



Round Table

Latest News

Family Law Practitioners' Association of Queensland

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September 2012

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Message from the FLPA president



The recent annual **Family Law Residential** was a tremendous success. In his keynote address, Justice Michael Kirby gave praise to family lawyers and the complexities of the work that we do. He spoke more specifically and topically about the spirit of the Hague Convention as a restraint on unilateralism and the importance of holding up international laws.

In relation to international disputes, Justice Kirby also discussed the benefits of having these matters resolved quickly and spoke about the benefits of looking to the processes adopted by the Dust Diseases Tribunal in NSW.

Thank you to all members who are giving feedback on what we are doing by participating in our **member survey** and our online polls. From this member feedback, we are able to have a solid understanding of the issues that you would like to see on FLPA's agenda for review in the coming months.

Issues such as delays in court judgements and more recently the government's suggestion of cutting regional circuits remain hot topics on FLPA's agenda. Offering regional members **LIVE webinars** and building more active regional networks were suggestions we have worked hard to implement. Our first webinar is on Thursday 13th September so please support this new initiative. We look forward to your feedback as we refine this service.

We have had a great response to our **membership renewal for 2012/13**, which reassures me and the rest of the FLPA committee that the association is a valuable and dynamic organisation for family law practitioners. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership and spread the word to other colleagues to do the same.

If you have any contributions or comments, please email us on roundtable@flpa.org.au.

Deborah Awyzio
FLPA president

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A reflection on the FLR



The Family Law Residential (FLR) held in collaboration with the Queensland Law Society in mid August on the Gold Coast was again a huge success.

Keynote speaker Justice Michael Kirby inspired many and expressed his admiration for those of us who practice in what he called 'people law', such as family law. He specifically praised our former FLPA president Justice Colin Forrest.

Keynote David Hodson entertainingly spoke of the difficulties encountered in practising family law across the world.

He highlighted some of the difficulties lawyers face in Europe as the law differs dramatically from country to country. For example, some countries treat as binding very informal pre-nuptial agreements - even those procured without independent legal advice. He said it was often a 'mad dash' to be the first to file an application in a particular jurisdiction.

The 1920s-inspired conference dinner was also great fun with some fabulous costumes. James Morrison entertained the roaring crowd with piano, trumpet and trombone, and his 14 year old son on double bass.

Other photos from the FLR are in the photo gallery in the member only section of the [FLPA website](#).

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Update your details online

FLPA's website is increasingly being used by potential clients, other lawyers and referrers to find suitably qualified family law practitioners. We have improved FLPA's website so that people can search for members more easily and effectively. Your details can be searched based on a few search criteria but to make it most effective, we need you to update your details.

If you haven't already done so, please follow these simple instructions.

Please **LOGIN** on the right-hand side of the FLPA home page using your email address and password - <http://www.flpa.org.au/index.php> (If you have forgotten your password, please click on the forgotten your password link).

When you have logged in, go to the **members only** drop down bar and select manage your profile.

Please go through the details currently listed and make sure they are updated, focussing particularly on the following:

Legal Aid– tick if you offer clients legal aid rates or are a legal aid provider

Specialist– tick if you are a family law accredited specialist

Region– select an appropriate region that people could search under eg Gold Coast

Role/Position– select your appropriate role or profession that people could search under

Restricted access–tick if you DO want your details on public display

Ensure other details are updated and detailed as you would like.

If you have any problems, please contact the FLPA secretariat on membership@flpa.org.au or call 07 3806 1220.

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How the FLPA live webinar works



FLPA now has LIVE webinar facilities for regional members! You asked for it, now we've got it!

The next twilight seminar on **Thursday 13th September** will be the first to be broadcast live to regional members who register.

Once you have paid your registration of \$33, you will be sent email instructions on how to log on to view the seminar through the FLPA website and dial in to clearly listen to the speaker.

You can also participate in discussions by asking the speaker questions. Just type your question in the message box and your question will be asked to the speaker at the appropriate time.

If you have any queries about the webinar, please email roundtable@flpa.org.au

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Case Watch - new cases every month!

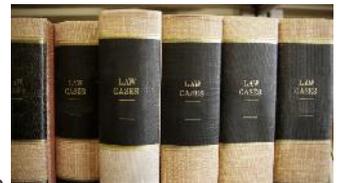
Needing some information on recent cases?

Check out the latest cases on FLPA's Case Watch. The library is growing monthly.

Do you need to submit a case note as a part of your study or qualifications? You may like to contribute from time to time to FLPA's growing database of current cases – Case Watch.

If you have a case note you would like to submit, please send it to Case Watch editor Tuskeen Jacobs t.jacobs@rostroncarlyle.com.au for review.

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Heads up



The following are some top tips to give you the 'heads up' in family law. If you have any contributions, please email us on roundtable@flpa.org.

Tank Street doors closed

The North Quay entrance to the Family Law Courts is now closed. Access to the Courts is only via the Tank Street entrance. We understand this can sometimes be difficult with acrimonious clients. If you are faced with or anticipate a difficult situation, you can ask the security guard to escort you through the North Quay exit.

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FLPA's university prizes

Alexandra Doney is the winner of the 2011 Andrea Bowler Memorial Prize for Family Law.

Presented to the University of Queensland law student for her strong academic achievement in family law and interest in the profession, she was awarded \$1000 in prize money and registration at the recent Family Law Residential.



Speaking recently after she received her award, Alexandra said she was particularly interested in family law as it had a significant bearing on other areas of law.

"I am particularly drawn to the dynamic nature of family law and appreciate the way the body of rules and procedure evolve as social norms and circumstances change," said Ms Doney.

FLPA also supports other university prizes including QUT's prize for family law. If you are connected to a university law program that does not have a student prize awarded for family law, please contact FLPA secretary Rebecca Parry at rebecca@bflc.com.au.

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Calabro goes solo



Major sponsor of the Family Law Residential, Norbert Calabro has recently opened his own practice Calabro Forensics.

His team will operate Eagle Street and his service will continue as usual.

Norbert Calabro (T) 0418 877 444

(E) ncc@norbertcalabro.com.au

Jenny Letts (T) 0404 846 413

(E) jenny@norbertcalabro.com.au

Dominique Corby (T) 0422 996 078

(E) dominique@norbertcalabro.com.au

Jill Christensen (T) 0400 536 575

(E) jdc@norbertcalabro.com.au

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Harsh or true? Quips by Canadian Justice Quinn

You think some judges' comments are harsh? Check out Canadian Justice Quinn's comments in an Ontario Superior Court of Justice. He scolded both parties with wry quips and comments, which were published in *familyllb*.

You decide for yourself whether Justice Quinn's judicious use of humour is necessary, appropriate or just condescending.

To read the whole case, go to:

<http://canlii.ca/en/on/onsc/doc/2010/2010onsc6568/2010onsc6568.html>

Here's a few of his comments from the decision:

1. Justice Quinn commences his Reasons for Judgment with the first paragraph simply stating: "Paging Dr. Freud. Paging Dr. Freud."
2. "Here, a husband and wife have been marinating in a mutual hatred so intense as to surely amount to a personality disorder requiring treatment."
3. "The source of the difficulties is hatred: a hardened, harmful, high-octane hatred. Larry and Catherine hate each other, as do Larry and Sam. This hatred has raged unabated since the date of separation. Consequently, the likelihood of an amicable resolution is laughable (hatred devours reason); and, a satisfactory legal solution is impossible (hatred has no legal remedy)."
4. "Catherine and Larry were married on October 7, 1995. If only the wedding guests, who tinkled their wine glasses as encouragement for the traditional bussing of the bride and groom, could see the couple now." And then later in an endnote "I am prepared to certify a class action for the return of all wedding gifts."
5. "The legal system does not have the resources to monitor a schedule of counselling (nor should it do so). The function of Family Court is not to change people, but to dispose of their disputes at a given point in time. I preside over a court, not a church."
6. "I come now to the issue of spousal support, historically the roulette of family law (blindfolds, darts and Ouija boards being optional)."
7. "While Larry's access-conduct has largely reflected nothing more than inept parenting, Catherine's parental-alienation behaviour has been evil. Is there a remedy? Dollars cannot replace the father-daughter relationship that Catherine has destroyed. However, in the circumstances of this case, justice has only a Hobson's choice. Catherine's alienation of Taylor and Larry must be condemned and, an effective method of expressing that condemnation, is by way of a reduction in spousal support."

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Upcoming events

Twilight Seminar and Webinar – What's new with Consent Orders?



Presented by **Registrar Teresa Kane** from the Family Court of Australia, this twilight seminar will update you on all the recent changes and the requirements of the Registry – an absolute must for family law practitioners working in this area.

This twilight seminar will be the **first to be broadcast LIVE via webinar**, so if you can't make it in person, you can log in and participate online. You can watch and listen to the speaker, and even ask questions online which will be answered by the speaker during question time.

When: 5.30 pm, Thursday 13th September 2012

Where: Vincents, Santos Place

Cost: \$33 members and \$55 non-members

RSVP: Please [click here for the registration form](#). Complete and return with payment by **Thursday, 6 September 2012** to membership@flpa.org.au; fax to (07)

3112 6838 or by post

Family Law 101 – Rockhampton one day conference

Led by **Justice Colin Forrest** and **Federal Magistrate Anne Demack**, this informative workshop will help practitioners develop their skills through role plays and practical demonstrations in how to prepare for and run a family law case. Beginning with the initial client interview, practitioners will learn techniques for managing files that are going to either mediation or to trial.

All newly admitted family lawyers and practitioners wanting to update their skills in this area should attend.

When: 8.30am, Friday 14th September 2012

Where: Travelodge Rockhampton, 86 Victoria Parade, Rockhampton

Cost: \$440 members (includes GST)
\$550 non-members (includes GST and annual membership to FLPA)

RSVP: by 7th September 2012

[Please click here for the registration form.](#)

Twilight Seminar and Webinar – Secret Life of Documents

When: 5.30 pm, Thursday 8th November 2012

Where: Vincents, Santos Place

More details to come.

FLPA Christmas party – Save the date!

When: 5.30 pm, Thursday 6th December 2012

Where: Queensland Terrace, State Library of Queensland
Stanley Place, Southbank

More details to come.

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Regional round up



Toowoomba again played host to a “Ladies in Law Long Luncheon” in June with about 30 female family law practitioners enjoying lunch at Encores Restaurant, Toowoomba.

Brisbane-based female barristers Catherine Carew, Jacoba Brasch, Jennifer McArdle, Rebecca Lyons and Lucia Hawkshaw kindly travelled up the hill to speak to an eager crowd over a few wines on a Friday afternoon.

The success of these luncheons means the next is already scheduled for late October 2012. The committee would be delighted to welcome any female family law practitioners outside of the Darling Downs area who are interested in attending.

A reminder too that Toowoomba FLPA members can use (at no cost) the **photocopying facilities** of the local Magistrates Court Registry. The Federal Magistrates Court of Australia is on circuit in Toowoomba in October and November.

A computer in the Cairns Court is now up and running with WIFI. To log

into the Brisbane and Cairns wireless network (WIFI) for members with laptops use the following:

SSID: FLPAQ
Wireless Security: WPA
Pre-Shared Key: familylaw

Please ensure you bring a memory stick with you to court to save any documents, as documents cannot be saved on the computers. There is also a printer connected to the computers for the convenience of members.

If you have any technical or administrative queries, please contact us on membership@flpa.org.au.

Do you have any suggestions?

If you have any ideas about how FLPA can help with other regional facilities such as Court services, please contact Rebecca Harding at rebecca@bestwilson.com.au or (07) 4639 0000.

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Keith Slack "Not the Writing Competition"



In honour of the late FM Slack's talents as a writer, entries for the annual Keith Slack "Not the Writing Competition" will open soon.

Submit your entry to roundtable@flpa.org.au by Friday 23rd November. The winner will be announced (and presented) at FLPA's annual Christmas party on 6th December.

To enter, your writing must be no more than 500 words and can be anything from a poem, a song, or even a short story. In memory of his editorial contribution to "Not the Newsletter", your writing will need to include mention of the colon, bodily functions, gossip, or keeping regular.

For more information about the competition, please contact clarissa@bflc.com.au.

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Vote in FLPA's online poll

To gauge members' opinions about current issues and obtain members' feedback quickly, we are trialling an online poll on the FLPA website.

Recent FLPA polls have sought members' opinions on 1) FLPA's involvement in the media about the Italian sisters case, which demonstrated members' strong support, and 2) the changes to the Surrogacy Act in Queensland, which demonstrated a very even split in members' opinions.

Accordingly and appropriately, FLPA can use this information to act or not act in members' best interests.

The current online polling question asks for your thoughts on other benefits you would like FLPA to provide such as discount insurance, discount lifestyle products, or even marketing assistance. If you would like to have your say, please [login](#) and take a moment to give us your vote!



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FLPA's member survey results

Thank you to the 184 FLPA members who responded to the recent online survey. Your answers help us understand your perspective on current issues affecting the family law industry and shape the direction of FLPA for the future.

Congratulations to these three lucky members who won a bottle of French champagne:

- Juergen Kaehne – Cairns
- Shelley Johnson – Coorparoo
- Deborah Kellie - Beenleigh



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CSA estimators



The following link takes you to the Child Support Agency's Care Estimator and Child Support/FTB Estimator. Bookmark it for easy access and reference.

<http://www.csa.gov.au/estimators/>

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Titles office website

The following link takes you to the Titles Office for industry professionals <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/property/titles/industry.html>. It includes:

the **Land Titles Practice Manual** which details how to complete and lodge land registry forms,

the **fee calculator** calculates the lodgement fees payable on commonly lodged land registry forms, and

the latest land registry forms.

As these things change regularly, you can also register your details for an **automatic update**.

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