

Criminal Law Conference



25–27 June 2025, Hyatt Regency, Sydney

Speakers List



The Honourable Justice Dina Yehia, Judge, Supreme Court of New South Wales

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. In 2013, her Honour appeared as lead counsel in the High Court case of *The Queen v Bugmy* 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. Her Honour is also the current Chair of the Ngara Yura Committee. The Ngara Yura Program aims to increase awareness among Judicial Officers about First Nations social and cultural issues. Her Honour is also a member of the Bugmy Bar Book Committee and Board Member of the Australian Institution of Judicial Administration (AIJA).

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.



Robert Hoyles, Executive Director Criminal Law, Legal Aid NSW

Rob is the Executive Director of Criminal Law for Legal Aid NSW. He is an accredited specialist in criminal law and holds an Executive Master of Public Administration from ANZSOG. He has previously been Legal Aid NSW Deputy Director, EAGP Project Lead and Solicitor in Charge of a Sydney Indictable Team. He was the inaugural Solicitor in Charge of Legal Aid NSW's Port Macquarie office and previously worked as criminal defence lawyer in Sydney private practice, with the Aboriginal Legal Service and in four regional Legal Aid NSW offices. He commenced his career as Researcher of NSW Court of Appeal. He is presently appointed to the NSW Law Society's Criminal Law Committee and Specialist Accreditation Advisory Committee for Criminal Law. He also sits on the NSW Coercive Control Implementation and Evaluation Taskforce. He is also a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. In 2008, he represented Australia in the Lawyers Cricket World Cup in Hyderabad, India.

Legal Aid NSW acknowledges the Gadigal people, the traditional custodians of the unceded land on which we meet. We pay respect to Elders past, present and future and to our First Nations colleagues. This land always was and always will be Aboriginal land.

Artwork: Luke Penrith



Lester Fernandez SC, Barrister, Forbes Chambers

Lester Fernandez has practiced in criminal law for over 30 years. He has a trial and appellate practice, as well as a substantial practice in inquests and professional disciplinary matters.

Lester was a member of the Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee for 15 years, and was the Bar Association's representative to the Local Court.

Before being called to the Bar Lester worked as a solicitor at a children's legal service, and then at Legal Aid NSW for 10 years. He was a Law Society Accredited Specialist in criminal law. He was Chair of the NSW Young Lawyers Criminal Law Committee.

Lester is passionate about advocacy. He taught at the Bar Practice Course for 10 years, and was a member of the Bar Association's Education Committee. He is currently assisting the Bar Association with designing and implementing a program to encourage more First Nations lawyers to come to the Bar.



Richard Wilson SC, Senior Public Defender

Richard worked as a solicitor in private practice in Canberra, for the Western Aboriginal Legal Service in Walgett for the Sydney Regional Corporation Aboriginal Legal Service.

In 2004 he was called to the bar. At 7th Floor Garfield Barwick Chambers he practised in crime – largely as defence counsel but occasionally prosecuting for the Commonwealth.

In 2012 Richard was appointed a Public Defender and in 2018 was appointed Deputy Senior Public Defender. He took silk in 2019. In February this year he was appointed Senior Public Defender.

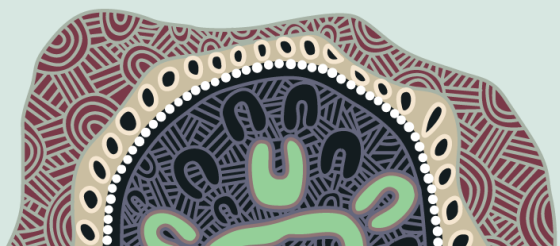
Richard has a keen interest in law reform and served for 17 years on the Criminal Law Committee of the Bar Association. He is presently Co-Chair of the Bugmy Bar Book Project Committee and Co-Chair of the National Criminal Law Committee of the Law Council of Australia.

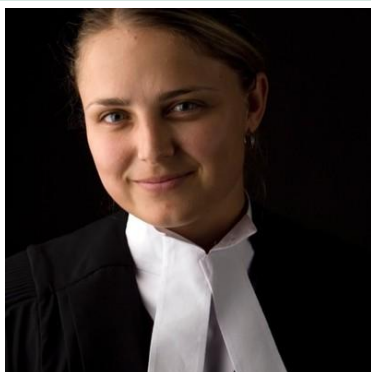


Paul Coady SC, NSW Public Defender

Paul was called to the bar in 2008. He became a Public Defender in 2018. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2024. Paul was previously a commercial solicitor and worked as in-house counsel for NineMSN.com.au. Paul has been a member of a number of Bar Association Committees.

He is a co-host of the 5 Cases Podcast series which provides monthly analysis of important cases for criminal law practitioners.





Kellie Stares SC, Barrister, Sir Owen Dixon Chambers

Kellie was called to the Bar in 2007, building a reputation in criminal, appellate, and family law, as well as inquests and inquiries. She was appointed senior counsel in 2022. She's been a member of the Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee and Legal Aid Committee and has presented at the Bar Association conferences on technology use in criminal trials.



His Honour Judge Brady SC, District Court of NSW

DCJ Grant Brady SC was called to the NSW Bar in 2000 after 10 years practice as a solicitor in the ACT. He took silk in 2015. He was appointed to the District Court in February 2024. While at the Bar he specialised in criminal law and, in particular, jury trials, although he also appeared regularly in the Court of Criminal Appeal. He is the Deputy Chair of the Australian Advocacy Institute as well as the previous Course Director of the Advanced Trial Intensive for the Australian Bar Association.

He has coached advocacy for over 20 years to all levels of advocates all around Australia as well as numerous common law jurisdictions around the world including coaching at Keble College for the Bar of England and Wales (Keble), the Bar of South Africa (Stellenbosch), Hong Kong, Singapore and India. He has trained coaches in advocacy for the last 15 years.

Since being on the District Court, he has been involved in the rollout of the Pre-Recorded Evidence of Children programme across all District Courts in NSW which includes the education of legal practitioners, witness intermediaries and judiciary. Before being appointed he was involved in setting up the vulnerable witnesses workshop for the AAI which has trained legal practitioners of all experience in taking of evidence from vulnerable witnesses.



Hayley Dean, Solicitor Advocate, Legal Aid NSW

Hayley is a Solicitor Advocate attached to the Parramatta office of Legal Aid NSW and became an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law in 2013. Hayley joined Legal Aid NSW, after working for both the Commonwealth and State DPP. In nearly 20 years of criminal law practice, Hayley has worked across all levels of Courts in NSW including Coronial, Children's Court, and the Court of Criminal Appeal.

Hayley has a keen interest in matters involving coercive control, having written papers and delivered close to 30 CLE's and CPD's on the topic. In 2024 Hayley was the host of the Legal Aid NSW 5-part series podcast on Coercive Control. The critically acclaimed Podcast Series was promoted on The Bar Association of NSW Website, the Judicial Commission Website and by the NSW Women's Safety Commissioner. Hayley was nominated by the Law Society of NSW as a finalist for Government Solicitor of the Year in 2024 for her work in Coercive Control.

Hayley regularly donates her time as an assessor for medical professionals training to become experts in providing sexual assault evidence in trials.



Hayley has presented seminars to a diverse range of community groups, lawyers, and medical professionals and is developing a special interest in the intersection of gendered violence and the legal system.



Helen Roebuck, Forensic Biologist and DNA expert witness

A practising DNA expert witness with over 20 years courtroom experience throughout Australia and select international jurisdictions. Helen proffers authoritative oral and written expert testimony in predominantly indictable matters including murder, sexual assault, firearms and drugs matters. As a Senior Forensic Biologist, Helen is actively involved in both the scientific and legal communities, including participation as a PhD candidate at the University of Technology Sydney, bringing significant crime scene, laboratory, academic and jurisdictional experience. Helen is an active speaker and is passionate to further knowledge and engagement between the scientific and legal fields, to the betterment of judicial outcomes.



Rylie Hanh-Hamilton, Partner in Charge, Marsdens Law Group

Having grown up in Newcastle and attended the University of Newcastle, Rylie was admitted as a solicitor in 2017. Having been employed with Marsdens Law Group as a Law Graduate since this time, she has been an Associate, Senior Associate, having been made Partner in 2024. Most recently, Rylie has taken over as Partner in Charge of the Criminal Law department.

Rylie has practised exclusively in Criminal Law. As a passionate advocate, she appears as Solicitor Advocate in complex Local Court hearings, District Court Sentences and Appeals as well as Supreme Court Release Applications. Her experience extends to instructing Junior and Senior Counsel in complex trials and sentence matters.

Whilst experienced in all criminal matters, Rylie holds a special interest in complex drug matters and serious driving offences.

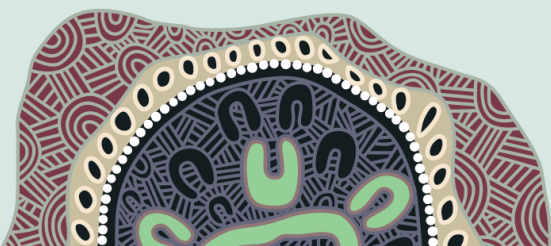


Sharon Ramsden, Accredited Specialist, Partner, Marsdens Law Group.

Sharon was admitted as a Solicitor in 2010, and has practised exclusively in criminal law.

Sharon became the head of the Criminal Law Department of Marsdens Law Group in 2013 and achieved her Criminal Law Specialist Accreditation in 2015. Sharon's promotion to Partner in 2019 was due to her continued demonstration of outstanding advocacy on behalf of her clients.

Sharon has been listed as a 'recommended' Criminal Defence Lawyer in NSW in the Doyle's Guide in 2021, 2022 and 2023.



Throughout her career she has shown a particular interest in the Coronial Jurisdiction, having appeared in the Inquest of Matthew Leveson and most recently, the Inquest of William Tyrell.

Sharon has recently passed the Bar Exam and will be joining the Bar in September 2025. Sharon will be joining Forbes Chambers.



Toshi Weller-Wong, Barrister, Maurice Byers Chambers

Toshi was admitted as a legal practitioner in NSW in 2016. He practices primarily in criminal law, including all proceedings in the Local Court, District Court and Supreme Court. He maintains a practice appearing in criminal matters, appeals, coronial inquests, crime commissions, professional discipline, and personal injury matters. Prior to being called to the Bar, Toshi worked in Western NSW servicing regional communities.

He was a senior solicitor at Legal Aid from 2019-2023. A solicitor and senior solicitor at the ALS 2016 – 2019 and was a paralegal at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (Khmer Rouge Tribunal 2015



Her Honour Judge Beckett, District Court of NSW

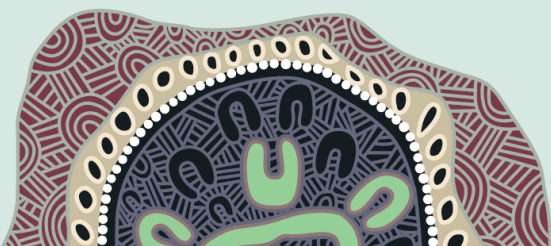
Judge Beckett was admitted as a solicitor in 1990. As a solicitor her Honour worked at the Western Aboriginal Legal Service before joining the Legal Aid Commission where she was the Senior Solicitor of the Indictable Appeal Division prior to being called to the Bar. She was a Senior Policy Officer at the then Department of Attorney General between 2004 and 2005 advising on criminal law and drafting legislation. She spent almost a decade as a barrister at Forbes Chambers before joining the Public Defenders where she was appointed Deputy Senior Public Defender. She was a founding member of the Bugmy Bar Book project and remains a member on the committee. Her Honour was appointed as a Judge of the District Court in 2019. She sits on the NSW Judicial Commission Sentencing Bench Book and initiated the Parramatta West Referral List operating in Penrith and Parramatta. Her Honour is currently the presiding List Judge at Parramatta.



Her Honour Judge Hopkins, District Court of NSW

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 NSW.

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.

Chanel Beesley, Barrister, Commercial Bank Chambers

Chanel Beesley has been a criminal solicitor for 9 years, working for Legal Aid, private practice, and volunteering at the Aboriginal Legal Service. Chanel was the Crime Practice Manager for Coffs Harbour Legal Aid and has recently left Legal Aid to join the bar. Chanel has joined Commercial Bank Chambers at Lismore.



Ajoy Ghosh, Digital Forensic Expert, The Cyber Alchemist

Ajoy Ghosh is a co-founder of **The Cyber Alchemist** and a digital forensic expert who has been engaged on many Legal Aid NSW matters. The Cyber Alchemist is almost equally engaged by the prosecution and defendants and is also extensively engaged in civil matters and commissions of enquiry.

He has taught cybercrime, electronic evidence and digital forensics at the Bachelor and Master level to computer science, engineering, law and political science students at Australian and international universities, including for many years at the Australian Defence Force Academy. Ajoy's acclaimed course **Presenting IT Evidence in the Courtroom** been attended by hundreds of police and personnel from regulatory agencies, the military and lawyers.

Ajoy is currently serving his third term on the national board of Amnesty International Australia, advocating for digital rights where his focus work includes surveillance, artificial intelligence and providing safe and secure technology for activists in countries where activism makes



them a target for oppressive governments. He is also a member of the NSW Government's Artificial Intelligence Review Committee, a member of the advisory committee for the Australian Domain Name Authority and for the Australian Government's Age Assurance Technology Trial.



Sophie Anderson, Barrister, Commercial Bank Chambers

Sophie has extensive experience as a lawyer and advocate involved in criminal law. She appears frequently in criminal trials in both State and Commonwealth matters, her practice being most commonly for the Defence. She is also a member of the Commonwealth Prosecution Panel.

Sophie has worked with the Aboriginal Legal Service in Redfern, Dubbo and Lismore offices. She then moved into private practice with McKenzie Cox Solicitors in Lismore, before co-establishing Anderson Randall Accredited Specialist Solicitors where she was a Partner between 2008 - 2013.

Sophie then made the move to the NSW Bar in 2014. She was the recipient of the Inaugural Christopher Gee Memorial Prize for Advocacy & Evidence and is currently part of the Bugmy Bar Book Project Committee.



Rebecca McMahon, Barrister, Forbes Chambers

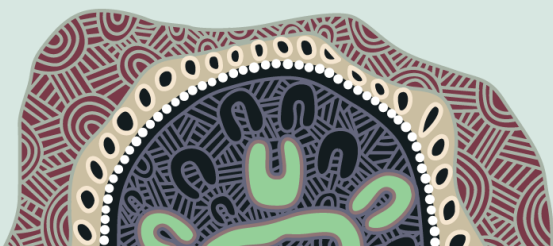
Prior to being admitted as a barrister, Rebecca was the principal lawyer of her private law firm for 10 years. She was also the managing lawyer of the Redfern office of the Aboriginal Legal Service and held positions as a criminal defence lawyer at the NSW Legal Aid Commission and a prosecutor at the NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Rebecca is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales.

Rebecca is the co-chair and one of the founding members of the Bugmy Bar Book project. In 2021 she was the 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 issues.



Dr Andrew Ellis, NSW Clinical Director Forensic Mental Health

Dr Ellis is a Forensic Psychiatrist qualified with the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) and the Royal Medical Colleges (United Kingdom). He is the NSW Clinical Director Forensic Mental Health responsible for the public forensic services in secure hospitals, prisons, youth justice, community and courts. He is Conjoint Associate Professor at UNSW Faculty of Medicine and co-directs the Forensic Mental Health program. He is experienced in clinical care of complex cases, academic research, teaching and training, supervision of multidisciplinary and multiagency staff, medico-legal expert evidence and administration of public forensic mental health services.





Dr Robyn Shields AM, Psychiatric Registrar

Dr Robyn Shields AM is an Aboriginal doctor from the Bunjalung Nation. Robyn had given representation to the Bringing Them Home Report - Human right Inquiry into the Removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families. She contributed the development of the first NSW Aboriginal Mental Health Policy. Robyn holds bachelor's degrees in medicine and science and a Master of Public Health. After graduating from medicine, she began her training in psychiatry. Today she continues to work in Forensic Psychiatry.

In 2013 was appointed as an inaugural Deputy Mental Health Commissioner at the newly established Mental Health Commission of NSW. She is a current Board Member for the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network and is Chair of Aboriginal Health Committee. 2001 Robyn was awarded The Centenary Medal. In 2004 was named a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) division for her contribution to Aboriginal mental health. In 2015 was recognised as a Westpac 100 women of Influence.



Emma Hudson-Buhagiar, Senior Solicitor, Aboriginal Legal Services NSW ACT

Emma Hudson-Buhagiar is a proud Wiradjuri woman. She grew up on Bundjalung country before moving to study Law/Indigenous Studies at UNSW on Gadigal Land. After completing her studies, she worked as a paralegal at the Public Defenders. In 2017, she was accepted into the graduate program at Legal Aid NSW and worked in both criminal and civil law. She then moved to the Aboriginal Legal Service where her passion for culturally appropriate advocacy and access to justice were put into practice. In 2024 Emma was named First Nations lawyer of the year. Emma's current role is the Aboriginal Legal Service Senior Solicitor on the Walama List.

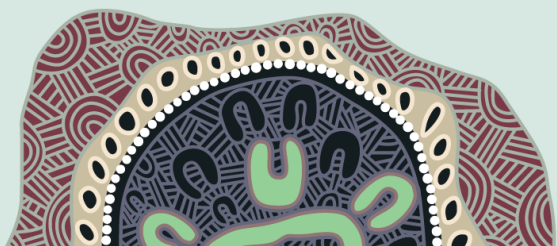


Alison Cullen, Forensic and Clinical Psychologist

Alison Cullen is an endorsed forensic and clinical psychologist and the Director of Forensic Psychologists Pty Ltd, established in 2012. Prior to being self-employed, Alison worked with the NSWPF as the Human Factors Manager as well as DCJ. Alison also has experience in running in-house psychological services across various residential rehabilitation services, including William Booth House where she and her team provided individual and group treatment for nearly a decade. She thereby comes with over 22 years' experience working within the public services arena.

Alison and her team currently produce over 200 psychological assessment reports per year across a diverse range of jurisdictions.

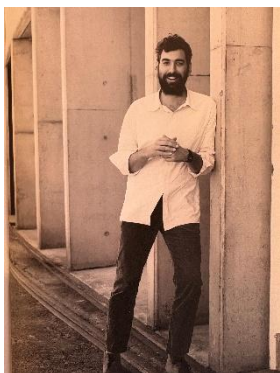
Alison has also presented at various forums to optimise solicitor's use of psychologists and was instrumental within her own profession in advocating for the increase in legal aid rates. She is both an active member of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists and ANZAPPL.





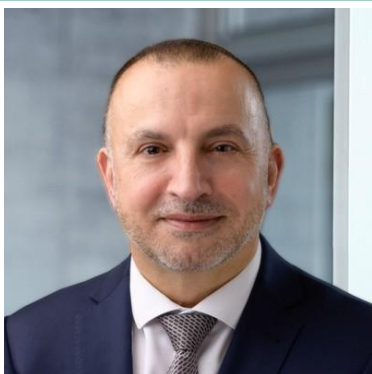
Andrew Boe, Barrister, Black Chambers

Boe is a barrister with chambers in Sydney and Brisbane. He is also on a List in Melbourne. He undertakes work, mostly but not only in the criminal jurisdiction, in other states and territories as well. His profile may be accessed at www.blackchambers.com.au; www.carbolic.com.au and www.Parnellsbarristers.com.au/barristers/andrew-boe/



Ivan Vizintin, Barrister, Seven Garfield Barwick Chambers

Ivan is a barrister at 7 Garfield Barwick Chambers. Prior to coming to the bar, he was a Solicitor Advocate at Legal Aid NSW in the Sydney and Wollongong offices. As a solicitor, he was an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law.



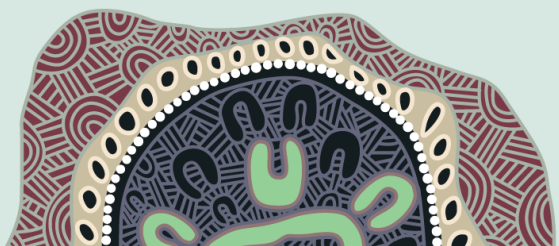
Amin Assaad, Principal, De Novo Legal

Amin was a member of NSW Police for 27 years, including 23 years as a Police Prosecutor. He was the Area Prosecutor Co-Ordinator (APC) for Penrith from 2011 to 2014 covering courts at Penrith, Windsor, Lithgow, and Katoomba.

Prior to that, he was attached to the Senior Advocates Unit which dealt with Special Fixtures across the State which often involved the prosecution of high-profile defendants, lengthy evidence, or large sums of fraud. He was awarded Prosecutor of Year 2016.

He is now the principal lawyer of De Novo Legal which commenced operation in August 2023 where he appears in Children's, Local, District, and Supreme Court jurisdictions.

He holds a Bachelor in Policing from Charles Sturt University and a Diploma in Law from the LPAB.





Sheldon Korneluk, Principal, Sheldon Korneluk Solicitors

Sheldon joined the police in 2000, working at Bankstown. She became a police prosecutor in 2006 working in the Local Court. In 2009 she started studying her law degree through UTS and also worked as a coronial advocate assisting the State and Deputy Coroners on various inquests. In 2017 she opened her own firm Sheldon Korneluk and Associates and has done a variety of private and legally aided work. As a defence solicitor Sheldon has experience as both a panel and back up duty lawyer.



Matt Kilkeary, Senior Solicitor, Legal Aid NSW

Matt joined the NSW Police Force in 2005 and began General Duties at Kings Cross Local Area Command. He then transferred to the Police Prosecutions Command as a trainee prosecutor in 2009. He began his studies in law in 2016 while working as a prosecutor and was admitted in 2020. In 2021, he commenced work at the DPP in Newcastle as a Solicitor

Matt came across to Legal Aid in 2024 and is now the Grade IV solicitor at Maitland Local Court. He has good knowledge of police practice, methodology and culture which has been invaluable in his roles at the DPP and Legal Aid.



Malek Alzaim, Principal, Alzaim Keane Legal

Malek Alzaim has spent nearly 20 years in the NSW Police Force, with 12 years in the Prosecutions Command. As a Senior Prosecutor and Team Leader, he led teams and ran complex matters both across metropolitan courts and regional circuits.

He has lectured at the Prosecutor Training Unit and provided field mentoring, helping to shape training programs and policy development for prosecutors. His commitment to high standards and practical advocacy has had a lasting impact on many junior and senior prosecutors.

In recent years, Malek transitioned into criminal defence as one of the principal solicitors at Alzaim Keane Legal, a regional law firm with offices across the Riverina. Based in Wagga Wagga, he now brings a strategic, balanced approach to advocacy informed by experience on both sides of the bar table. Malek is driven by a deep belief in justice, fairness, and professional excellence.





Dev Bhutani, Barrister, Maurice Byers Chambers

Dev is a barrister at Maurice Byers Chambers, practising primarily in criminal law. He was called to the Bar in 2020 and appears in a range of matters, including homicide, drug offences, sexual offences, fraud, and regulatory crime. He also advises and appears in proceedings involving orders consequential to criminal matters, including parole, high-risk offender orders, asset confiscation, coercive hearings, disciplinary proceedings, and child protection prohibition orders. Prior to coming to the Bar, Dev worked in various criminal law teams at Legal Aid NSW, and at the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (CAALAS) in Alice Springs. He is a member of the NSW Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee and participates in mentoring programs through the Law Society of NSW and Diverse Women in Law.



Chantell Martin, community worker, LGBTQIA+ elder

Chantell is a proud Maori trans woman, hailing originally from AOTEAROA New Zealand. She has a long history of working in community, holding positions at SWOP, ACON and the Gender Centre. Chantell also has experience as a street based sex worker in Sydney during the 1980's and 1990's.



Katie Green, CEO, Inner City Legal Centre

Katie is the CEO of Inner City Legal Centre, which provides specialist Legal services for the LGBTQIA+ and Sex Work communities across NSW. Her current interests in this role involve developing and expanding culturally safe and appropriate services for these broad and diverse community groups.

Prior to commencing at the ICLC in 2023, Katie's roles included managing the pro bono practice at the NSW Bar Association and as the Youth Solicitor and Marrickville Legal Centre.



Sid Pettit, Social Worker, Legal Aid NSW

Sid is a non-binary trans masculine autistic social worker with Aboriginal and Jewish heritage on a journey to reconnect with culture and community. Sid grew up in Woolloomooloo in social housing and was the first in their family to finish high school, to then go on to university. They hold a Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies, Sociology and Anthropology, a Bachelor of Social Work and is in their Advanced year of a Master of Science in Medicine (Sexual and Reproductive Health) in Psychosexual Therapy.

They are passionate about Transgender people being able to access inclusive and meaningful care/services wherever they are. Especially



first nations, black, and brown trans women and femmes who are currently most at risk of anti-trans rhetoric and discrimination.



Josh Brock, NSW Public Defender

Josh Brock worked at North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) from 2009–2015. From there he returned to Sydney where he worked at the Aboriginal Legal Service and as a solicitor advocate in the coronial inquest unit at Legal Aid, being called to the bar in 2016. In 2019 he was appointed a Public Defender.



Paul Ye, Barrister, 7th Floor Garfield Barwick Chambers

Before being called to the Bar, Paul was a Solicitor Advocate at Legal Aid NSW, where he appeared in District Court trials, sentencing proceedings, fitness hearings, and appeals. He also conducted complex Local Court matters, including summary and committal hearings, sentencing, and bail applications. Paul has extensive experience in serious State and Commonwealth criminal matters, including cases involving murder, large-scale drug importation and supply, terrorism, fraud, violence, and sexual offences.

Since being called to the Bar, Paul has continued to appear in trials, sentencing hearings, fitness hearings, and appeals. He is also a casual academic at the University of Technology Sydney, where he teaches Criminal Law and Evidence.



Rebecca Neil, Solicitor in Charge, Legal Aid NSW, Commonwealth Crimes Unit

Rebecca is the Solicitor in Charge of the Commonwealth Crime Unit and has worked in that specialist team at Legal Aid NSW for almost 10 years. Prior to that she worked in the Inner City Local Courts Section of Legal Aid as a supervising solicitor for over 10 years. Rebecca was admitted to practice in WA in 1995 and has worked in Community Legal Centres and Legal Aid in WA, the NT and NSW, working in criminal law, domestic violence services and children's legal services.

Elizabeth Parkes, Senior Solicitor, Legal Aid NSW

Elizabeth is the current Crime Practice Manager for the Wollongong Legal Aid office. She started her career in private practice for Kremmer Townsend Lawyers and became an accredited specialist in 2005. During her 25 years at Legal Aid, she's also been a Solicitor Advocate and the Solicitor in Charge of the Wollongong Office. She's mentored many solicitors through the law society mentoring program, the Lucy program and also taught criminal law at University of Wollongong.





Rhiannon McMillan, Senior Legal Project Officer, Legal Aid NSW

Rhiannon was admitted as a solicitor in 2011, working as Tipstaff to the Hon. Justice Carolyn Simpson AO before joining Legal Aid in 2012 as a graduate solicitor. After rotations in family law and care and protection, she joined the Criminal Law Division and refused to ever leave. She worked in the Penrith Legal Aid crime team, and later in Committals, Indictable and High Risk Offender units at Central Sydney. She is now in a legal policy and law reform role. Before settling into law, she worked in medical radiation science.

