

CHAIR



Garry Collin, Barrister, Pegasus Chambers, Christchurch

Garry is on the Lawyer for Child, PPPR and Hague Convention panels and regularly receives appointments as lawyer to assist. He completed a post graduate diploma in Child Advocacy in 2005. Garry has been a member of the Family Law Section Executive Committee 2007 – 2014 and was the FLS Chair from 2012 to 2014.

SPEAKERS



Alex Ashmore, Alexander Ashmore Barrister, Auckland

Alex was admitted as a barrister and solicitor in 1990. He specialises in all aspects of family law, including relationship property and cases involving children. Alex also regularly undertakes appellate work, taking instructions to appear on behalf of the appellant or respondent in appeals from the Family Court to the High Court in particular.



Clive Banks, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Ora Toa Mauriora: Primary Mental Health Service, Porirua

Clive is a mokopuna (grandson) of Riwai and Mihi Wawatai from Ngāti Porou, and tracks his Pakeha side back to Australia and England. He is a consultant clinical psychologist with 18 years' experience working in Māori mental health. An active member of the New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists he is the Māori rep (Te Māngai Māori) on their National Executive and is a member of the National Standing Committee on Bicultural Issues.



Dr Justine Cornwall, Deputy Commissioner, Office of the Children's Commissioner, Wellington

Dr Cornwall has extensive leadership, public policy, research and evaluation experience across the government sector. She has worked extensively with NGOs to address family violence and victims' rights issues. Previously she worked at the Ministry of Justice where she led reviews of the Domestic Violence and Victims' Rights Acts.



Anthony Dickson, Ministry of Social Development, Manukau

Anthony was admitted in 1996. He has worked as counsel for the Ministry of Social Development and as a barrister. Currently Anthony is a Senior Solicitor/ Team Leader based in the Manukau Legal Office of Ministry of Social Development.

SPEAKERS



Michelle Duggan, Lawyer, Nelson

Michelle is a sole practitioner, based in Nelson, with 20+ years' experience. In addition to acting for parties and the 'usual' roles of lawyer for child/lawyer for subject person, she is a Child Support Review Officer and a Deputy-Member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal. Michelle is a member of the NZLS Family Law Executive, is a legal aid and FDR provider, and undertakes a range of family law work.



Her Hon Judge Sarah Fleming, District Court, Auckland

Judge Fleming was appointed as a Family Court Judge in March 2000. She was a specialist Family Law barrister prior to the appointment and was frequently appointed as counsel to represent children. Judge Fleming was Administrative Judge for the Northern Region for four years.



Kiri Hannifin, Policy Advisor, National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges, Auckland

Kiri completed her LLB and BA (Politics) at the University of Canterbury. She has worked in several legal areas in New Zealand and the UK. In the UK she also worked implementing European equality law before returning to New Zealand to work as a political advisor for the fifth Labour Government. She has been working around intimate partner violence since 2007.



Heather Henare, Chief Executive, National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges, Wellington

Heather has been the CE of NCIWR for several years. She has a background in social work and has dedicated her 30 year career to eliminating violence against women and children. Heather is passionately aligned with the overall vision of the organisation to create a world free from DV, where women and children are safe every day.



Dr Rachel Irwin, Registered Clinical Psychologist & Neuropsychologist, Wellington

Rachel is an experienced, registered clinical psychologist with particular experience in neuropsychology, child and family mental health, adult mental health and family court work. She is currently working part-time in private practice and part-time as a specialist report writer for the Family Court. Rachel also teaches in the Clinical Psychology programme at Victoria University, supervises numerous clinical psychologists and is a Mum to three delightful young children.

SPEAKERS



Simon Jefferson QC, Barrister, Auckland

Simon is a family law specialist with more than 30 years' experience who graduated from the University of Auckland, spending a number of years working overseas before returning in 1981. He is enrolled as a solicitor in England and Wales. In New Zealand he joined Shieff Angland Lawyers where he spent 24 years, 21 of those as a partner. Simon joined the independent bar in 2006 and became a Queen's Counsel in 2013. He has had extensive involvement with NZLS legal education programmes and the NZ Family Law section. He is a fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a member of Lawasia, the NZ Bar Association and of the Australian Family Law Section.



Insp Brigitte Nimmo, Senior Policy Adviser: Vulnerable Children, New Zealand Police National HQ, Wellington

Brigitte has been a police officer for fifteen years. She spent seven years working as a senior legal advisor to the Commissioner of Police before taking on a number of other roles, including managing responses to families involved in the Pike River disaster and the Christchurch Earthquake. For the last five years Brigitte has been responsible for managing the police response to family violence.



Sharyn Otene, Barrister, Quadrant Chambers, Manukau

Sharyn (Ngāpuhi) is a family law barrister. Since commencing practice in 1996 she has worked predominantly in South Auckland. Sharyn's practice focuses on CYPF Act, COCA and mental health proceedings. She is on the lawyer for child panel and regularly receives appointments as lawyer to assist. Sharyn was an EIP mediator and is an FDR provider. She has been a member of the Executive Committee of the NZLS Family Law Section since 2012.



Emma Parsons, Barrister, Auckland

Emma was admitted to the Bar in 1994. She has a special interest in complex custody disputes, international child abduction, practice and procedure and appellate matters.



Margaret Powell, Cuba Family Law, Wellington

Margaret has worked at Cuba Family Law and its predecessors for over 25 years. The practice has a specialist domestic violence approach, works closely with Women's Refuge and prepares the commentary on domestic violence for Brookers. She is regularly appointed by the Family Court as lawyer for the child or counsel to assist in cases involving domestic violence.

SPEAKERS



Praveen Singh, Barrister, Auckland

For the last 21 years, Praveen's practice has had a family law focus, with 11 years as a lawyer with Child, Youth & Family and the past 10 years as a Barrister at Halcyon Chambers. Praveen is qualified to be appointed lawyer for the child and lawyer to assist and works with children, clients and families from a wide and diverse range of cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds.



Dr April Trenberth, Clinical Psychologist, Auckland

April is a Clinical Psychologist with a full-time private practice in Auckland. She has 30 years' experience in a wide range of settings, including mental health, child and family, and general adult settings. April divides her time between general private practice and Courts and has prepared specialist reports for Family Court, High Court and Child, Youth and Family Service since 1995. Her private work includes anxieties, depression, sexual abuse, physical abuse, psychological abuse, relationship difficulties, parenting difficulties, adolescent issues, work performance, mental health disorder, substance abuse, eating disorders, maternal mental health, school behaviour, complicated grief, parent-child issues, and attachment disorder. April also supervises the professional and clinical work of psychologists, lawyers, social workers, youth workers, and counsellors.



His Hon Judge John Walker, District Court, Wellington

Judge Walker has been a District Court Judge and Youth Court Judge since 1994 and currently leads the court's development of solution focused judging utilising a multi-agency approach in courts. Judge Walker currently leads the District Court's development of responses to family violence.



Tania Williams Blyth, Te Kopu Legal, Hamilton

Tania, of Ngāti Pukenga and Te Arawa (Tapuika and Waitaha) descent, is a senior family lawyer who regularly receives appointments as lawyer for child, lawyer to assist, lawyer for subject person and youth advocate. She has also appeared as counsel in the District Court and Waitangi Tribunal. Currently Tania holds warrants as District Inspector for Mental Health and as a member of the New Zealand Parole Board.

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