

# NZ LAW



## Senior Solicitors Conference & General Meeting

Rydges Hotel, Wellington, 5 - 7 March 2026



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Solicitors Training and Development Programme**

### Featuring Presentations from:

- Hamish Mabey, ANZ
- Carolyn Cooper, Apogee Legal
- Mark Henderson, Corcoran French
- Claire Tyler, Rainey Collins
- David Wybourne, Wycane Advisory
- Matthew Galt, ANZ
- Nicola Peart, University of Otago

# NZ LAW Senior Solicitors Conference Agenda (3+ years post grad experience)

Thursday 5 March 2026

Day 1 | 5.25 CPD hours

9.30am	<b>Registration &amp; Morning Tea</b>
10.00am .5 CPD HR	<b>Welcome and Introduction to the ANZ Banking Package</b> NZ LAW Directors Jane Fletcher, Bronwyn Hantz and Hamish Mabey, ANZ
10.30am .5 CPD HR	<b>Staying ahead of scams – Navigating today’s landscape</b> In today’s fast-paced digital world, fraud and scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated and pose risk to individuals and businesses alike. During this session, ANZ will share practical insights on how to recognise common scams, protect yourself and your organisation, and take proactive steps to prevent fraud. We will also cover key messages and resources to help you stay vigilant. <b>Hamish Mabey, Strategy &amp; Professionals Manager, ANZ</b>
11.00am 1 CPD HR	<b>Stepping Up: How to Lead, Thrive, and Build Your Future in Law</b> Partnership isn’t just the next step on the career ladder; it’s a mindset and a choice. In this session, Carolyn Cooper of Apogee Legal explores what it really means to step into leadership in a NZ law firm. You’ll dive into the realities of partnership, the importance of self-awareness and intrinsic motivation, and how to understand the business side of law. Most importantly, you’ll walk away with practical strategies to start leading now, long before anyone hands you a title, and to shape the future of your career and your firm. <b>Carolyn Cooper, Apogee Legal</b>
12.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1.00pm 1.5 CPD HR	<b>Navigating Employment Law: Principles, Processes, and Emerging Trends</b> Employment law is increasingly relevant to legal practice. As senior solicitors it’s important to understand it and how it affects your clients. This session will cover employment principles, how they relate to business, processes that need to be followed, pursuit and settlement of disputes, and the emerging role of Tikanga and other new trends in employment law. It’s a must for solicitors in all areas of practice. <b>Mark Henderson, Corcoran French</b>
2.30pm .75 CPD	<b>The Business of Law: Demystifying Firm Finances for Future Leaders</b> Running a law firm isn’t just about practicing law—it’s about managing a business. In this session Claire Tyler will demystify the financial aspects of running a practice. From budgeting and cash flow management to KPIs, billing structures and overhead costs, participants will gain practical insights into the numbers behind the practice. Aspiring firm leaders will walk away with a clearer understanding of the business of law. <b>Claire Tyler, Rainey Collins</b>
3.15pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
3.30pm 1 CPD HR	<b>Open Panel Discussion</b> Ever wanted to ask questions of newly appointed partners/directors or associates as to how they progressed to where they are now in their professional lives and what helped them achieve their goals along the way? We have put together a panel from our local NZ LAW firms including a salaried partner and equity partner, to answer your curly questions on life in the legal profession and how they approach the challenges along the way. Chatham House Rules apply to this session.
4.30pm	<b>Day 1 Concludes</b>

## Conference Dinner

6.00pm <i>Depart the hotel foyer for a 7 min walk</i>	<b>Conference Dinner: Docksider</b> Join us for a memorable evening at Docksider Restaurant, Wellington’s iconic waterfront venue. Enjoy a delicious dinner featuring fresh local cuisine, stunning harbour views, and the perfect setting to relax and connect with fellow delegates.
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## Bookings and Contact Information

Accommodation, conference and catering will be booked on your behalf as per your request on your individual online registration forms. NZ LAW will cover the cost of the **Senior Solicitor** to attend all conference sessions, up to three nights accommodation and the conference dinners. To be eligible for the three night stay you *must attend the General Meeting and all conference sessions*. Presentations and handouts will be made available on the NZ LAW website following the meeting.

[Rydges Hotel Wellington](#)  
75 Featherston Street, Wellington

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Heather Menzies, NZ LAW Limited  
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# NZ LAW General Meeting Agenda

Friday 6 March 2026

Day 2 | 4 CPD hours

9.00am	<b>Registration and Morning Tea</b>
9.30am	<b>NZ LAW General Meeting</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting, Queenstown, 10 October 2025 (<i>circulated 21 October 2025</i>)</li><li>Matters Arising</li><li>Chair Update, Shehan de Silva</li><li>NZ LAW Board Updates</li><li>Future Meetings<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Junior Solicitors Conference, Wellington 16 - 17 April 2026</li><li>Combined Offshore Conference, Japan 7 - 15 July 2026</li><li>Legal Executives Conference, Wellington 3 - 4 August 2026</li><li>Litigation Skills Workshop, TBC September 2026</li><li>Annual General Meeting, Christchurch 9 - 10 October 2026</li></ol></li><li>General Business</li></ol>
10.00am 2 CPD HR	<b>Getting AI Ready: Moving From Apprehension to Comprehension</b> <p>A practical and interactive session on how your firm can adopt the AI tools you really need. Cutting through the hype, this session will give you an understanding of where you are at now and help you develop your own enablement roadmap. Including how to critically assess what's out there, understand what it will take to adopt in your firm and what the next steps need to be. The session includes feedback from the survey carried out by more than 250 staff from NZ LAW member firms. We will also create a high level AI readiness score for your firm and some high-level briefing with actions required to take away.</p> <p>David will also address the impact of AI and developing alternative billing models in tomorrow's Innovation and Technology SIG.</p> <p><b>David Wybourne, Wycane Advisory</b></p>
12.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1.00pm 1 CPD HR	<b>Economic Update</b> <p>New Zealand economic outlook is at fascination point. Join Matt as he provides a snapshot of the current domestic and international environment affecting this outlook and insights into the trends and challenges ahead</p> <p><b>Matthew Galt, ANZ Senior Economist</b></p>
2.00pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
2.30pm 1 CPD HR	<b>The Trustee's Right of Indemnity: Is it worth the paper it is written on?</b> <p>Trustees have the right to be indemnified from the trust assets for expenses reasonably incurred in the administration of trusts. However, the Privy Council and the High Court of Australia have recently by a slim majority limited the value of that right significantly. The question is whether New Zealand courts will follow these precedents and what it will mean for trustees' rights of indemnity.</p> <p><b>Nicola Peart ONZM, Professor Emerita of Law, University of Otago</b></p>
3.30pm	<b>Day Two Concludes</b>
6.00pm <i>Depart the hotel foyer for a quick bus ride or a 10 min walk</i>	<b>Black Tie &amp; Glamour, at Foxglove</b> <p>Get ready for an evening of sophistication and excitement as we transform <b>Foxglove</b> into our very own <b>Casino Royale</b>. This black-tie affair invites guests to immerse themselves in the glamour and intrigue of the casino, with gaming tables bringing a touch of friendly competition and high-stakes fun. Instead of a formal seated dinner, enjoy a relaxed and social atmosphere with grazing stations offering an array of dishes throughout the evening, perfect for mingling, networking, and indulging at your own pace.</p> <p>With Foxglove's stunning waterfront setting as the backdrop, this promises to be an elegant and memorable night where style, conversation, and a little bit of luck take centre stage.</p> <p><b>A night of glamour, games, and good company - Casino Royale awaits.</b></p>

## Bookings and Contact Information

We have secured run of house accommodation rooms at **Rydges Hotel** at \$265 including breakfast for this conference, payment will be made by the delegates directly with the hotel and remaining expenses such as dinners will be invoiced to individual firms following the event. The conference will be held at the Rydges Hotel. Minutes, presentations and handouts will be made available on the NZ LAW website following the meeting.

[Rydges Hotel Wellington](#)

75 Featherston Street, Wellington

### Conference Organiser

Heather Menzies, NZ LAW Limited

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### Conference Director

Greg Kelly, Greg Kelly Trust Law

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Tel: 04 498 8502

9.00am

1.5 CPD HR

**Property Special Interest Group**

In this session, the Property SIG panel will discuss:

- Mini democracies - plan changes are allowing denser residential development. What is the best (and worst) structure for a tight democracy?  
Jane Fletcher will discuss the pros and cons of different close living arrangements.
- The Incorporated Societies (Transitional Arrangements - Disposal of Surplus Assets to Members) Amendment Regulations 2025 “should” address a practical gap created by the transition to the Incorporated Societies Act 2022: how surplus assets are to be dealt with on the winding up of societies.  
Kristine King will discuss the new regulations and whether they go far enough to address the issue.
- These sessions will be followed by a facilitated open floor discussion of queries arising on the NZ Law Property Forum and general property queries from the floor.

**Panel: Kristine King (DK Law), Michael Hoffman-Body (GYW) and Jane Fletcher (Downie Stewart)**

10.30am

**Morning Tea**

11.00am

1 CPD HR

**Innovation & Technology Special Interest Group - Alternative Billing in an AI World**

This session explores the growing tension between traditional six-minute billing and the increasing use of technology, including AI. It examines the regulatory framework governing fees, transparency, and reasonableness, before turning to practical alternatives firms can adopt now- greater use of estimates and fixed fees for routine work, cautious movement toward value-based pricing, and the emerging risks around AI-related fees and disbursements. Rather than prescribing a single model, the session focuses on helping firms understand the trade-offs and risks, and how to approach alternative billing in a way that is compliant, defensible, and commercially sustainable as AI capability accelerates.

**David Wybourne, Wycane Advisory**

12.00pm

**Lunch**

1.00pm

1.5 CPD HR

**Elder Law Special Interest Group**

In this session, the Elder Law SIG panel will:

- facilitate a practical session exploring changes in how we draft Wills and Contracting Out Agreements following the Court of Appeal decision in Rimmer v Wilton
- discuss whether life interests or occupation rights in real property contained in Contracting Out Agreements ought to be reflected in Wills
- explore the difference between life interests and rights to occupy and when they might be most applicable
- address any questions raised in the forum (or directly)
- if time permits, debate the merits of minimalist vs maximalist Will drafting – just how relevant are the clauses in the Will precedents to real life clients who just need “a simple Will”?

**Panel: Melissa Bourke (Innes Dean), Colette Mackenzie (Greg Kelly Law), and Angela Stafford (Wain & Naysmith)**

2.30pm

**Afternoon Tea**

3.00pm

1.5 CPD HR

**NZ LAW Trust Special Interest Group**

The Trust Special Interest Group will look at:

- The Court of Appeal decision in Gatfield v Hinton regarding referring disputes to compulsory mediation and arbitration;
- The Court of Appeal decision in RH & JY Trust v Worksafe New Zealand;
- Preparing for mediations in the trust and estate context, and how to use the opportunity most effectively;
- Recent cases around troublesome beneficiaries, removal of trustees, and trusts in different contexts; and
- Questions from the group.

Please bring your war stories, tips, and tricks for the room

**Panel: Greg Kelly & Kimberly Lawrence (Greg Kelly Trust Law), & Geoff Mirkin (Wilkinson Rodgers)**

4.30pm

**Day Two Concludes**

6.00pm

Depart the hotel foyer for a short bus ride

**Conference Dinner: Sky Stadium**

Join us for a memorable evening at Wellington’s iconic Sky Stadium. Enjoy exceptional cuisine featuring local flavours, warm hospitality, and the opportunity to unwind and connect with fellow delegates. Celebrate the conference in style at one of the city’s most impressive venues, with guest speaker **Grant Elliott**, a former Blackcap who played over 100 international matches and is remembered for the iconic six that sent New Zealand to its first Cricket World Cup final. With deep expertise in team culture and high performance environments, he has successfully transitioned into leadership roles beyond sport. He is currently Partnership Manager at Life Flight and also runs his own leadership consultancy, Hairy Javelin Enterprises.





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# General Meeting Wellington

Presenters Profile | 5 - 7 March 2026



## Carolyn Cooper, Apogee Legal

In 2019, Carolyn founded Apogee Legal with a clear vision: to reshape the way legal services are delivered by focusing on the broader picture — what truly matters to our clients and the goals they aspire to achieve. Carolyn’s leadership is driven by a deep commitment to holistic legal support, ensuring that every interaction empowers individuals and businesses alike to reach their full potential.

Carolyn’s legal journey began at a leading commercial law firm in Christchurch, where she advised on civil, commercial, and trust litigation. Later, Carolyn worked in London for one of the world’s largest law firms before advising government lawyers and the Attorney General on high-profile trust and charity litigation.



## Mark Henderson, Corcoran French

Mark is a specialist in resolving disputes and one of Corcoran French’s litigation partners. Mark joined Corcoran French’s litigation team in 2004. Prior to that he worked in Dunedin and in London where his work included civil claims and prosecutions.

Mark acts for a range of clients from individuals through to companies in all courts and tribunals.

His work includes commercial, property and construction disputes, leaky homes and earthquake claims, debt recovery, civil cases, employment work for both employers, employees, and workplace investigations, and insurance matters. Mark is a former Chair of NZ LAW and is active in other governance roles. Mark enjoys surfing, going to the gym and socialising with family and friends.



## Claire Tyler, Rainey Collins

Claire is the Managing Partner of Rainey Collins in Wellington and leads the Business, Property and Personal Legal Services team at the firm.

She focusses on assisting clients with opportunities and challenges in relation to Commercial contracts and transactions, including joint ventures, limited partnerships, company advice and structuring, shareholders’ agreements, buying and selling businesses and leases.

Also experienced in Residential and Commercial Property, Claire often advises Bodies Corporate regarding unit title issues. Claire’s other areas of specialty and interest include trusts, asset protection, wills and estates; charities and not for profit law, advising iwi regarding post Treaty of Waitangi settlement entities; and Māori land law.



## David Wybourne, Wycane Advisory

David is the co-founder and senior consultant at Wycane Advisory, with 30+ years’ executive experience across sectors including legal, technology, finance, education, and private equity. A seasoned C-suite leader, he has led growth, turnaround, fundraising, and technology-driven transformation for organisations in the UK, France, and New Zealand, including IBM, BDO, St Peter’s Cambridge, and 24 Haymarket. An award-winning business leader and Oxford Saïd alumnus, David is known for delivering consistent double-digit growth and guiding clients through complex strategic challenges.

### NZ LAW Platinum Sponsors



# General Meeting

## Wellington *Continued*

Presenters Profile | 5 - 7 March 2026



### **Matthew Galt, ANZ Senior Economist**

Matt is a Senior Economist at ANZ, where he focuses on monitoring and forecasting the New Zealand economy and housing market. He previously worked at the New Zealand Treasury for five years doing economic analysis and advising on fiscal and monetary policy. He also worked as an Economist at the Reserve Bank of New Zealand for several years prior to working with ANZ.



### **Nicola Peart, ONZM, Professor Emerita of Law, University of Otago**

Nicola graduated from Leiden University with a law degree majoring in International Law and completed an LLM in African Customary Law at the University of Cape Town.

She commenced her academic career in the Faculty of Law at the University of Cape Town where she taught Roman Law, Private law and European Union Law. She immigrated to New Zealand in 1986. After a year of study at the University of Otago she took up a lectureship in the Law Faculty in 1987, where she taught Property Law, Wills and Trusts and Advanced Family Property Law and did some teaching in medical law to medical students. She retired in December 2020, but continues to do some teaching in Property Law and remains active in research.



### **Grant Elliott, guest dinner speaker**

Grant Elliott was born in South Africa and arrived on the New Zealand shores in 2003.

He has played over 100 games for the blackcaps and enjoyed success on the international stage particular with white ball cricket. Widely regarded by his team mates as a hard worker and a reliable player who always put the team first. His name was written into New Zealand cricketing folklore books when he hit the winning 6 which propelled the blackcaps into their only ever World Cup final. His knowledge of team culture, motivation and exactly what it takes to create a high performing team has enabled him to transition into executive positions

in the corporate world where he thrives on seeing people grow and achieve their goals.

Currently working for life flight charitable trust as partnership manager. Life flight need to raise over \$9million per annum to keep flying 24/7 while saving over 2000 lives.

He also runs his own consultancy - Hairy Javelin enterprises, which centres on developing individuals as leaders and creating high performing environments.

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# NZ LAW Senior Solicitors & General Meeting

Rydges Hotel, Wellington

5 - 7 March 2026

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#### Apologies

Barden & Co, Boyle Mathieson, Brian Stewart, Connect Legal Taranaki, Horsley Christie, Law North, Le Pine, Malley & Co, Mike Lucas, P J Magee, Purnell Lawyers





First name	Last name	Organisation	Name:	Thursday 5 March		Friday 6 March		Saturday 7 March				Accommodation					
				Day One Conference	Dinner Dockside	Day 2 Conference	Black Tie & Glamour Dinner	Property SIG	IT SIG	Elder Law SIG	Trust SIG	Sky Stadium Dinner, Saturday	Weds 4 March	Thurs 5 March	Fri 6 March	Sat 7 March	
Ashleigh	Watt	Simpson Western		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	
Shai	Navot	Simpson Western		1	1	1	1							1	1		
Peter	Hall	Simpson Western				1	1				1				1	1	
Mark	Deacon	Sumpter Moore	Louise Thompson			1	2	1			1			1	1	1	
Shona	Squires	Sumpter Moore	Brent Caldwell	1		1		1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	
Michael	Badham	Thomson Wilson	Debbie Welsh			1	2	1	1	1	1	2		1	1	1	
Lissy	Robin	Wain & Naysmith Ltd.		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Angela	Stafford	Wain & Naysmith Ltd.				1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	
Janice	Forsyth	Welsh McCarthy Parker	CJ Mahony			1		1	1	1	1			1	1	1	
Crichton	Parker	Welsh McCarthy Parker	Lauren Nottingham			1		1	1	1	1			1	1	1	
Heidi	Gray-Holland	Wilkinson Rodgers		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	
Emily	Hannagan	Wilkinson Rodgers		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	
Geoffrey	Mirkin	Wilkinson Rodgers	Wendy Mirkin			1	2	1	1	1	1	2					
Aaron	Crampton	Wilkinson Rodgers				1	1	1	1	1	1						
Rosa	Tang	Woodward Chrisp			1	1	1	1			1			1	1	1	
Daniel	Berry	Woodward Chrisp		1	1	1	1					1		1	1	1	
Kris William	Clapham	Woodward Chrisp		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	
Angelina	Kosenko	Woodward Chrisp		1	1	1	1					1		1	1	1	
Ellie	FitzGerald	Woodward Chrisp	Richard Page		2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2		1	1	1	
Brandt	Auld	Woodward Chrisp	Helen Auld	1	2	1	2	1			1	2		1	1	1	
Alison	Bendall	Woodward Chrisp	Ross Revington			1						2			1	1	
<b>Suppliers/Presenters/Guests</b>																	
Adam	Love	ANZ		1													
Ot	Manysy	ANZ								1	1						
Craig	Bristol	ANZ				1	1	1	1	1	1						
Gowri	Magandarn	ANZ				1	1	1	1	1	1						
Lesley	Runciman	Aon New Zealand			1		1							1	1		
Charlotte	Carson	Aon New Zealand				1	1								1		
Michael	Twyman	Aon New Zealand			1	1	1							1	1		
Merv	Giam	LexisNexis NZ				1											
Eudora	Chew-Randall	LexisNexis NZ		1		1			1				1	1	1	1	
Dave	Brooker	LexisNexis NZ		1	1	1	1		1								
Jina	Kim	LexisNexis NZ					1										
Alastair	Fernandez	LexisNexis NZ		1	1	1	1										
Nicky	Maaka	LexisNexis NZ										1					
Simon	Laracy	LexisNexis NZ										1					
Darrin	Rogers	NZ LAW				1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	
Heather	Menzies	NZ LAW		1	1	1	1					1	1	1	1	1	
Nicola	Peart	Otago University			1		1				1			1	1		
Carl	Cachopa	RSM NZ Partnership	Debbie Cachopa			1	2							1	1		
Kelly	Shilling	Thomson Reuters		1		1	1	1	1	1	1						
Matthew	Heaphy	Thomson Reuters		1	1	1	1		1			1					
Nicola	Cody	Thomson Reuters		1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	
Sophie	Svenson	VXT		1		1	1						1	1	1		
William	Burry	VXT		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Henry	Thompson	VXT		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
David	Wybourne						1								1	1	
				<b>69</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>90</b>	