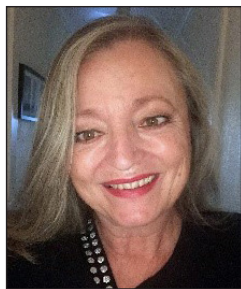


CHAIR



Clare Bennett, Barrister, Auckland

Clare is a barrister practising in Manukau. She graduated from the University of Otago in 1986, practised in Hamilton until 1999 and then commenced practice in Auckland. Clare has been a member of the NZLS CLE Litigation Skills faculty since 2004 and has acted for young persons in the criminal jurisdiction at all levels since 1987. She has a keen interest in youth involved in the criminal justice system and has represented young people in the Youth, District and High Courts and has appeared in the Court of Appeal on appeals involving the youth justice legislation. Clare has spoken at both national and regional Law Society conferences on matters relating to youth justice on a number of occasions.

SPEAKERS



Dr Caleb Armstrong, Practice92, Auckland

Caleb is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and an International Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. He has worked across Australasia in clinical and medicolegal contexts, including District Courts as an expert witness, and Auckland's Regional Youth Forensic Service.



Melanie Baker, Melanie Baker Law, Lower Hutt

Melanie (Ngati Mutunga, Ngati Tama, Te Atiawa) has been practising law in Lower Hutt since 1988 and has been a Youth Advocate since 1989. During this time Melanie has represented young people in a wide range of matters including some involving complex legal issues. In addition, Melanie is an experienced family and general criminal practitioner.



His Hon Judge Louis Bidois, District Court, Tauranga

Before his appointment to the bench in 2002, Judge Bidois (Te Arawa) was a partner in Chadwick Bidois and a youth advocate. He received the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration 2015 Award for Excellence in Judicial Administration.



Colin Eason, Pegasus Chambers, Christchurch

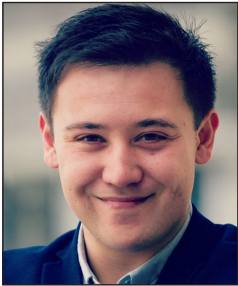
Colin has been a youth advocate since the inception of the Youth Court. In addition he practises in the Family Court and adult criminal jurisdictions at Christchurch.

SPEAKERS



His Hon Judge Tony FitzGerald, District Court, Auckland

Judge Tony FitzGerald was appointed to the bench in 1999 and is based at the Auckland District Court. He works about 70% of his time in the Youth Court and the rest in the District Court criminal. Judge FitzGerald is a member of the Principal Youth Court Judge's Advisory Group, an editor of the Youth Court Bench Book, and a member of the Youth Court education committee.



Morgan Godfery, Political Commentator, Wellington

Morgan (Te Pahipoto (Ngāti Awa), Lalomanu (Samoa)) is a writer and trade unionist, and sits on the board of the Centre for Legal Issues. His writing appears in *The Guardian*, *Sunday Star-Times* and *The Spinoff*, and he appears on radio and television as a political commentator.



Dr Julia Ioane, AUT, Auckland

Julia is Samoan and lectures in psychology. She is a clinical psychologist working primarily in care and protection and youth justice. Her research interests involve youth offending and Pasifika epistemology and practice.



Dr Valerie McGinn, The FASD Centre, Aotearoa

Valerie is a clinical neuropsychologist who specialises in the diagnosis and treatment of FASD. She provides FASD evidence to the Youth Courts throughout New Zealand so that the neurodisability can be recognised and accommodated. She is active in developing services and support for people with FASD and their families.



Chris Merrick, Mānuka Chambers, Auckland

Chris (Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Manaia) was admitted to the bar in 2008 and started his career as a Crown Prosecutor in Auckland. In 2012, he co-founded the firm Moala Merrick in Manukau, specialising in criminal defence and youth advocacy. Chris has practised as a Barrister since May 2017.

SPEAKERS



Corin Merrick, Mānuka Chambers, Auckland

Corin (Waikato, Ngāti Whare, Ngāti Maniapoto) has been practising family law in Manukau since 2010 and acts for parties privately and on legal aid in a wide range of Family Court matters. She is also a youth advocate. Corin is fluent in Te Reo Māori.



Maria Pecotic, Verus Chambers, Auckland

Maria has over 24 years' experience as a Barrister specialising in all aspects of criminal law. She has been a youth advocate for over 18 years and has represented youth offenders in the District Court, High Court and Court of Appeal.



Professor Susan Schenk, Victoria University, Wellington

Susan is a Professor of Psychology and directs the Behavioural Pharmacology Laboratory. She focuses on brain and behaviour changes associated with drug addiction.



Mark Stephenson, Talking Trouble, Auckland

Mark is a speech-language therapist and communication assistant whose work is focused on assisting vulnerable defendants and complainants negotiate the oral language demands of the justice system. As a researcher, he has devised and trialled an oral language assessment tool for use by youth justice professionals in New Zealand.



Gene Tomlinson, Gowing & Co, Whakatane

Gene has over 21 years' experience as a trial lawyer and has been a youth advocate for the last 13 years. His practice is solely criminal law appearing regularly at all levels including Te Kooti Rangatahi.

SPEAKERS



Paul Tupou-Vea, Clifftop Wellbeing, Auckland

Paul is a wellbeing consultant and trainer with a background in youth development programmes and education. He is currently completing post graduate study in Positive Psychology through the University of Melbourne.



His Hon Judge John Walker, Principal Youth Court Judge, Wellington

Judge Walker is the Principal Youth Court Judge of New Zealand and was appointed to that position in July 2016. He was first appointed to the District Court bench in 1994 with a jury trial warrant and Youth Court and Civil Court designations. Judge Walker was Executive Judge for Wellington (2004 – 2010), Specialised Regional Youth Court Judge for Wellington (2007 – 2010) and Advisory Member on the NZLS Continuing Legal Education Board (until 2007). Judge Walker was also appointed as Acting Chief District Court Judge and Acting Principal Youth Court Judge at various points from 2009 to 2014.

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