



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

*Federal Dispute Resolution
Section*

Immigration Law Conference

Challenges in Migration Law
Program

Sponsored by



MIGRATION MANAGER
UPGRADE TO FIRST CLASS



Immigration Law Conference

Challenges in Migration Law

19–21 March 2025 | Canberra

About the Conference

The 2025 Immigration Law Conference, hosted by the Federal Dispute Resolution Section of the Law Council of Australia, is the premier event for legal professionals, policymakers, and experts in the field of immigration law. Taking place in Canberra from 19–21 March 2025, the conference will explore the theme “Challenges in Migration Law” through a series of insightful sessions and discussions.

With distinguished speakers and panelists addressing critical issues such as skilled migration, visa reforms, and human rights, this conference provides an unparalleled opportunity to stay at the forefront of developments in immigration law while connecting with industry leaders and peers.


Acknowledgements

The Federal Dispute Resolution Section of the Law Council of Australia extends its deepest gratitude to the 2025 Immigration Law Conference Planning Committee for their dedication and expertise in delivering this premier event. Special thanks to Mitch Simmons, Valerie Pereira, David Prince, Lena Hung, Katherine Hooper, Liz Hug, Carina Ford, and Chris Spentzaris for their invaluable contributions in shaping the program, ensuring the success of the conference, and advancing the field of immigration law. Their hard work and commitment have made this event a valuable experience for all attendees.

Become a Member

Join the [Federal Dispute Resolution Section](#) of the Law Council of Australia and become part of a vibrant community of legal professionals dedicated to advancing federal dispute resolution practices. As a member, you'll gain access to valuable resources, networking opportunities, and industry-leading events, such as seminars and conferences, that keep you at the forefront of developments in federal law. Enhance your expertise, connect with peers, and contribute to shaping the future of dispute resolution by becoming a member today.

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A Message from the Law Council President

Australia's migration laws have been the subject of significant attention and amendment in the 12 months since the Law Council of Australia's 2024 Immigration Law Conference.

In particular, increased public scrutiny and government legislative reform followed in the wake of a series of high-profile judicial decisions.

The last sitting period of 2024 alone, included passage of the Migration Amendment Bill 2024, the Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Facilities) Bill 2024 and the Migration (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024.

The Law Council of Australia welcomed every opportunity to provide input on the migration legislation which came before Parliament.

With our migration laws having potentially serious impacts on and consequences for individuals and families, comprehensive consultation and consideration is vital to ensure they are well-crafted.

The annual Immigration Law Conference brings together the most passionate, dedicated and knowledgeable advocates in the field to examine Australia's migration policies, the challenges we face and the best path forward.

I thank each of the esteemed speakers for joining us to guide our discussions and give us the benefit of their expertise and insight.

Over the course of the Conference, attendees will explore the migration law landscape and navigate important topics including human rights and migration law, the role of migration in society, and the role of AI in your work and the administration of justice.

Thank you for joining us for this year's Immigration Law Conference. I hope you find the outstanding program before you enjoyable, constructive and inspiring.

Juliana Warner
President
Law Council of Australia



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A Message from the Co-Chairs of the Migration Law Committee

As we navigate an election year, immigration-related discussions – particularly around controlling population growth, filling skills shortages, and asylum seekers – are intensifying. The immigration law profession plays a crucial role in these debates, and conferences like this one are a milieu for constructive conversation and ideas.



The importance of immigration is vital to Australia's productivity and harmonisation. This year has been a remarkable journey of advocacy for the Migration Committee of the Law Council of Australia (LCA).

Over the past 12 months, we have made a number of key submissions to the Department of Home Affairs: the Aged Care Industry Labour Agreement submission, Regional Migration, Skilled Points Test Review, the Migration Amendment Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill 2024, Education Services for Overseas Student Bill and the Nation Building through Migration enquiry. This has also resulted in a number of Senate appearances by the Committee as well as respond to various other papers and reports.

After a suite of reforms last year, we expect further legislative changes in 2025, including further changes to the Skills in Demand visa, labour market testing requirements, and the creation of a register of approved business sponsors.

As a Committee, we will continue to advocate for policy and processing changes, listening to the voices of the LCA and constituent state bodies as well as ensuring that the rule of law is maintained and that procedural fairness in the process of migration remains a key issue. We would like to extend our thanks to the LCA for their unwavering support of the Migration Committee's advocacy efforts. Special thanks to Leonie Campbell, Adam Fletcher, John Farrell, and Chelsea De Silva and the Migration Conference Committee.

We hope you all enjoy the Conference ahead, as we seek to better understand and overcome the challenges in migration law.

Carina Ford and Chris Spentzaris

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Key Event Information

Welcome Drinks

The Section will be hosting welcome drinks on the evening of Wednesday, 19 March 2025. Delegates will have the opportunity to meet and network while enjoying refreshments.



The Marion



6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Gala Dinner & Entertainment

Join us for the Gala Dinner on Thursday, 20 March 2025, featuring a delightful performance by stand-up comedian Becky Lucas. Enjoy an evening of fine dining, laughter, and great company.



Hyatt Hotel Canberra



6:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Conference Mobile App

Download the 2025 Immigration Law Conference Mobile App

To access the mobile app, you will need to download the 'The Event App' by EventsAIR from the Apple Store or Google Play.



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Program

Wednesday, 19 March 2025

6:30 pm



Welcome Drinks

8:30 pm

The Marion, Barrine Drive, Regatta Point, Commonwealth Park,
Parkes ACT 2600

Speaker: Vik Sundar, President, ACT Law Society

Thursday, 20 March 2025

8:30 am

Registration

Hyatt, 120 Commonwealth Ave, Yarralumla, ACT 2600

9:00 am

Conference Day 1 starts

9:00 am

Welcome and Opening Address

9:30 am

Juliana Warner, President, Law Council of Australia

Carina Ford, Chair – Migration Law Committee, Federal Dispute Resolution
Section, Law Council of Australia

9:30 am

Update from Administrative Review Tribunal

10:15 am

Chair: Joanne Kinslor, Kinslor Prince Lawyers

Speakers:

Deputy President Kate Millar, Administrative Review Tribunal

Deputy President Simone Burford, Administrative Review Tribunal

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10:15 am

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10:45 am



Morning Tea

10:45 am

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11:30 am

Session 1 – Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

Speaker: His Honour Judge Christopher Kendall AM, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2)

11:30 am

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12:30 pm

Room 1: Session 2 – Protection (subclass 866) visa reform

A presentation by the Department of Home Affairs on its measures to reform the Protection visa program.

Speakers:

- Director Protection Visa Reform Coordination, Hamish Walker, Department of Home Affairs
- Director Immigration Campaigns and Product Development, Mark Musgrove, Department of Home Affairs

Room 2: Session 2 – How migration matters are used in criminal sentencing – the different approaches between states and territories

Chair: Sarah Frankel, Estrin Saul Migration Lawyers

Speaker:

- Louisa Jones, Australian Catholic University (ACU)

12:30 pm

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1:25 pm



Lunch

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1:30 pm

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2:45 pm

Room 1: Session 3 – Students, Impact on 1 July Changes/407 and Skilled Pathways for Students (Substantive Law)

Chair: Lena Hung, Lena Hung and Associates

Speakers:

- Ben Nicholls, Department of Home Affairs
- Matthew Newton, VETASSESS
- Adnan Bashir, VETASSESS
- Madeline Keating, Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers

Room 2: Session 3 (Concurrent) – Right to Disconnect / Managing Risk-Supervision (Practice Management & Business Skills)

Chair: Carina Ford, Carina Ford Immigration Lawyers

Speakers:

- Emma Reilly, Moray & Agnew Lawyers
- Teresa Liu, Fragomen

2:45 pm

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3:15 pm



Afternoon Tea

3:15 pm

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4:30 pm

Room 1: Session 4 – Employer Sponsored/Labour Agreement – The Challenges and Areas of Reform (Substantive Law)

Chair: Chris Spentzaris, Fragomen

Speakers:

- Cherie Wright, Vialto
- A/g Assistant Secretary Skilled Visas, Chris Pase, Department of Home Affairs

Room 2: Session 4 (Concurrent) – Character Session MD110/Preparing for Character Cases – Professional Skills

Chair: David Prince, Kinslor Prince Lawyers

Speakers:

- Sarah Fisher, Victorian Legal Aid
- Mathew Kenneally, Victorian Bar

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4:30 pm – 5:15 pm **Legal Innovation: Can AI Technology Change the Way Immigration Lawyers Work, for the Better, and Improve Access to Justice? (Profession Skills)**

Chair: Valerie Periera, Da Gama Pereira and Associates Pty. Ltd

Speakers:

- Joshua Strutt, Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
- Lauri Stewart, Immigration Advice and Rights Centre
- David Turner, Lext

4:45 pm – 5:45 pm **Walking Tour**

Join us for a walking tour led by Migration Law Committee member **Liz Hug** with special guest **Kim Rubenstein**, constitutional and citizenship law professor.

Starting and finishing at the Hyatt Hotel, the walking tour proposes a loop (of approx. 3 km) taking in local sights. The walk will be an exceptional opportunity to unwind, mingle with other delegates and learn insights about places of national significance.

Day 1 Concludes

6:30 pm – 10:00 pm **Conference Dinner**

Hyatt Hotel, 120 Commonwealth Ave, Yarralumla, ACT, 2600

Comedian: Becky Lucas

MC: Andrew Cope

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Friday, 21 March 2025

8:30 am **Registration**
Hyatt, 120 Commonwealth Ave, Yarralumla, ACT 2600

9:00 am **Conference Day 2 starts**

9:00 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

9:10 am Chris Spentzaris, Co-Chair – Migration Law Committee, Federal Dispute
Resolution Section, Law Council of Australia

James Popple, Chief Executive Officer, Law Council of Australia

9:10 am **Issues in Citizenship**

9:40 am **Speakers:**

- Karyn Anderson, Clothier Anderson Immigration Lawyers
- Isobel Owen, Clothier Anderson Immigration Lawyers

9:40 am **Federal Court of Australia**

10:30 am **Chair:** Katherine Hooper, Level 22 Chambers

Speakers:

- The Hon Justice Melissa Perry, Federal Court of Australia
- The Hon Justice Stephen McDonald, Federal Court of Australia
- Simon Haag, National Judicial Registrar, Migration, Federal Court of Australia

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10:30 am

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11:00 am



Morning Tea

11:00 am

–

12:00 pm

Latest in Judicial Review

Chair: Katherine Hooper, Level 22 Chambers

Speakers:

- Evelyn Tadros, Victorian Bar
- Max Gao, HWL Ebsworth, Sydney

12:00 pm

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1:00 pm



Lunch

1:00 pm

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2:00 pm

Update from Department of Home Affairs Session 1 – Latest in Judicial Review

Chair: Mitch Simmons, Estrin Saul Lawyers

Speaker:

- Assistant Secretary Immigration & Policy Framework, Paul Denman, Department of Home Affairs

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2:00 pm

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3:15 pm

Room 1: Session 2 – Challenges in Refugee Protection

Chair: Leah Perkins, Carina Ford
Immigration Lawyers

Speakers:

- Jennifer Nugent, Refugee and Immigration Legal Service
- Tim Madigan, Refugee and Immigration Legal Service

Room 2: Session 2 – Family

Chair: Valerie Pereira, Da Gama Pereira and Associates Pty. Ltd

Speakers:

- Assistant Secretary Family Visas, Alison Garrod, Director Family & Permanent Resident Policy, Aza Ozmanian, Department of Home Affairs
- Theresa Baw, Frederick Jordan Chambers
- Liz Hug, Welcome Legal
- Victoria Lenton, Lenton Migration Law

3:15 pm

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3:45 pm



Afternoon Tea

3:45 pm

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4:45 pm

Room 1: Session 3 – Complicance, Self-Incrimination and the Migrant Worker (Professional Skills)

Chair: Chris Spentzaris, Law Council of Australia

Speakers:

- Anna Boucher, The University of Sydney
- Sanmati Verma, Human Rights Law Centre

Room 2: Session 3 – Ethics (Ethics and Professional Responsibility)

Chair: Karyn Anderson, Clothier Anderson Lawyers

Speakers:

- Athol Opas, Blackburn Chambers
- Munashe Rusamo, Estrin Saul Migration Lawyers

Day 2 Concludes



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