



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

Courting innovation: Australia's judicial system in the context of COVID-19

24 March 2021 | Webinar

The Law Council of Australia is pleased to
invite you to attend an online webinar

Courting innovation: Australia's judicial system in the context of COVID-19

The pandemic has forced all Australian courts and tribunals to innovate and adapt. This webinar will explore whether these measures have improved or impeded access to justice, and the extent to which these changes should remain in the long term.

A panel discussion moderated by Dr Jacoba Brasch QC, Law Council President

Featuring eminent speakers

The Hon William Alstergren

Chief Justice of the Family Court and Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia

The Hon Berna Collier

Judge of the Federal Court of Australia

Mr Mark Woods

Chair of the Law Council's Access to Justice Committee

Wednesday, 24 March 2021

5.00pm - 6.00pm AEDT

ZOOM Webinar

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This is a free event, however registration is essential.

The Law Council would appreciate if you could please share this invitation widely with your networks. Please note that there is a limited attendance capacity for this event.

Panellists



Chief Justice William Alstergren, Chief Justice of the Family Court and Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia

Chief Justice Alstergren has been the Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia since 10 December 2018. His Honour was appointed Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia in October 2017. His Honour has a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne. He also has a Master of Laws. He practised as a barrister in Melbourne from 1991, and took silk in 2012. He was the Chairman of the Victorian Bar in 2013 and President of the Australian Bar Association in 2017.



Justice Berna Joan Collier, Judge of the Federal Court of Australia

Justice Berna Joan Collier was appointed a Federal Court judge on 8 February 2006 and a Judge of the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea in September 2011. Her Honour is also a part-time Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and an additional Judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory.



Mr Mark Woods, Chair of the Law Council's National Access to Justice Committee

Mark Woods is an Accredited Specialist in Criminal Law and Family Law, and general litigator practising in regional Australia. He is a past president of the Law Institute of Victoria, and has oversight of the Institute's Legal Assistance Scheme. He was founding chair of the LawAid Trust, which funds the out of pocket costs of lawyers acting pro bono. He is a board member of the Australian Pro Bono Centre.

Mark is Chair of the Access to Justice Committee of the Law Council of Australia, and Co-Chair of the Access to Justice Committee of the International Bar Association. He frequently presents at international conferences on family law and criminal law topics, and access to justice issues.



Dr Jacoba Brasch QC, Law Council of Australia President

Dr Jacoba Brasch QC joined the Law Council of Australia as a Director from the Bar Association of Queensland in September 2017. Admitted to the Bar in 2000, Dr Brasch's practice centres on family law, child protection, mental health law and family violence. She has appeared in various states and territories of Australia and often appears in the Full Court of the Family Court of Australia. Jacoba has also appeared in the High Court of Australia, with those matters including, but not limited to, Customs & Excise, Family Law and the Hague Convention (Child Abduction). Prior to coming to the Bar, Dr Brasch completed an LLM at New York University as a Fulbright Scholar and NYU Graduate Merit Scholar. In 2010, Dr Brasch graduated with a PhD from University of New South Wales where her doctoral thesis concerned what constitutes a fair, independent and impartial trial.