



EARLY CAREER LAWYERS' DAY SESSION OVERVIEWS

As at 10 September 2024

WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER 2024	
0915-1100	<p>Plenary 1: State of the Nation</p> <p>This important session is the traditional opening of the National Conference.</p> <p>This year, the current President of the Law Council of Australia, Greg McIntyre SC, a proud Western Australian, will welcome you to Perth and share his observations about the importance of our meeting place in the context of his decades long work with the Whadjuk Noongar people of the Nyoongar Nation.</p> <p>The Chair of the Family Law Section, Di Simpson, will formally open the conference and will introduce our speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Commonwealth Attorney-General, the Hon. Mark Dreyfus KC, MP will present his plans for the new Government's engagement with the Courts and the family law system and will highlight policy issues of important to the Government; 2. The Head of Jurisdiction, the Honourable Justice Alstergren AO, Chief Justice of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) and Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 2), will review the work of the Courts including following the amendments to the Act this year and other changes and will outline his vision for the future operation of the Courts and the family law system; and 3. The Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia, the Honourable Justice Sutherland, will welcome you to Perth and provide a summary of the work of the FCWA. <p>The Chair will address issues of importance to FLS members and what she sees as the challenges ahead for our profession.</p> <p>This is an essential session for every delegate who wants to better appreciate what the future may hold for each of us.</p>
1130-1230	<p>Early Career Lawyers' Day Session One: Back to Basics: Functional Family Law Files as an Aid to Efficient Professional Legal Representation</p> <p>Session overview to be advised</p>
1330-1430	<p>Early Career Lawyers' Day Session Two: So, You're Off to Court: Preparing for an Interim Hearing</p> <p>Session overview to be advised</p>
1445-1545	<p>Early Career Lawyers' Day Session Three: The Art of Advocacy</p> <p>Session overview to be advised</p>



1615-1715

Plenary 2: An A-Z of Advocacy

In this session, the speaker will seek to draw together some ‘dos and don’ts’ about advocacy, gleaned from his own experience as an advocate and judge, as well as points borrowed from the experience of others. It is a well-worn idea that advocacy is the art of persuasion. But, as has been said before, successful advocacy is rarely the result of a single overriding or natural ability. Rather, it comes from the accumulation of positive skills and the avoidance of often small but annoying negative features. At bottom, advocacy is a performance skill that can be taught. As with any piece of advocacy, the talk will range over matters of the bigger picture to matters of the smaller details. But do not expect a straight line from macro to micro. Any structure is better than no structure, where both shapeless advocacy and shapeless talks on advocacy are not usually pleasing. The gathered points are somewhat disparate, and the speaker may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer. So the best structure which he can come up with is alphabetical order. Hence, the title: ‘An A to Z of Advocacy’.