

# 2 | Selborne

2026

## Property, Family & Planning Law Conference



### Thursday 26 February 2026

8:55am to 5:00pm

Noah's on the Beach

29 Zaara Street, Newcastle East 2300

### 6 CPD points



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# PROPERTY, FAMILY & PLANNING LAW CONFERENCE



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## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

8:30am	Arrival and Registration		
8:55am	Welcome	Jack Whelan MC Simon Burchett	
9:00am	Keynote Speaker	The Honourable Fabian Gleeson SC	Unconscionability in commercial cases
9:30am	Administrative Law	Cameron Jackson	Judicial Review
9:55am	Civil Litigation	Mark Friedgut	Defamation
10:20am	Morning Tea	ALL	Catered networking morning tea
10:45am	Family Law Panel	Michelle Mearns Ian Duane Damien Toohey	Anti-suit injunctions New Family Law Property Amendments when there are serious allegations of assault Gifts in Family Law proceedings
12:00pm	Keynote Speaker	Judge Terry Betts	Fate of Addbacks after Shinohara; Compliance and Readiness Hearings
12:30pm	Networking Lunch	ALL	Catered networking luncheon providing an opportunity to connect, share experiences, and foster professional relationships
1:30pm	Property Law Panel	Simon Burchett Adrian Maroya	Freezing Orders in support of Property Claims Just what does s 23C of the Conveyancing Act mean
2:20pm	Planning & Construction Panel	Dr James Smith Michelle Mearns Leo Gor	Rectifying Unlawful Development Design Building Practitioners Act The severing of adjudication awards infected with jurisdictional error; s.32A of the <i>Security of Payments Act</i>
3:35pm	Afternoon Tea	ALL	Catered networking afternoon tea
3:50pm	Managing your Law Practice	Laina Chan	AI in Practice
4:15pm	Interactive Ethics Panel	Ian Duane Cameron Jackson Adrian Maroya Jack Whelan - facilitator	Case studies will cover the use of artificial intelligence in our practice, cyber risks and the usual ethical dilemmas that confront practitioners
5:15pm	Closing		

# CONFERENCE

## WHAT TO EXPECT

The Barristers of 2 Selborne Chambers invite you to our 2026 Property, Family and Planning Law conference in Newcastle NSW on Thursday 26 February 2026

### The Main Objective

The main objective of this Conference is to reach out and deepen the relationship between the Bar and Solicitors in the Newcastle and Central Coast Region. We aim to achieve this in discussion about the latest and most important developments in family, property, planning and construction law.

### CLE/CPD Points

Attendees will earn 6 CPD / 6 CLE points, including 1 point in Ethics. An interactive panel session will cover ethics and the professional responsibilities of solicitors, their duties and responsibilities to their clients.



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### Wealth of Knowledge

Our keynote speakers will share practical tips from their experience on the bench of the Court of Appeal, and FCFCOA. Two guest speakers and nine barristers from 2 Selborne Chambers delivering expert insights through dynamic panel discussions. Plus an interactive ethics workshop, makes this a must-attend event for all family, property, planning and construction law practitioners.

### A Good Cause

Tickets for the event will be non-refundable, however all profits will be donated to local Newcastle charity, Jenny's Place, a charity providing support for women and children in the Newcastle area to find safety.

# OUR SPEAKERS

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### **JUDGE TERRY BETTS**

#### **Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia | Division 2**

His Honour worked as a solicitor in Townsville from 1995 to 2001, practicing in civil litigation crime and family law. Called to the QLD Bar in 2002, his Honour developed a broad family law practice in Townsville and North Qld. In 2016, his Honour and family decided on a sea change and moved to Newcastle, where he practiced at the bar until his appointment as a Judge of the Federal Circuit Court on 30 May 2018.



### **THE HONOURABLE FABIAN GLEESON SC**

#### **Retired Court of Appeal Judge**

Fabian has over 45 years' experience as a commercial lawyer: 12 years as a judge of the New South Wales Court of Appeal, 23 years as Counsel and Senior Counsel, and over 10 years as a solicitor. At the time of his retirement from the Court in May 2025, he was the senior puisne judge on the Court of Appeal. Fabian is well positioned to shed light on Unconscionability in commercial cases.

# OUR SPEAKERS

## GUEST SPEAKERS



### **ADRIAN MAROYA**

#### **Barrister, 9 Selborne Chambers**

Prior to being called to the Bar in 2004, Adrian was Research Assistant and Tipstaff to the Hon Mr. Justice Meagher of the NSW Court of Appeal.

Adrian has built an extensive advisory practice in contentious and non-contentious matters, with appearances in all jurisdictions generally, and in particular the Supreme Court of New South Wales.



### **IAN DUANE**

#### **Barrister, Newcastle Chambers**

Ian Duane graduated in 1991 from Macquarie University with degrees in law and economics. He worked as a solicitor at Mullane & Lindsay in Newcastle from 1991 until 1996, at which time he went to the Bar. Ian has practised a wide variety of areas of law as a solicitor and as counsel, including contract, commercial, property, defamation, copyright equitable claims, misleading/deceptive conduct, crime, employment law, civil claims and building disputes.

In more recent years his practice has developed a primary focus on family law and he appears for clients in all types of family law cases, both parenting and property matters, and in particular property matters involving substantial asset pools, corporate entities and third parties, as well as farming cases.

# OUR SPEAKERS

## 2 SELBORNE BARRISTERS



**SIMON BURCHETT**

**Barrister**

Simon specialises in commercial contract and property law. He is highly experienced in administrative, trusts and estates and intellectual property law. He is an accredited arbitrator and mediator, acting in court-appointed and independent alternative dispute resolution procedures in relation to all manner of civil disputes.



**CAMERON JACKSON**

**Barrister**

Cameron's two areas of specialisation are health law and administrative law. Cameron has a particular focus upon advising and appearing for doctors, colleges, and hospitals in disciplinary proceedings, inquests, and other inquiries, and on appeal. He has given numerous presentations and written papers in the areas of health and administrative law



**LAINA CHAN**

**Barrister**

Laina is an experienced and widely published commercial barrister with particular expertise on all issues relating to construction, real property, and insurance law. Her works are in the syllabus of many Australian universities. Laina is the founder and CEO of MiAI Law, pioneering a new era in AI-driven legal research.



**LEO GOR**

**Barrister**

Leo's has a broad commercial practice with particular focus on building and construction and property disputes. He delivers timely, focused, and commercial advice to clients.

# OUR SPEAKERS

## 2 SELBORNE BARRISTERS



**MARK FRIEDGUT**

**Barrister**

Mark practices primarily in the equity, commercial, corporate and insurance fields, and also has extensive experience in defamation. He has represented a wide range of commercial disputes both at trial and at appellate level. He has also had extensive experience in alternative dispute resolution procedures, including mediation.



**DR JAMES SMITH**

**Barrister**

James has been advising and representing both private and public sector clients in the area of planning, environment, property and local government law for 25 years. Prior to coming to the Bar, James was a solicitor for 15 years. James completed a PhD in environmental hydrogeochemistry and gained experience working as a scientist in contaminated land and environmental impact assessment.



**JACK WHELAN**

**Barrister**

Jack was called to the Bar in 2018. He has conducted more than 650 mediations and drafted more than 300 speeches for political leaders, Members of Parliament, CEOs and public figures. Jack continues to work as a mediator, negotiator and speech writer. He has particular passion for Administrative Law, Family Law, Personal Injury Law and Employment Law.



**DAMIEN TOOHEY**

**Barrister**

Damien was called to the Bar in 2019 and became a qualified mediator in 2022. He focuses his practice in Estate matters encompassing Family Provision and Wills. Damien has a particular interest in Aviation Law, specifically in responding to Show Cause Notices, conferences with CASA, attending reviews in the AAT, and appearing in Coronial Inquests.

# OUR SPEAKERS

## 2 SELBORNE BARRISTERS



**MICHELLE MEARES**

**Barrister**

Prior to being called to the Bar in 2023, Michelle was the owner and principal lawyer of Central Coast firm Meares Law, practicing primarily in family law and plaintiff litigation. Michelle has significant experience in complex parenting and property matters including valuation issues, company and trust structures, bankruptcy, superannuation including Australian and international pensions and appellate work.