional, physical, cultural, social and spiritual well-being of individuals, families and communities.

Article 5: Accountability through rehabilitation, restorative processes and healing

Accountability shall be framed not solely through punishment but through acknowledgement that accountability includes reparation of harm and meaningful engagement to rehabilitate and engagement in restorative processes.

Article 6: Inclusivity and non-discrimination

Therapeutic justice programs shall be accessible and inclusive, without discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age, ability, culture, or status.

Article 7: Respect for culture and embracing local knowledge and solutions


Justice processes shall recognise and incorporate First Nations peoples and their culture, voices, customs, traditions, and healing practices within solution focused, therapeutic and restorative justice mechanisms.

Article 8: Restoration

Justice approaches shall focus on restoring and strengthening relationships of individuals with their families and communities.

Article 9: Capacity building and resources

At a Federal and State level, governments and institutions shall ensure sufficient resources, training and support to uphold the integrity and sustainability of solution focused, therapeutic and restorative approaches to justice. This includes supporting the capacity of First Nations controlled organisations to design and deliver support services to First Nations people. Government support shall extend to regional and remote communities.





Article 10: Support for judicial officers and others working within justice systems

Judicial officers should be supported and provided training to be equipped to practice and conduct their courts in a trauma informed and culturally safe way. That support and education should also extend to members of the legal profession and other services involved in the criminal justice system.

Judicial officers should be supported to improve the information available to them to inform judicial decision making. This includes information about:

- a. the unique and systemic historic, social and political context impacting First Nations people;
- b. the impacts of adverse experiences including trauma, socioeconomic inequality and structural disadvantage;
- c. being mindful of avoiding a deficit narrative and actively considering the strengths of individuals, families and communities; and
- d. the role of community supports, family and culture as protective factors.

Article 11: Evaluation

Solution focused, therapeutic and restorative justice initiatives should be subject to ongoing evaluation, learning, and refinement in collaboration with affected communities and stakeholders. Evaluations should be carefully designed so as to identify the range of potential benefits associated with solution-focused justice, including qualitative outcomes, and to ensure those outcomes are appropriately captured in evaluations.

Article 12: Connection and future

The participants of the symposium support fostering relationships between participating jurisdictions including joint initiatives to share learning and experiences which support these principles. The participants support the next solution focused justice symposium being held in 2028.

Cultural Safety

Cultural safety is the firelight where First Nations stories are told,
where our wounds are acknowledged, not dismissed,
where history is not a distant shadow but the sacred ground we walk upon.

It is not just about theorising our pain,
but feeling the weight of our ancestors in the silence,
in the pauses between our words,
in the way we sit, how we breathe, how we watch the world.
Cultural safety is not a checklist, not a policy, not a footnote.

It is the pulse of justice itself
the difference between a space that holds us
and a space that consumes us.

For far too long, the law has been a cold room,
where we shrink beneath its towering walls,
where our tongues are foreign in our own lands,
where our truths are measured against rules
that were never written for us,
only against us.

The Significance of Culture report speaks of this
how trauma does not fade but accumulates,
passed down like a birthright no one asked for,
how our stories of survival are used against us,
how the system sees our struggle as our failure,
never its own.

The Little Children are Sacred report was a warning,
a cry that was met with chains instead of care,
intervention instead of understanding,
control instead of compassion.

It showed that cultural safety is not just about justice in the courts
it is about justice in the home, in the school, in the hospital,
in every space where our people exist.

So, to those who stand in the halls of power,
who hold the pens that can wound or heal
cultural safety means you do not come as a saviour, but as a listener.

You do not assume, you do not impose,
you do not reshape our truths to fit your world.
Instead, you sit with us in the truth of our history,
you unlearn what you thought you knew,
you do not stand in front, you stand beside us,
until justice is not something we plead for
but something that is finally, rightfully, ours.

Keith Quayle (Bakindji)

