



IPTA

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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ADELAIDE - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Conference Sponsors



Story behind the 2026 Conference Logo

The IPTA 2026 logo brings our conference theme of Innovation, Indulgence and Inspiration to life. The wine barrel frame celebrates Adelaide's indulgent wine and gourmet culture, while vine branches suggest growth, renewal and creative progression. At the centre, St Peter's Cathedral, the Piping Shrike and the Sturt Desert Pea highlight South Australia's heritage and natural beauty. The rolling hills evoke the region's wine country and autumn landscape, symbolising both inspiration and the innovative spirit that drives our profession forward.



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Invitation

Join Us for IPTA 2026 Annual Conference in Adelaide!



Dear IPTA Members and Friends

I am delighted to invite you to the 2026 Annual Conference which will be held in the city of Adelaide, SA, at the Hilton Hotel from **Wednesday 18 March to Friday 20 March 2026**. During the conference, we will also hold the 107th Annual General Meeting on Thursday 19 March.

The traditional custodians of the Adelaide region are the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains. The Kaurna people have a deep and enduring spiritual connection to the land, managing it through practices like cultural burning and understanding its resources for thousands of years before European settlement. In the Adelaide Hills, the Peramangk people are also recognised as Traditional Custodians, sharing the area with the Kaurna.

The last time the IPTA conference was held in Adelaide was 2015 and it will be great to go back and enjoy all the wonderful things that Adelaide has to offer.

The IPTA Secretariat and the Annual Conference Sub-Committee have put every effort into making IPTA 2026 an unforgettable and remarkable experience. The business program will have sessions from key-note speakers including Christopher Chaudoir from Chevron Corporation and Belinda Slattery from Chanel.

From a social perspective, we've planned some fantastic events:

- Welcome Reception Dinner at Bird in Hand.
- Annual Dinner on Thursday evening at Mt Lofty House in the Adelaide Hills.
- A relaxed, social Friday Night Party at Station Road.

While all business sessions and social events are included in the full delegate registration fee, day registrations are also available for those unable to attend the entire conference. Additionally, YIPTA, 70+ year members, and IPTA Past Presidents will enjoy discounted registration fees. Our annual conference is organised entirely by the IPTA Secretariat and the Annual Conference Sub-Committee, all of whom volunteer their time to ensure you have an outstanding conference experience, offering great value for money.

As per the Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Board (TTIPAB) guidelines, patent and trademark attorneys attending the conference can claim one hour of CPE for each hour of business sessions they attend, allowing for a total of approximately 17 hours of CPE based on the business program.

The deadline for the conference registration is **4 March 2026**. Online registration and the first edition of the program and limited discounted accommodation rates are now available on the [IPTA website](#).

I very much hope you can join us for what promises to be an extraordinary event and look forward to reconnecting with you all in Adelaide!

Kind Regards
John Landells
IPTA President



Venue

Accommodation and Business Sessions, Hilton Adelaide

Hilton Adelaide

233 Victoria Square
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Hilton Adelaide overlooks Victoria Square in the heart of Adelaide's entertainment and shopping district. Hilton Adelaide is under 500 meters from local attractions like the Central Market and Chinatown, and two kilometers from Adelaide Botanic Gardens and the University of Adelaide. Take a relaxing dip in their heated outdoor pool or visit their wine cellar with over 500 labels.

Accommodation at the Hilton Adelaide

Hilton Adelaide

Accommodation Rates

Run of House \$230.00

Reservation Method

To book reservations please use the [Group Attendee Website](#) or book directly with the hotel.

To confirm a guest room assignment the Hilton Adelaide will require a credit card to secure the booking. This card will only be used to secure the booking and a card must be presented on arrival for full authorisation and payment. Cancellations within 30 days of arrival are chargeable for each night the room was reserved. If you owe the Hotel any performance or cancellation damages, the Hotel will retain any collected non-refundable fees and reserves its rights to claim the balance for any damages from you.

Additional Charges

The following additional charges will be added to the appropriate account should services be required:

Rollaway bed:	\$60.00 per day
Minibar Removal:	\$20.00
Valet parking:	\$55.00 per day (24-hour period) Subject to State Government restrictions

Cut-off Date

Reservations by attendees must be received on or before the **18 February 2026**. After the Cut-Off Date, Hilton Adelaide will determine whether it can accept reservations based on a space- and rate-available basis at the IPTA group rate after this date.

Breakfast

Breakfast is available at \$30.00 per person.

IPTA Corporate, YIPTA and Small Firm Practitioner's Friday Breakfast Events.

The cost for the IPTA Corporate, YIPTA and Small Firm Practitioner's Friday breakfast events will be incorporated into the registration fees but registration of attendance is essential.



General Information

Climate

It's hard not to love a South Australian autumn. As the locals' second favourite season, autumn brings about cooler and cosier days, plus beautiful colour around the city with the trees transforming into an array of colours. The average temperature experienced by the city is about 25°C during this time of the month, with highs and lows at about 30°C and 11°C respectively.

Average max temp: 26.0°C
Average min temp: 15.0°C

Dress Recommendations

It's generally advisable to pack layers, especially if visiting during cooler months or evenings. Comfortable walking shoes are also a must, as Adelaide is a walkable city. For sunnier days, don't forget sunscreen and a hat.

Business Sessions: Smart casual
Informal Dinners: Smart casual
Annual Dinner: "Bring your Bling"

Conference App

To make the most of your attendance we have a dedicated Conference app to enhance your event experience and keep you up-to-date with the latest news and announcements.

WiFi Access

WiFi access is free. You will be provided with the password when checking in.

Name Badges

Name badges must be worn in all function areas.

Registered Full Delegates

White badge

Registered Accompanying Persons

Red stripe

Registered Day Delegates

Yellow stripe

Councillors

Purple stripe

Speakers

Green stripe

Guests for Additional Functions

Blue stripe

Dietary and other requirements

Requests for special dietary and other requirements will be passed on to venue managers. For meals, please identify yourself to the catering staff.



Registration

Fees

(Deadline is 4 March 2026)

	Before Deadline	After Deadline
Full Delegate Package – IPTA Member	\$1,925	\$2,125
Full Delegate Package – Non-Member	\$2,425	\$2,625
Day Registration Wednesday, Thursday or Friday – IPTA Member	\$770/day	\$970/day
Day Registration Wednesday, Thursday or Friday – Non-Member	\$880/day	\$1,130/day
Accompanying Person Package	\$660	\$760
Full Delegate Package – Registered for < 5 years - IPTA Member	\$1350	\$1550
Full Delegate Package – Registered at 70+ years/Past Presidents	\$1525	\$1725

Additional tickets (for guests NOT REGISTERED as a Full Delegate or Accompanying Person):

Wednesday:	Welcome Reception Dinner at Bird in Hand	\$240
Thursday:	Annual Dinner at Mount Lofty House	\$240
Friday:	Party Night Dinner at Station Road	\$220

Cost for activities included in the registration fee

Breakfast Session for Corporate Members	Included in registration
Breakfast Session for YIPTA Members	Included in registration
Breakfast Session for Small Firm Practitioners	Included in registration

Registration Packages

Full Delegate Package: Includes business sessions, lunches, evening functions and hospitality suite.

Accompanying Persons Package: Includes evening functions and hospitality suite.

(Please note that accompanying persons who do not register for the Accompanying Persons package may register to attend the dinners and post conference activities.)

Day Delegate Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: Includes business sessions, lunch, morning and afternoon tea. (Day Delegates may register for dinners and post conference activities.)

Registration and Accommodation deadline

Accommodation at the conference rate is limited. There are no guarantees accommodation will be available after the deadline of **18 February 2026** or that accommodation will be available at the conference rate.

Registration deadline is **4 March 2026**.

Registration Cancellations

Cancellations for registrations must be notified in writing to mail@ipta.org.au. Registration fees for cancellations received after **4 March 2026** will not be refunded.

Registration Desk/Secretariat

The IPTA Secretariat will be in **Suite 3** and the registration desk will be in the **Ball Galley**.

Tours & Activities

Included Social Program

WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH

Buffet Lunch

1.00pm-2.00pm

Hilton Adelaide – Ball Gallery

YIPTA Social Drinks

5.00pm-6.00pm

Hilton Adelaide Collins Bar

Corporate Social Drinks

5.00pm-6.00pm

Hilton Adelaide Lobby Bar

Welcome Reception Dinner

7.00pm-10.30pm

Bird in Hand
150 Pfeiffer Road
Woodside SA 5244

Coaches depart at 6.30pm from the Hilton Adelaide.

BIRD IN HAND

Bird in Hand is a family-owned winery established in 1997 in the Adelaide Hills wine region of South Australia. With a passion for sustainable, cool-climate winemaking, Bird in Hand also has a commitment to bespoke experiences, social advocacy and contemporary arts. Expanding beyond the Adelaide Hills into Tasmania, Bird in Hand now produces globally recognised cool-climate wines across four series, each representing a unique aspect of its craftsmanship and dedication to quality. The Woodside Estate in the Adelaide Hills is home to the Bird in Hand Cellar Door, LVN Restaurant, the 'O' Quarters luxury private accommodation as well as breathtaking gardens – which were awarded South Australian 'Garden of the Year' in 2024.

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH

Buffet Lunch

1.00pm-2.00pm

Hilton Adelaide – Ball Gallery

Annual Dinner

7.00pm-10.30pm

Mt Lofty House
1 Mawson Drive
Crafers SA 5152

Coaches depart at 6.30pm from the Hilton Adelaide.

MOUNT LOFTY HOUSE

Mount Lofty House was built in 1852 by prominent statesman Arthur Hardy as his summer house. Arthur Hardy is reminiscent of a South Australian Jay Gatsby; indeed his wife Martha described their lifestyle as 'a kind of feudal splendour'. Their beautiful manor soon became the state's premier address for lavish and infamous parties for Adelaide's elite of the day. From such lofty beginnings the manor was passed through a number of South Australian families, including a period as commune in the 1970s. In the disastrous 1983 fires of Ash Wednesday Mount Lofty House was burnt to the ground before rising from the ashes like a phoenix to truly become one of South Australia's great icons.

Dress Recommendation

"Bring your Bling"

As a playful nod to our theme of indulgence, we invite delegates to bring your bling and embrace the spirit of the event. Add a little sparkle to your outfit, be it subtle or bold. Our event pin has been designed with a touch of sparkle too, to help get you in the mood.

**Hosts: Mark Roberts and Noeleen Treloar,
IPTA Councillors**



FRIDAY, 20 MARCH

Corporate Members Breakfast

7.15am – 8.30am

Hilton Adelaide (Balcony 1)

YIPTA Members Breakfast

7.15am – 8.30am

Hilton Adelaide (Balcony 2)

Small Firm Practitioners Breakfast

7.15am – 8.30am

Hilton Adelaide (Balcony 3)

Buffet Lunch

12.30pm–1.30pm

Hilton Adelaide – Ball Gallery

Party Night

7.00pm - 11.00pm

Station Road
Festival Tower, Adelaide 5000

Coaches depart at 6.30pm from the Hilton Adelaide.

STATION ROAD

Station Road pride themselves on delivering a versatile range of bespoke options for functions and events. From intimate presentations to large- scale, full-venue sit-down dinners. Station Road provides a selection of private and semi-private spaces. Food offerings range from curated canape packages to shared style sit-down meals and multi-course individually plated dinners. Across all Station Road's spaces and offerings, one thing remains consistent: their commitment to delivering top-shelf, flawlessly executed events that go above and beyond expectations.

Hospitality Lounge

From 10.30pm–12.00am

Hilton Adelaide – Collins Bar

Wednesday and Thursday (non-exclusive use)
Arm bands will be issued for every night. To be collected at registration desk upon arrival.

Name Tags and arm bands must be worn at all times.

Optional Social Program

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH

Annual Fun Run & Walk

7.00am - 8.00am

SATURDAY, 21 MARCH

Bush Walking and lunch at winery

We are finalising details for an optional Saturday walk. Please register your interest on the registration form, and we'll share updates closer to the conference.



Collins Bar

Program

TUESDAY, 17 MARCH

Social sporting event	Details will be provided closer to the conference	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Buffet Lunch <i>Ball Gallery</i>
2.00pm - 5.00pm	Registration – Ball Gallery <i>(Secretariat – Suite 3)</i>	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Topic: Training with trains: a new way to do your section 44 issue spotting – and to teach others how SPEAKER: Joel Masterson IP LAWYER/PARTNER, BY GEORGE LEGAL CHAIR: Andrew Jones IPTA COUNCILLOR, JONES MAXWELL SMITH & DAVIS
8.00am - 5.00pm	Registration – Ball Gallery <i>(Secretariat – Suite 3)</i> Business Sessions <i>Grand Ballroom</i>		
8.55am - 9.00am	Opening of Conference by John Landells, IPTA President	3:00pm - 3.30pm	Topic: Malcolm Royal Session Trade Marks SPEAKER Speaker pending CHAIR: Annabella Newton IPTA COUNCILLOR, PHILLIPS ORMONDE FITZPATRICK
9:00am - 10:00am	Topic: Session title pending SPEAKER: Christopher Chaudoir CHEVRON CORPORATION CHAIR: Ian Drew IPTA COUNCILLOR, DAVIES COLLISON CAVE		
10:00am - 11:00am	Topic: Mapping Value: Integrating Geographical Indications into Australia's IP and Branding Frameworks SPEAKER: Dr Paula Zito SENIOR LECTURER IN LAW, ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY CHAIR: Megan Ryder IPTA COUNCILLOR, MADDERN'S	3.30pm - 3.45pm	Afternoon Tea <i>Ball Gallery</i>
		3.45pm - 4.45pm	Topic: New Zealand Update SPEAKER: Clive Elliott KC SHORTLAND CHAMBERS, NZ CHAIR: Nicholas Butera IPTA TRADE MARK SUBCOMMITTEE, DAVIES COLLISON CAVE
		5.00pm - 6.00pm	YIPTA Social drinks <i>Hilton Adelaide Collins Bar</i>
		5.00pm - 6.00pm	Corporate Social drinks <i>Hilton Adelaide Lobby Bar</i>
11:00am - 11:30am	Morning Tea <i>Ball Gallery</i>	6.00pm - 7.00pm	Past Presidents' Reception at LVN Bird in Hand <i>(by invitation only)</i>
11.30pm - 1.00pm	Topic: Trade Mark Update SPEAKER: Ed Heerey KC NSW BAR CHAIR: Jennifer McEwan IPTA IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, DAVIES COLLISON CAVE	7.00pm - 10.30pm	Welcome Reception Dinner at Bird in Hand <i>Coaches depart at 6.30pm from Hilton Adelaide</i>
		10.30pm - 12.00am	Hospitality Lounge <i>Hilton Adelaide, Collins Bar</i>

WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH

THURSDAY, 19 MARCH

7.00am - 8.00am	Annual Fun Run and Walk	2.00pm - 3:15pm	Topic: Session title pending PANEL: Christopher Chaudoir CHEVRON CORPORATION, SENIOR COUNSEL, USA Dr Mitchell Adams SENIOR LECTURER, SWINBURNE LAW SCHOOL Fiona McLay PRINCIPAL CONSULTING MCLAY LEGAL CONSULTING CHAIR: Ian Lindsay IPTA COUNCILLOR, ALLENS
8.00am - 5.00pm	Registration – Ball Gallery <i>(Secretariat – Suite 3)</i> Business Sessions <i>Grand Ballroom</i>		
9.00am - 10:00am	IPTA Annual General Meeting		
10.00am - 10.30am	Morning Tea <i>Ball Gallery</i>		
10:30am - 11:00am	Topic: Session title pending SPEAKER: Michael Schwager DIRECTOR GENERAL, IP AUSTRALIA CHAIR: John Landells IPTA PRESIDENT, FB RICE	3:15pm - 3:45pm	Topic: Outcomes of the TTIPAB competencies review SPEAKER: Belinda Hartmann, UNIQUEST CHAIR: Anthony Alder IPTA COUNCILLOR, ALDER IP
11:00am - 12.00pm	Topic: Ethics SPEAKERS: Prof. Andrew Christie UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, Matthew Harvey KC, VICTORIAN BAR CHAIR: Tony Davis, IPTA Councillor, RNB IP	3.45pm - 4.00pm	Afternoon Tea Ball Gallery
		4:00 pm - 5:00pm	Topic: Dupes PANEL: Belinda Slattery SENIOR IP COUNSEL, CHANEL Other Industry representatives CHAIR: Jennifer McEwan IPTA IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, DAVIES COLLISON CAVE
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Topic: What do in-house attorneys do? PANEL: Belinda Hartmann UNIQUEST, Rebecca McCrackan RIO TINTO, Ben Pitt BBOX MODERATOR: Evelyn Body XERO CHAIR: Claire Gregg IPTA VICE PRESIDENT	7.00pm - 10.30pm	Annual Dinner <i>Mt Lofty House – Piccadilly Panorama venue Coaches depart at 6.30pm</i> HOSTS: Mark Roberts and Noelene Treloar IPTA COUNCILLORS
1.00pm - 2.00pm	Buffet Lunch <i>Ball Gallery</i>	10.30pm - 12.00am	Hospitality Lounge <i>Hilton Adelaide Collins Bar</i>

FRIDAY, 20 MARCH

7.15am - 8.30am	(i) Corporate Members Breakfast and Presentation <i>(Balcony 1)</i> Topic: Session title pending SPEAKER: Speaker pending CHAIR: Ian Lindsay IPTA COUNCILLOR, ALLENS	10:00am - 11:00am	Topic: Support, sufficiency and the forgotten ground of clarity - case studies SPEAKER: Katrina Howard, SC 9 SELBORNE CHAMBERS CHAIR: Mark Roberts IPTA COUNCILLOR, SPRUSON & FERGUSON	2:30pm - 3.00pm	Topic: Malcolm Royal Session Patents SPEAKER: Speaker pending CHAIR: Kerry Dick IPTA COUNCILLOR, GRIFFITH HACK	4:45pm - 4.50pm	Closing of Conference by John Landells, IPTA President
7.15am - 8.30am	(ii) YIPTA Members Breakfast and Presentation <i>(Balcony 2)</i> Topic: Session title pending SPEAKER: Speaker pending CHAIR: Annabella Newton IPTA COUNCILLOR, PHILLIPS ORMONDE FITZPATRICK	11:00am - 11:30am	Morning Tea <i>Ball Gallery</i>	3.00pm - 3.15pm	Afternoon Tea <i>Ball Gallery</i>	7.00pm - 11.00pm	Party Night at Station Road, Adelaide <i>Coaches depart at 6.30pm</i>
7.15am - 8.30am	(iii) Small Firm Practitioners Members Breakfast and Presentation <i>(Balcony 3)</i> Topic: Session title pending SPEAKER: IP Australia representative CHAIR: Andrew Jones IPTA COUNCILLOR, JONES MAXWELL SMITH & DAVIS	11:30am - 12.30pm	Topic: Session title pending SPEAKER: Wanhuida Intellectual Property representative CHAIR: Noelene Treloar IPTA COUNCILLOR, ADRIAN M TRIOLI INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	3.15pm - 4.45pm	Topic: Australian Patent Update SPEAKERS: Ian Horak KC VICTORIAN BAR Lucy E Davis VICTORIAN BAR CHAIR: Philip Gehrig, IPTA COUNCILLOR	11.00pm - 12.00am	Hospitality Lounge <i>Hilton Adelaide, Collins Bar</i>
8.00am - 5.00pm	Registration – Ball Gallery <i>(Secretariat – Suite 3)</i> Business Sessions <i>Grand Ballroom</i>	12:30pm - 1.30pm	Buffet Lunch <i>Ball Gallery</i>				
9:00am - 10:00am	Topic: The person skilled in the art: the origin and ascent of the species in Australian patent law SPEAKER: Hon. David Yates SC, 5 Wentworth Chambers CHAIR: Grant Shoebridge IPTA VICE PRESIDENT, WRAYS	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Topic: Update your tactics for Patent Litigation – underused procedural and evidentiary based tools for patentees and market entrants SPEAKER: Kate Donald CORRS CHAMBERS WESTGARTH CHAIR: Prue Cowin IPTA COUNCILLOR, FB RICE				



Speakers



Dr Mitchell Adams

Mitchell is a Senior Lecturer and Deputy Department Chair at Swinburne Law School. He specialises in the intersection of law and technology and is an expert in intellectual property law, legal tech, and legal design.



Mitchell is also the director of the Legal Tech and Design Clinics at Swinburne Law School and was recently a Centre for Legal Innovation Distinguished Fellow, investigating the use of generative AI in legal practice.

Evelyn Body

Evelyn is the General Manager of Intellectual Property and AI Governance at Xero, where she leads strategic IP initiatives at the intersection of law, business, and technology. With qualifications as a lawyer and patent attorney, and an MBA, she brings a multifaceted approach to commercialization and innovation.



Evelyn previously served as Director of Commercialization at Auckland UniServices, contributing to major spin-outs like Soul Machines and SapVax LLC. Her career spans roles in a range of organizations including start-ups, crown research institutes, as well as professional services firms.

Christopher Chaudoir

Chris is Senior Counsel at Chevron Corporation in San Ramon, California, where he leads the Trademark, Copyright, Advertising and Digital group in the Intellectual Property Law Practice since August 2010. Chris, along with the trademark and copyright group, is responsible for the prosecution, preservation, licensing and enforcement of Chevron's intellectual property, including trademarks, copyrights and domain names. Prior to joining Chevron, Chris was Of Counsel at the Los Angeles offices of Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP and Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, where he practiced in their intellectual property and litigation practice groups.



Prof Andrew F Christie

Andrew was appointed the foundation Chair of Intellectual Property at Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, in 2002. He has degrees in Science and in Law from the University of Melbourne, an LLM from the University of London, and a PhD from the University of Cambridge. Admitted to legal practice in Australia and the United Kingdom, he worked for many years in the IP departments of law firms in Melbourne and London. He is a former Fulbright Senior Scholar, and has held appointments at the University of Cambridge, Duke University, the National University of Singapore, and the University of Toronto. From 2022-2025, he was Chair of the Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Board.



Lucy Davis

Lucy is a barrister at the Victorian Bar specialising in intellectual property law. In addition to her legal qualification, she holds a Bachelor of Science. Lucy has advised and appeared in a range of disputes including in the Federal Courts, the High Court and the Patent and Trade Marks Office. Her work has involved advice on substantive rights, intellectual property management, preliminary dispute resolution, initiating proceedings, preparation of evidence and appearing in proceedings. Her recent matters have included opposition proceedings, patent preliminary discovery, infringement and invalidity proceedings in the Federal Court as well as matters protecting clients' intellectual property rights and defending clients against allegations of infringements of trade mark, designs and copyright.



Kate Donald

Kate specialises in the field of intellectual property, especially patent litigation, including oppositions.

She has advised on a number of high-stakes, industry-changing legal disputes and has a record of success in patent cases involving a broad range of technologies including biologic therapeutics, synthetic compounds, vaccines, genetics, medical devices, FMCG, encrypted technology, mining and green energy.

Kate has worked in Australia and the United Kingdom for global organisations and is familiar with patent law and practice internationally. The vast majority of Kate's clients are multinational companies running parallel proceedings in the United States, United Kingdom, Europe and Asia.

Kate has tertiary degrees in chemistry and molecular biology and has studied in Australia and the United States. Kate has also conducted research in industry as an inventor, having developed a nano-particulate formulation to protect plants from overexposure to the sun (a plant "sunscreens").



Clive Elliott KC

Clive is a barrister and arbitrator. He is ranked by Chambers and Partners as "one of New Zealand's leading IP silks" with a "particular flare when it comes to handling especially complex matters". Clive is a fellow of the Arbitrators and Mediators Institute of New Zealand and a panel member of the Institute's IP list.

Clive is a former President of the New Zealand Bar Association. He is a past council member of the Legal Practice Division of the International Bar Association (IBA), a past chair of the Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law Committee of the IBA and a past president of IPSANZ. He was also convenor of the Intellectual Property Committee of the New Zealand Law Society.

He is a co-author of the Lexis Nexis loose-leaf texts: Copyright and Design; and Patents and Trade Marks. He is a frequent writer and commentator on IP and information technology issues and is a member of the Editorial Board of the Intellectual Property Forum. He is named in the International Who's Who of Patent Lawyers, the International Who's Who of Internet & E-Commerce Lawyers and the World Trademark Review's World's Leading Trademark Professionals.



Dr Belinda Hartmann

Belinda is the Director of IP for UniQuest Pty Ltd, the commercialisation entity for the University of Queensland. Belinda's IP portfolio encompasses all registered IP rights filed by the University of Queensland and UniQuest, and is one of the most valuable IP portfolios in the Australian university sector. This has been a welcome return to UQ for Belinda, as her academic history is intrinsically linked to UQ and the St Lucia campus, having completed her PhD in Bioengineering and Biotechnology at the Australian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN), before taking on a Postdoctoral Fellowship at CSIRO in the Queensland Biosciences Precinct. Since leaving the bench, Belinda has qualified as an Australian and New Zealand patent attorney, working in some of Australia's largest IP firms, specialising in the drafting, prosecution and enforcement of life sciences inventions, with a focus on the pharma sector. Belinda is also currently serving as a Full member of the TTIPAB, where she has a leading role in the ongoing competencies review as a member of the TTIPAB Accreditation and Competencies Sub-Committee.



Matthew Harvey KC

Matthew is a barrister at the Victorian and NSW Bars. For over 25 years he has practised in commercial law, including in corporations, contract, insolvency, trusts and equity, and consumer law.

Matthew has also been briefed to advise on professional ethical matters for several years. He has acted in professional disciplinary hearings. He regularly advises IPTA on ethical issues.

After appearing as counsel assisting the Victorian Legal Admissions Committee, Matthew is now a member of the Committee, deciding whether applicants for admission to the legal profession are fit and proper.

Matthew is regularly recognised in the leading legal directories, including Best Lawyers, Doyle's Guide, Chambers & Partners, and Who's Who Legal. He is described as "excellent at getting to the heart of a complex matter and determining the key issues that will decide the case", "extremely good on his feet in court" and "confident and convincing when presenting an argument". His "experience acting in major commercial disputes" is well recognised.

Matthew regularly appears in the Federal and Supreme Courts.



Ed Heerey KC

Ed is a Senior Counsel admitted in Australia and New Zealand.

Ed mainly conducts trials and appeals in the Federal Court of Australia. He also appears in patent and trade mark opposition proceedings at IP Australia, in the Australian Copyright Tribunal and the Australian Competition Tribunal.

Ed is a registered Trade Marks Attorney and a Senior Fellow of the University of Melbourne Law School where he teaches in the post-graduate intellectual property programme.



Ian Horak KC

Ian is a King's Counsel at the Victorian Bar with over 20 years' experience in intellectual property practice. He is also registered as an Australian Patent and Trade Marks Attorney with a First Class Honours degree in Chemical Engineering. Ian practises exclusively in intellectual property matters primarily in matters concerning registered patent and trade mark rights. He regularly appears before the Federal Court of Australia in appeals and infringement actions and before IP Australia in oppositions. Ian is also a co-author of the seminal publication "Shanahan's Australian Trade Marks Law and Passing Off". He is the current President of the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand (IPSANZ) and he is also an active member of many other IP focused organisations including INTA, APAA and IPTA.



Katrina Howard SC

Katrina has practised as a patent barrister in Sydney for more than 25 years, including 15 years as Senior Counsel. She is also qualified to practise in the UK. She has a strong technical background in life sciences. In recent years, she has worked on multi-jurisdictional cases relating to pharmaceuticals, vaccines, antibodies, gene-editing, CAR T-cells and personalised cancer medicine, though she practises in all areas of technology. She has been internationally recognised, including recently being named as Patent Law Expert of the Year in Australia – 2025 by Lawyer Network Annual Awards, Patent Law Expert of the Year in Australia – 2026 by Corporate INTL Magazine Global Award, and in Lexology Index: Thought Leaders Global Elite 2026.



Joel Masterson

Joel is a Partner at By George Legal in Melbourne. He has been an IP lawyer for over 22 years. Prior to joining By George in 2019, Joel was a Partner of a full-service firm where he headed up the IP Department for several years. Joel has worked in-house with a prestigious medical research institute and at a Royal Commission. He is a registered trade marks attorney and holds a Masters of IP law. He is also a notary public.

Joel is an accomplished IP practitioner: he is fluent in the languages of trade marks, copyright, designs, patents and numerous aspects of consumer law. He has been consistently recognised in several ranking publications including the WTR1000.

He works with retailers, restaurateurs, media companies, beauty businesses and a large network of international attorneys who rely on By George Legal to take care of business in Australia and New Zealand. His work involves securing new brands, clearing a path for new products, signing good contracts, stopping infringements and settling disputes before they get out of hand. His favourite task is to bat away unwarranted IP claims made against his clients. He has an impressive track record of settling disputes before the details hit the public record.

The content of Joel's presentation at this conference will draw on his extensive experience with trade mark prosecution



Dr Rebecca McCrackan

Rebecca, Chief Counsel Innovation & Technology is a qualified patent attorney and legal innovation leader at Rio Tinto, where she leads a multidisciplinary team focused on managing Innovation & Technology from a legal and strategic perspective. Her role bridges law, science, and commercial strategy—ensuring that intellectual property, technology partnerships, and legal frameworks actively enable innovation across the business.

Rebecca has deep expertise in IP strategy, licensing, R&D collaboration, and joint venture governance, particularly in the context of emerging and transformative technologies. She plays a critical role in structuring complex legal arrangements that support Rio Tinto's global innovation agenda, including in areas such as low-carbon processing, AI-enabled exploration, and the integration of novel technologies through acquisition.



Fiona McLay

Fiona is the founder of McLay Legal Consulting and a legal tech author. She is a friendly face in the world of legal tech and helps lawyers make their firms more profitable and enjoyable places to work by harnessing the smart use of the right tech.



Her book, "Tech Enabled Lawyer" is jam-packed with practical insights and has been described as "the guide the industry has been crying out for".

With 25 years as a dispute resolution lawyer under her belt, Fiona has experienced big city firms, in-house, and smaller, more innovative firms. This journey has given her an insider's view of how different law firms use their tech - and how to help them do it better.

Fiona speaks at industry events, teaches at the College of Law, and is a Geeky Guru at the Centre for Legal Innovation. She is dedicated to implementing and teaching technology, believing small tech tweaks can make a huge difference. She loves showing lawyers who aren't into tech how a few small changes can make their work more efficient and more fun.

Ben Pitt

Ben has been a member of the b.box for kids Advisory Board and led its global IP strategy since its foundation 18 years ago. He moved into the business fulltime 8 years ago as Head of Legal & IP and built a strong portfolio of Patents, Designs, Trademarks and Copyright assets in ~50 jurisdictions covering 75 countries. Ben continues to evolve and execute b.box's IP strategy to maintain the company's competitive edge, and works with over 35 specialist IP law firms globally. Ben actively enforces b.box's IP, removing thousands of infringing reseller listings from e-commerce platforms operated around the world. He has 30 years' experience working in law firms (including Clifford Chance London), in-house legal roles, investment banks and in investor relations at listed corporates. He has a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) from Victoria University of Wellington, an MBA from Melbourne Business School and qualified as a barrister and solicitor in NZ.



Michael Schwager

As Director General since 2018, Michael has led IP Australia on a customer-focused, digital-first strategy. IP Australia has been a test bed of public sector innovation and digital transformation.



Michael's career across industry, innovation and science policy has included responsibility for implementing innovation programs including the \$3B R&D tax incentive; developing med-tech, pharma-bio, small business and industry policy; attracting foreign investment into Australian high-tech industries; leading trade and multilateral negotiations in food, agriculture and energy.

From 2012 to 2015, Michael was Minister-Counsellor (Industry, Science and Education) at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC.

Michael has a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Sydney.

Belinda Slattery

Belinda works as Senior IP Counsel at Chanel, a role she has held for the past four years. Before joining Chanel, Belinda built a diverse career spanning both private practice in Melbourne and in-house in London.



With extensive experience navigating the complexities of intellectual property law across multiple sectors and jurisdictions, Belinda brings a practical, commercial perspective to brand protection and legal strategy. She is passionate about fostering innovative solutions and supporting creative teams in the dynamic world of luxury and retail.

Belinda looks forward to sharing insights and connecting with fellow professionals at the IPTA 2026 Annual Conference.

The Hon David Yates SC

David was a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia for 15 years until his retirement on 30 November 2024.



During his time on the Court, he was one of the National Coordinating Judges in the Intellectual Property NPA and, for a number of years, one of the Court's National Appeals Coordinating Judges. Throughout his appointment, he was one of the Court's Corporations (later, Commercial and Corporations) Duty Judges. He was also a Deputy President of the Australian Competition Tribunal (25 August 2016 to 24 August 2021).

As a Judge, he sat on cases at first instance and on appeal across the Court's broad jurisdiction, with a particular focus on intellectual property law, consumer protection law, corporations law, competition law, and general commercial law. He presided over a number of significant class actions and regulatory actions. Prior to his appointment to the Federal Court, he practised as a solicitor from July 1977 until he was called to the Bar in June 1982. At the Bar, he practised mainly in intellectual property law, competition law, and general commercial law. He was appointed as Senior Counsel in 1997. He is the original author of the commentary and precedents in the section on Intellectual Property in *Federal Civil Litigation Precedents* published by LexisNexis.

David Yates practises as a barrister in a general advisory role, and as a mediator and referee.

Dr Paula Zito

Paula is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Adelaide and a Supervising Solicitor at its Legal Advice Clinic, where she combines academic insight with hands-on legal practice. Her expertise spans Intellectual Property, Commercial Law, and Clinical Legal Education, with a particular passion for teaching Intellectual Property Law.



With a doctorate focused on Geographical Indications (GIs), she's been a dedicated specialist in this field since 2013. Her work has placed her at the heart of key policy discussions, including roundtable negotiations for the Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement. She's advised Australian government bodies such as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and IP Australia, and collaborated with regional food producers and industry stakeholders nationwide. Internationally, she's consulted with the European Union Delegation to Australia on GI-related matters.

Paula's research and publications explore the evolving landscape of Intellectual Property law, with a strong focus on GIs at both national and global levels. Whether in the classroom, the clinic, or the policy arena, she's driven by a commitment to shaping legal understanding and empowering future practitioners.

IPTA 2026 Conference Committee

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