

# 2026 FOLEY'S FEBRUARY

## CRIMINAL LAW CPD SERIES

UP TO  
**5 CPD**  
POINTS

FROM 29 JAN TO 19 FEB 2026

NEIL MCPHEE ROOM - LEVEL 1, OWEN DIXON CHAMBERS, 205 WILLIAM ST

### THURSDAY, 29 JANUARY 2026

### SPEAKERS

1. Should you give a damn about a bad reputation? Character evidence under the Uniform Evidence Acts  
Michael Stanton SC, Heather Anderson, Vincent Vuu, Christina Gómez Vázquez

### THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2026

### SPEAKERS

2. Avoiding a wreck in Court – a crash course in dealing with expert evidence in serious motor vehicle collision cases  
Peter Chadwick KC, Hayden Rattray, Nicole Menegas, Rory Hudson

### THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026

### SPEAKERS

3. Committals and s198B Hearings – A new approach  
Philip Dunn KC, Michael McGrath, Candice Jackson, Tom Smedley

### TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2026

### SPEAKERS

4. Prompts, pitfalls and digital due diligence in the use of AI  
Peter Matthews SC, Simon Thomas, Olivia Kefford, Lauren Gurry

### THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2026

### SPEAKERS

5. Recent Cases in the Court of Appeal  
Paul Holdenson KC & Jack O'Connor

## MICHAEL STANTON SC



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Michael has a broad practice in public and criminal law, with a focus on appellate work and inquiries.

He has appeared in the High Court, in conviction and sentence appeals before the Court of Appeal, and in Royal Commissions and inquests.

Michael has a particular interest in the operation and effect of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic).

## HEATHER ANDERSON



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Heather is a criminal defence barrister with extensive experience in criminal law in Victoria, and Western Australia. Heather holds a current Indictable Crime Certificate and is on Victoria Legal Aid's Preferred Barrister List.

Heather is experienced in all types of matters including family violence, sexual offences, assaults and fraud. She is an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law with the Law Institute of Victoria in 2018. Heather was selected to participate in the 2022/2023 Victoria Legal Aid Trial Counsel Development Program.

## VINCENT VUU



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Vincent accepts briefs to advise and appear in criminal and quasi-criminal matters.

He is regularly briefed to appear in contested hearings, committals, bail applications and pleas in all Victorian criminal courts.

Vincent came to the Bar after five years of practice at Victoria Legal Aid.

He speaks Vietnamese.

## CHRISTINA GÓMEZ VÁZQUEZ



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Christina accepts briefs in all criminal matters, including quasi-criminal, administrative, regulatory and disciplinary matters, coronial inquests or investigative matters, and appeals across all metropolitan and regional courts.

Christina has appeared for the defence in summary and indictable crime matters at all stages, in the Magistrates', Children's, County and Supreme Courts (including in the Koori Court divisions and other specialist lists), including bail applications, pleas, committals, contested summary hearings and appeals.

## PETER CHADWICK KC



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Peter is a King's Counsel practising in Victoria and other Australian jurisdictions in all criminal law, coronial inquests and professional disciplinary tribunals.

He has appeared extensively in criminal trials, pleas, appeals and bail applications in the Supreme Court, County Court and District Courts across Australia.

He has appeared in appellate matters before the Court of Appeal in Victoria and Western Australia.

## HAYDEN RATTRAY



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Hayden is a criminal defence barrister. He represents accused people in criminal matters in every Court in Victoria.

He also accepts briefs in all states and territories of Australia and in New Zealand.

He has run more than 50 criminal jury trials including trials in the Supreme Court and the County Court of Victoria. He has appeared in hundreds of bail applications from the Magistrates Court through to the Supreme Court of Victoria and in the Local, District and Supreme Court in New South Wales.

## NICOLE MENEGAS



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Nicole is an experienced advocate who practices across all areas of criminal and quasi-criminal law.

Since coming to the bar, Nicole has regularly appeared in both summary and indictable crime matters in all Victorian Courts. She appears daily in contested hearings, bail applications, pleas, committals, appeals, contraventions and supervision order proceedings.

## RORY HUDSON



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Rory practises primarily in criminal law and intervention orders, with experience in family law.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Rory had a decade of experience across the community sector; with roles at Victoria Legal Aid and a Community Legal Centre, where he held management positions.

Rory appears in all state and federal courts. He has extensive experience in contests, bail hearings, and committals. He also has a focus on therapeutic outcomes, including matters in the Drug Court and the Assessment and Referral Court (ARC).

## PHILIP DUNN KC



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Philip is an experienced trial advocate who has conducted trials and pleas for forty years.

Philip is based at Crockett Chambers in Melbourne but regularly appears in all states in Australia.

As a trial lawyer he conducts defences in all types of criminal matters; notably murder, conspiracy, corporate and tax fraud and, drug and sex offences. In addition, Philip has appeared in many Royal Commissions, inquests and sports law matters.

## MICHAEL MCGRATH



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Michael was admitted to practice in 2000 and signed the Bar Roll in 2005. Since coming to the Bar, Michael has appeared regularly in trials. He has been selected as a member of the Victoria Legal Aid Criminal Trial Preferred Barrister List.

In 2001, Michael left for London where he worked in criminal law. In 2003, he worked at Rob Melasecca's office as a Solicitor Advocate appearing in contested summary matters, County Court appeals, Committals, Bail Applications and pleas in the Magistrates and County Courts.

## CANDICE JACKSON



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Candice accepts briefs in all areas of criminal and quasi-criminal law and public and administrative law.

She has experience in the Magistrates' Court, County Court, Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Coroners Court, VCAT and in Inquests.

Prior to joining the Bar, Candice was a solicitor advocate at a private criminal defence firm, providing advice and representation to clients in a broad range of State and Commonwealth criminal matters, including serious indictable offences.

## TOM SMEDLEY



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Tom accepts briefs in criminal and quasi-criminal matters.

Before coming to the Bar, Tom was a Trial Advocate at Legal Aid NT. He regularly appeared in the Local and Supreme Courts in pleas, bail applications, contested hearings and mental impairment matters.

He was previously an Associate at Slades & Parsons (Victoria), managing serious indictable matters including sexual offences, drug charges and violent crime. In this role, Tom frequently appeared in the Magistrates', Children's and County Courts.

## PETER MATTHEWS SC



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Peter is an experienced trial and appellate advocate, practicing in criminal law, administrative law, disciplinary and licensing law and in coronial inquests and coercive inquiries.

His criminal law practice encompasses all criminal proceedings and related proceedings, including jury trials in the County and Supreme Courts and appeals in the Court of Appeal and High Court. He holds an Indictable Crime Certificate, and is on the Victoria Legal Aid Preferred Trial Counsel List.

## SIMON THOMAS



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Simon has a broad practice with a particular focus on criminal, administrative, and regulatory matters. He has 17 years of experience advising on and appearing in proceedings before Victorian and international courts and tribunals.

Simon has defended and prosecuted criminal, disciplinary and regulatory proceedings, including in relation to allegations of corruption, fraud, and corporate crime. He has appeared unled in the Supreme Courts of Victoria, New South Wales, and the Northern Territory, and with a leader in the appellate jurisdictions of those Courts.

## OLIVIA KEFFORD



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Olivia is an experienced advocate who accepts briefs in commercial, public, and criminal law matters. She has a broad regulatory practice, with a focus on:

- matters involving the Corporations Act, including white collar crime;
- competition and consumer law;
- disciplinary and professional misconduct proceedings; and
- civil and criminal regulatory contraventions.

She also acts in merits and judicial review proceedings, including migration matters.

## LAUREN GURRY



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Lauren is an accomplished advocate who has a broad practice in criminal law and public law.

She appears in state and federal criminal and quasi-criminal matters, both for prosecution and defence, and also accepts briefs in regulatory and enforcement proceedings, disciplinary matters and inquests and inquiries.

Lauren has appeared unled in a number of jury trials in the County Court and as junior counsel in trials in the County Court and Supreme Court.

## PAUL HOLDENSON KC



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### AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Appellate
- Criminal Law
- Inquests, Inquiries, Tribunals & Commissions
- Public Law & Administrative Law

Paul Holdenson K.C.(LL.B. (Hons.), B.Ed. (Accounting), Dip.Crim., Dip. Math. Sci.) was admitted in Victoria and signed the Bar Roll in 1989. He is also admitted to practice in N.T, N.S.W., Tasmania and W.A. Paul was appointed one of His Majesty's Counsel in 1998. He was accredited as a mediator in 1995.

Paul has developed a specialist practice as an appellate advocate, appearing predominantly in criminal appeals. He regularly appears before the Victorian Court of Appeal, the High Court of Australia and interstate appellate courts, including Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania.

His practice also involves appearances in first instance matters in the Federal, Supreme and County Courts, and the provision of written opinions. Paul also regularly advises and appears for both private clients and government agencies in a wide range of regulatory and quasi-criminal matters.

## JACK O'CONNOR



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### AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Appellate
- Commercial Law
- Criminal Law
- Inquests, Inquiries, Tribunals & Commissions
- Public Law & Administrative Law

Jack practises in criminal law (particularly appellate), regulatory prosecutions and civil penalty proceedings, public and administrative law (including judicial review matters relating to criminal prosecutions), and commercial law.

He appears regularly in the Court of Appeal, both led and unled, on appeals against conviction and sentence. He regularly advises on issues of statutory interpretation.

Recent matters include:

- DZY (a pseudonym) v Trustees of the Christian Brothers [2025] HCA 15 (led by G Boas, with E Kelly);
- Moore (a pseudonym) v The King [2024] HCA 30 (led by B Kissane KC);
- Stephens v The Queen (2022) 96 ALJR 871 (led by O P Holdenson KC);
- DPP Reference No 1 of 2017 [2019] HCA 9; (2019) 364 ALR 407 (led by O P Holdenson KC);
- KMC v DPP (SA) (2020) 267 CLR 480 (led by K Walker QC S-G) (written submissions on constitutional question)