

Criminal Law Conference



Wednesday 25 – Friday 27 June 2025, Hyatt Regency, Sydney

Day 1, Wednesday 25 June

Time	Topic	Speaker
8.30am	Registration - Tea and coffee on arrival	
9.00am	Traditional Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thikkabilla Vibrations
9.15am	Welcome to Country and Conference Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uncle Lloyd Walker, Gujaga Foundation• Robert Hoyles, Executive Director, Criminal Law, Legal Aid NSW
9.30am	Opening Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Honourable Michael Daley MP, Attorney General of New South Wales
9.40am	Keynote Address: Advocacy - <i>The good, the bad, and the necessary</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Honourable Justice Dina Yehia SC, Supreme Court NSW
10.30am	Morning tea	
11.00am	DNA evidence in the NSW courtroom – Expert insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helen Roebuck, Forensic Biologist and DNA expert witness
12.00pm	Ten seminal cases in criminal law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paul Coady SC, NSW Public Defender• Rylie Hanh-Hamilton, Partner in Charge, Marsdens Law Group• Sharon Ramsden, Accredited Specialist, Partner, Marsdens Law Group
1.00pm	Lunch	
1.45pm	Play On! If and when changing instructions requires you to withdraw	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toshi Weller-Wong, Barrister, Maurice Byers Chambers
2.45pm	Afternoon tea	
3.00pm	Domestic Violence laws update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hayley Dean, Solicitor Advocate, Legal Aid NSW
4.00pm	Solution focused sentencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Her Honour Judge Beckett, District Court NSW• Her Honour Judge Hopkins, District Court NSW

Time	Topic	Speaker
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaired by Rhiannon McMillan, Senior Project Officer, Legal Aid NSW
5.00pm	Close	

Day 2, Thursday 26 June

Time	Topic	Speaker
8.30am	Registration - Tea and coffee on arrival	
9.00am	AI, bytes and celebrité	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chanel Beesley, Barrister, Commercial Bank Chambers Sophie Anderson, Barrister, Commercial Bank Chambers Ajoy Ghosh, Digital Forensic Expert, The Cyber Alchemist
10.00am	Institutionalisation report, Bugmy Bar Book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebecca McMahon, Barrister, Forbes Chambers Dr Andrew Ellis, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist Dr Robyn Shields AM, Psychiatry Registrar Emma Hudson-Buhagiar, Senior Solicitor, Aboriginal Legal Service NSWACT
11.00am	Morning tea	
11.15am	Working with psychologists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alison Cullen, Forensic and Clinical Psychologist
12.15pm	Helping juries understand your case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kellie Stares SC, Barrister, Sir Owen Dixon Chambers
1.15pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	Breakout A: Hate crimes and 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Boe, Barrister, Black Chambers
	Breakout B: Written submissions and how to speak to them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivan Vizintin, Barrister, Seventh Floor Garfield Barwick Chambers
3.00pm	Afternoon tea	
3.15 pm	Breakout A: Negotiating with police – three former police prosecutors give their insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amin Assaad, Principal, De Novo Legal Sheldon Korneluk, Principal, Sheldon Korneluk Solicitors Matt Kilkeary, Senior Solicitor, Legal Aid NSW Malek Alzaim, Principal, Alzaim Keane Legal
	Breakout B:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dev Bhutani, Barrister, Maurice Byers Chambers

Time	Topic	Speaker
	Preparing your cross examination with a different approach	
4.15pm	<u>Breakout A:</u> Dealing with police informers – Asking the impermissible question?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Brock, NSW Public Defender
	<u>Breakout B:</u> Commonwealth Crimes – what all practitioners need to know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Ye, Barrister, Seventh Floor Garfield Barwick Chambers • Rebecca Neil, Solicitor in Charge, Commonwealth Crimes Unit, Legal Aid NSW
5.15pm	Close	

Day 3, Friday 27 June

Time	Topic	Speaker
8.30am	Registration - Tea and coffee on arrival	
9.00am	The Art of Argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Honour Judge Brady SC, District Court NSW
10.00am	Inclusion in criminal justice: Representing trans and gender diverse clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chantell Martin, Community Worker, LGBTQIA+ elder • Katie Green, CEO, Inner City Legal Centre • Sid Pettitt, Social Worker, Legal Aid NSW • Hosted by Elizabeth Parkes, Senior Solicitor, Legal Aid NSW,
11.00am	Morning tea	
11.20am	Criminal law update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Wilson SC, Senior Public Defender
12.20pm	Defending your client in the Age of Surveillance: The advocate's role in a hyper-observed society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lester Fernandez SC, Barrister, Forbes Chambers • Alex Burkitt, Barrister, Forbes Chambers • Harriet Skinner, Barrister, Forbes Chambers
1.20pm	Conference close	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Hoyles, Executive Director, Criminal Law, Legal Aid NSW
1.30pm	Lunch	
2.00pm	In house staff function	

This program may be subject to change, although we sincerely hope to keep it the same. Please check the final program closer to the event. Our conference website is now live. You can register for the conference, buy dinner tickets or check the program here: [2025 Criminal Law Conference](#)

This is an in-person event only

To contact our conference team: events@legalaid.nsw.gov.au