

FOLEY'S | LIST

IS PROUD TO PRESENT OUR

# FAMILY LAW

CPD BREAKFAST 2025

## KENNON OR CAN'T WE FROM BRIEFING TO BAR TABLE

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER  
7:15 AM – 9:00 AM

### MC

LYNDELL MCCREADIE

### SPEAKERS

MICHELE BROOKS, CATH DEVINE,  
SARAH DAMON & MARCUS DUCKETT

### TOPICS

- **ADJUSTING MORE THAN PERCENTAGES:** WHAT SOLICITORS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDIATING PROPERTY AFTER THE 2025 FAMILY VIOLENCE AMENDMENTS
  - **COMPANION ANIMALS:** WHOSE; WHEN AND HOW?
  - **APPLYING FOR COSTS:** HOW TO GET YOUR CALDERBANK IN THE BANK
  - **NAVIGATING PROPERTY SETTLEMENTS IN THE SHADOW OF FAMILY VIOLENCE**

# LYNDELL MCCREADIE

*MC of CPD Session*

## Kennon or Can't We: From Briefing to Bar Table



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### PRACTICE AREAS

- Family Law and Guardianship

Lyndell McCreadie signed the Bar Roll in 2004 and since then has developed a wide-ranging family law practice. She has been briefed to appear in matters involving defacto relationships, child support issues and contested property matters. Lyndell has been briefed to appear for independent children's lawyers and has experience representing parties in hearings involving family violence. She has appeared before the Family Court, Federal Circuit Court, and the Family Court - Court of Appeal.

Prior to signing the Bar Roll, Lyndell worked as a senior law clerk in the family practice section at Maurice Blackburn from 1993-2001, and afterwards at Testart Robinson (now Robinson Gill). Lyndell regularly appeared in parenting and property matters whilst employed at both firms.

Prior to commencing legal industry, from 1990-1993 she was enrolled in the undergraduate program at the Australian Federal Police.

## MICHELE BROOKS

*Presenting On*

### **Adjusting More than Percentages: What Solicitors Need to Know about Mediating Property after the 2025 Family Violence Amendments**



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#### **PRACTICE AREAS**

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Family Law and Guardianship
- Domestic and Family Violence

Michele Brooks (nee Bates) has been practising as a lawyer exclusively in Family Law since 1997. Prior to coming to the Bar in 2006, Michele was a partner at Harwood Andrews Lawyers, based in Melbourne and Geelong. Michele worked as a family law solicitor for 10 years prior to being called to the Bar, during which time she regularly appeared as a solicitor advocate. Since 2006, Michele has been a Barrister specialising in family law.

Michele has expertise in all areas of family law litigation. Michele accepts briefs to appear in Court Hearings, Mediations (as Mediator and Counsel/advocate), to prepare Advices, draft Documents and Confer/Advise with clients and solicitors in a wide range of family law matters.

Michele is a Nationally Accredited Mediator (NMAS) with a special interest in Alternative Dispute Resolution in family law. Michele is also a Victorian Bar Accredited Advanced Mediator (VBAM). She is frequently appointed as a court-ordered Mediator to assist parties in resolving their Family Law disputes.

As a family lawyer, litigator, mediator and arbitrator, Michele has 28 years' experience working with people going through a most difficult time in their lives. She is passionate about using her expertise to assist parties to resolve their disputes in a dignified and timely way, and to avoid the stress and cost of unnecessarily prolonged litigation.

## CATH DEVINE

*Presenting On*

### Companion Animals – Whose; When and How?



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Cath Devine has extensive experience in all areas of Family Law, with a particular interest and expertise in Child Support advice and advocacy. Cath has appeared as junior counsel and on appeal on numerous occasions.

Cath has a reputation as a fearless and forceful advocate for her clients, and also on behalf of children when she appears as Counsel for the Independent Children's Lawyer.

Cath is a qualified mediator and arbitrator. Cath has been an Adjunct Lecturer in the Masters of Laws program at the College of Law.

Cath's new book, "A Practical Guide to Child Support" is available at [Devine's Guide](#).

#### PRACTICE AREAS

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Family Law and Guardianship
- Appellate

## SARAH DAMON

*Presenting On*

### Navigating Property Settlements in the Shadow of Family Violence



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#### PRACTICE AREAS

- Family Law and Guardianship
- Domestic and Family Violence

Sarah is an Advocate with experience in family law and related jurisdictions.

She has practised exclusively in family law since her admission. Sarah accepts briefs to appear in both local, regional and interstate courts in all areas of family law/ de facto jurisdictions and Intervention Order matters.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Sarah worked at a boutique family law firm in Melbourne. She has experience in complex parenting matters, involving issues including relocation, overseas travel, family violence, criminal prosecutions, children with special needs and sexual abuse allegations.

Sarah regularly appears on behalf of the Independent Children's Lawyer. She has also worked on various property matters involving issues including business structures, trusts and insurance payouts. She also appears in the appellate division of the Federal Circuit and Family

Sarah also has experience in Intervention Order matters and Contraventions of Intervention Orders. Sarah has undertaken specialist family violence training during her time as a solicitor and completed a thesis at university titled "Walking the Talk: The failure of Victoria to reduce family violence since the enactment of the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic)."

Sarah appears regularly in the Federal Circuit and Family Court and the Magistrates' Court.

Sarah read with Her Honour Judge Caroline Jenkins and her Senior Mentor was Minal Vohra S.C.



# MARCUS DUCKETT

*Presenting On*

## Applying for Costs: How to get your Calderbank in the Bank



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### PRACTICE AREAS

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Family Law and Guardianship
- Domestic and Family Violence

Marcus Specialising in Family Law, he appears in the Family Law Courts and associated jurisdictions. Marcus regularly appears at Interim and Final Hearings in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.

Marcus handles matters involving both parenting and financial orders. Issues often dealt with are the fair division of assets, best interests of the children, appropriate spend time arrangements, asset/business valuations, family violence and de facto disputes.

Over the past two decades of practising in Family Law, Marcus has represented many clients at all stages of proceedings including Mediations, Interim Applications and Final Hearings.

In addition to court appearances Marcus is able to provide both written and oral advice and draft necessary court documents such as detailed Orders sought in Applications and Outlines of Case.

Marcus has represented clients at hundreds of Mediations as part of family law proceedings. In mid 2020 he became a Nationally Accredited Mediator with AIFLAM.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Marcus worked for two years as an Associate to a County Court Judge. In Marcus' first years at the Bar he ran numerous criminal trials in the County Court and conviction/sentence Appeals in the Court of Appeal. However, his practice has now evolved to being appearances in the Family Law Courts.

# ENGAGING A FOLEY'S LIST BARRISTER

Foley's List clerks are highly regarded for their expertise, experience and recommendations across all areas of practice: advising practitioners on the most appropriately skilled advocate, litigator or mediator to suit the client and the situation.

To engage a **Foley's List barrister**, please telephone a member of our clerking team

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## AFTER HOURS

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