

## Sue Abrams



Sue Abrams is an Accredited Family Law Specialist based in Sydney at ATW Family Law. Sue is a founding member and the current Vice-President of the Australian Association of Collaborative Professionals. Sue's preferred approach to practice is to achieve negotiated outcomes for clients outside the Court system. She became a Collaborative Lawyer in 2006 and a nationally accredited mediator in 2018. Over the last 16 years Sue has steadily built her collaborative practice, such that collaborative matters now form over 25% of her practice, including interstate and international collaborations.

Sue is passionate advocate for the growth and development of interdisciplinary collaborative practice in Australia and in addition to her leadership roles at a local practice group, state and national level, she is frequently called upon to present papers to the profession and other professional groups in relation to Interdisciplinary Collaborative Practice. Sue's commitment to the growth and development of ICP in NSW was recently acknowledged by Collaborative Professionals (NSW) through the establishment of a scholarship in her name. Sue will take any opportunity she can to share that in her career as a Family Lawyer spanning 37 years, the time she has spent engaged in Collaborative Practice has been without doubt the most rewarding.

Sue has consistently featured in Doyle's Guide as a Mediator and Family Law Specialist and in 2022, she was recognised in the Doyle's Family Law Guide as a Preeminent Australian Family Lawyer, a Preeminent Sydney Family Lawyer, a Leading High Value and Complex Property Family Lawyer, a Preeminent Parenting Family Lawyer in Sydney and a Preeminent Family Law Mediator in NSW.

# Andrew Crooke

Director, Murdoch Lawyers



Andrew Crooke is a Nationally Accredited Mediator, Queensland Law Society Accredited Specialist (Family Law) and Collaboratively Trained Professional. He has been practicing in Family Law for over 25 years and has extensive experience in all facets of Family Law and legal issues that arise from relationship breakdowns.

Andrew specializes in Binding Financial Agreements, complex family trusts or company arrangements, representing third parties and advising trustee's in bankruptcy who have been joined in property disputes.

Andrew has built a strong network over 25 years with other leading experts in Valuation, Accounting, Financial Planning, and Allied Health professionals to work cooperatively with, and provide the best results for clients.

He has assisted parties to put in place strategies that have significantly advantaged the family group into the future in terms of tax effective payments of Property Settlements, Child Support, Spousal Maintenance, Child Maintenance and Education Trusts.

## Principle Areas of Practice

- Property Settlements
- Pre-Nuptial and Financial Agreements
- Domestic Violence
- Child Support
- Child Maintenance Trusts
- Child Protection
- Mediations
- Child Disputes
- Family Dispute Resolution
- Collaborative Law

## Industry and Community Involvement

- Honorary Solicitor for Legacy Brisbane.
- Member of Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators.
- Member of Family Law Practitioners Association Queensland.
- Served on committees with The Queensland Law Society mentor program and Queensland Collaborative Law.
- Regularly supports charitable organisations with sponsorship and/or attendance at events such as: Legacy Brisbane, Young Care, CARP and 42 for 42.
- Board Member of Queensland Collaborative Practice.
- Past President of the Downs and South Western Queensland Law Association.
- Previous member of the Toowoomba Collaborative Law Pilot program.
- Past President of the University of Southern Queensland Cricket Club and coach of several junior representative cricket teams in Toowoomba.

## Adair Donaldson

Adair Donaldson LL.M. LL.B. BBus founded Donaldson Law in 2016. He has been a lawyer for in excess of 25 years. Over this time, he has built a large regional practice and worked as a partner in a national legal firm.

Adair developed Donaldson Law with a primary focus on a non-adversarial approach to achieving holistic legal solutions for clients. His work focuses on helping those who have suffered abuse within institutions such as the Australian Defence Force, religious organisations, educational departments and sporting institutions.

Since 2007 Adair has worked to develop educational programs and consulted on legal issues affecting youth. The development of acclaimed preventative law resources that address the legal consequences of alcohol abuse, sexual assaults, discrimination, illicit drugs, violence, social media, and the illegal use of technology has been a long held passion for him.

Adair works closely with the National Rugby League (NRL) to develop and implement educational resources for their players and clubs. He has been appointed to the Australian Rugby League Commission's Respectful Relationships Committee, which focuses on ensuring respect for women throughout the code. He is also an ambassador for the Full Stop Australia which is the peak rape and domestic violence service in Australia.

In 2002 he was nominated by his peers for the Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association Civil Justice Award in Queensland, and in 2005 he, along with his business partner won this same award.

Adair has appeared before Federal and State Parliamentary Committees to provide evidence in addressing youth violence, alcohol related issues, and abuse within the Australian Defence Force.



# Kay Feeney

## Feeney Family Law

**Director – Family Law Accredited Specialist, Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner & Nationally Accredited Mediator**



Kay has been an expert in family law for more than 35 years. She was admitted as a solicitor in 1985 and has been the director of Feeney Family Law since 2011. Kay is an accredited Family Law Specialist. She combines her Family Law expertise with an understanding of her clients' issues and expectations to promote a safe, calm, and respectful rapport. She possesses a high level of legal technical competency and holds a clear tenacity of purpose. She ensures that her clients feel supported and are not vulnerable to any imbalances of power.

---

Kay boasts extensive litigation experience with particular interest in mediation, collaboration, and arbitration. She is a Nationally Accredited Mediator and Arbitrator for family law matters and a qualified Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. Her wisdom and experience as a mediator are highly requested. She has experience in property matters involving high value and working in complex corporate structures. She is also an expert across a range of other family matters, including parenting disputes complicated by parental deficits and special needs children. She also has vast experience as an Independent Children's Lawyer.

Kay comes recommended in the Doyle's Guide of Leading Family & Divorce Lawyers in Brisbane for 2022. She has presented "How to limit conflict in Family Law matters" at two US conferences and presented at two European conferences "Family Lawyers & Legal Professional Privilege" and "Property Settlements & Spouse Maintenance for the Elderly".

## Zinta Harris

Principal, Resolve Estate Law; Accredited Specialist (Business Law) – Qld and Accredited Specialist (Succession Law) – Qld

Zinta is the owner of Resolve Estate Law, a Brisbane-based boutique law firm specialising in contested estates and complex estate administrations. She is the only dual-accredited specialist in succession law and business law in Queensland, and the only specialist of this kind in Australia who is also a nationally accredited mediator and an accredited collaborative practitioner.

Over the last 25 years in practice, Zinta has helped steer dozens of complex and bitter estate battles to resolution without going to court. But in many cases, settlements were reached at a late stage in the process when the damage had already been done, financially and relationally. It was not until recently, when Zinta first learned of the collaborative practice dispute resolution model, that she considered approaching the resolution of contested estate matters differently. This integrated, team-based dispute resolution model has been used successfully in family law divorce contexts in Australia for over a decade but has only recently been used in other contexts, including contested estates, in the United States and the United Kingdom. Taking this approach Zinta has observed that when a holistic approach is taken, involving communication coaches and neutral financial advisers, estate disputes resolve more quickly, ensuring that the inheritance is not gouged by huge legal costs incurred in lengthy and hostile legal proceedings. Surrounding clients with a professional support team to guide them through their dispute over inheritance and taking the time to address the underlying issues that often drive inheritance disputes early (which are often human issues not legal issues), families are able to reach a mutually beneficial compromise without the aggression and emotional toll of traditional court pathways.

The benefits of working in a team-based resolution model aren't just for clients and their families, but it is also "law-life changing" for the professionals involved because the framework allows lawyers to operate collaboratively as positive problem solvers rather than aggressively as adversaries.

Zinta is the author of "Rest in Peace – how to manage an estate dispute without inheriting heartache" an award-winning book written for those facing and actual or anticipated fight over inheritance. She also runs Collaborative Practice training for wills and estates professionals nationally looking for a better way to resolve family conflict over an estate.

Zinta was recognised as the WLAQ Trailblazer of the Year and Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Awards Sole Practitioner of the Year in 2019 and received the QLS Agnes McWhinney Award in 2021 for her work in this area.



## Kiarah Kelly

Kiarah has built a personal brand that is aimed at positioning her as a leader among her peers and in the eyes of her ideal client. Currently, Kiarah is working on bringing her research work to as wide an audience as possible. Kiarah is excited about her future in the thought, advocacy and policy spaces.

Kiarah is an advocate for healthy relationships and using a fresh and sincere approach to achieve positive and pragmatic outcomes for those facing separation and divorce.

Kiarah believes that her, her loved ones and her clients have it in them to achieve their 'best ever'.

Kiarah works as a Collaborative Family Lawyer at Brisbane Family Law Centre. Kiarah has obtained an LLM (Applied Family Law) as well as an LLB and Bachelor of Government and International Relations. Kiarah was a finalist in the Lawyers Weekly 30 Under 30 Award for 2021 and Rising Star of the Year category of the 2020 Lawyer's Weekly Women in Law Awards.



## Michael Keogh



Michael is a Nationally Accredited Mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. He operates a mediation practice in Cairns and is a member of the Dispute Resolution Branch of the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Michael is a member of the Resolution Institute Queensland Professional Development Group.'

## Andrew McCormack

Special Counsel (Family) – Private Clients Group, Thynne + Macartney Lawyers

Andrew has practised exclusively in family law since 2005, working in both Brisbane and Toowoomba to support clients across Queensland and New South Wales, and other parts of Australia.

An Accredited Specialist in Family Law and trained in Collaborative Practice since 2013, Andrew assists clients through what is often a difficult and traumatic time in their lives. His objective is always to make a difference for families, particularly those in rural and regional Australia, and to get the best outcome for his clients so they can move on with their lives.

Andrew takes a pragmatic approach to achieve the best outcome for his clients concerned with:

- matrimonial and de facto property settlements and parenting matters;
- third party intervention in matrimonial and de facto property settlements;
- rural family law and third party/inter-generational interests;
- Collaborative Rural & Family Succession Planning;
- the intersection between family law and trusts and estate planning and administration; and
- child support matters.



Admitted as a Legal Practitioner in Queensland and New South Wales, Andrew:

- is a lapsed probate and estate administration lawyer;
- commenced life in his father's sole practice at the age of 5 when he would sit quietly and listen to his father dictate wills, affidavits, and politely worded correspondence on Saturday mornings;
- a founding member of The Worshipful Society of Lawyers who Bullet Journal; and
- keeps several stationery and fountain pen suppliers afloat.

## Lynda McKie, CFP®

BComm, DipFS (FP)

Private Wealth Adviser



With experience in institutional funds management and qualifications as a Certified Financial Planner, Lynda is well qualified to advise her clients.

Her ranking as one of Australia's Top 100 Advisers and her leadership role at Elston Private Wealth, enables her to elevate the conversation with women about their financial futures. Lynda and her team have developed specialist services assisting individuals and couples to negotiate divorce settlements with clarity and confidence. Lynda enjoys her position as a Trustee Board of Directors for the Elston Giving Foundation

## Anne Purcell PhD

Dispute resolution specialist



Dr Anne Purcell is a dispute resolution specialist focusing on the psychology of communication and conflict, especially with high-conflict or difficult personalities. She is founder and Director of Resolution Partners, an innovative alternative to traditional mediation and dispute resolution services and training. She is also a Co-Founder of Parenting Coordination Australia, a new form of dispute resolution which provides services to the most conflicted co-parents and the most vulnerable children at a time when they are most at risk: Post Orders. Anne has been the Australian Mediator of the Year in the Australian Law Awards 3 times and is regularly named as a recommended mediator on Doyle's list. She continues to write and speak to National and International audiences about the interface of psychology and law. Many of you know Anne from

her work in collaborative practice. She looks forward to sharing more ideas with you about some things she has learned about working with difficult clients

## Cassandra Pullos



Cassandra is the current President of AACP and an Accredited Family Law Specialist with over 20 years of specialist expertise in Family Law. Cassandra founded Pullos Lawyers over 10 years ago and has guided the firm as it's grown in to one of the state's leading boutique family law firms.

Whilst a renowned litigator, Cassandra understands that different approaches best achieve lasting positive outcomes for different clients. In order to assist all of her clients, Cassandra has become a national leader in dispute resolution. She has been instrumental in introducing Collaborative Practice and Parenting Coordination to Australia and is an Accredited Mediator and Arbitrator.

## Clarissa Rayward

Hi my name is Clarissa Rayward and thank you for your interest in working with me. I guess you might want to know a little more about me? Well here goes!

I am a wife, mum to two, Divorce Lawyer (don't hold that against me!) and lover of chocolate, coffee and anything colourful! I love to write, dance and spend any free moment I have 'crafting' (or as I like to call it #bedazzling!)



By day I am an accredited specialist family lawyer and the Director of the Brisbane Family Law Centre, a multidisciplinary practice where my team of lawyers work alongside counsellors and financial planners to ensure that clients receive the holistic support they need through divorce. I specialise in working with families through separation in a way that keeps them away from the Courts and ideally enables them to remain friends for the future. This takes courage, and is not for everyone, but divorce is one of the most challenging moments any of us can experience and after almost 20 years in family law I have come to learn that a long, expensive and combative legal process is rarely good for anyone.

I published my first book, Splitsville- How to separate, stay out of court and stay friends in 2015 and have since spent countless hours training family lawyers in Australia and around the world in better ways we can help our clients through divorce. I didn't set out to be a happiness advocate in law but it seems that is just how it has all come together and in 2019 I was recognised as the 2019 Lawyers Weekly Australian Law Awards Wellness Advocate of the Year and the inaugural winner of the Minds Court Individual Wellness Advocate in Law. These days I still work with families all around Australia helping them through divorce and separation and all the bits in between. But in my 'free time' I am working hard to change the way lawyers practise law, to reduce our overly high rates of anxiety, depression and psychological illhealth just in case one of my girls decides this crazy career might be for her too!

## **Bobbi Reilly**

BCouns (Coaching), Dip.Prof.Couns, Voc Grad Dip FDR.

Bobbi is a Nationally Accredited Mediator (NMAS) and an Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner (FDRP). Bobbi has been mediating since 2006. Initially Bobbi worked with families whose children were at risk of becoming homeless, then moved into the area of Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) assisting families in resolving disputes regarding children and/or property and financial matters and then beyond to all areas of dispute that require mediation. Bobbi's work has been in both the not for profit sector and the private sector. Bobbi has managed and coordinated National Mediation Services, Family Relationship Centres and coordinated the Coordinated Family Dispute Resolution pilot (specialised domestic violence pilot). For the last 8 years Bobbi has been in private practice on the Gold Coast providing FDR, property and financial settlement mediation, commercial and workplace mediation as well as counselling, coaching and supervision services. Bobbi has completed in excess of 15,000 hours of mediation thus far. Bobbi sees her strengths in the areas of working with high conflict clients and situations, managing power imbalances and dynamics including domestic and family violence and encouraging parties to maintain a child focus. Bobbi is skilled in facilitating mediations using a range of modes and mediation models based on client needs. Bobbi holds a range of positions at several universities and training organisations. Bobbi provides training, assessment (National Standards), coaching and supervision to several universities and training organisations including Bond University, University of Southern Queensland, Australian Mediation Association, The College of Law and The Mediator Training Academy. Bobbi is a Co-Director of Global Training and Professional Development which the Australian Mediator Standards Board recognised as a mediation training organisation. Bobbi volunteers her time to the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre where Bobbi holds the position as Management Committee President.



---

## Adjunct Professor Stafford Shepherd

Principal Ethics and Practice  
Counsel, QLS Ethics and  
Practice Centre | Legal  
Practitioner Director, QLS  
Solicitor Support Pty Ltd  
Queensland Law Society



Stafford was admitted as a solicitor in 1987. After admission he practised for a number of years in partnership and subsequently as a sole practitioner. Stafford sold his practice in 2004. Between 2004 and 2008 he worked as a consultant to a number of law practices. In 2008 he joined the Queensland Law Society as an Ethics Guidance Officer. In 2015 Stafford was appointed as Director, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre ('the Centre'), and now holds the title, Principal Ethics and Practice Counsel. He is the Society's representative on the Professional Ethics Committee of the Law Council of Australia.

Stafford was appointed as Legal Practitioner Director of QLS Solicitor Support Pty Ltd ('QLS Solicitor Support') from 1 October 2019. QLS Solicitor Support is a wholly owned incorporated legal practice of the Queensland Law Society. The services provided by QLS Solicitor Support include ethics and practice support guidance to the Society's membership.

The Centre provides ethical guidance and practice support services. In addition, the Centre delivers practical legal ethics and practice support sessions to members, the profession and students (whether at university or practical legal training).

Stafford is the executive editor of the *Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules 2012 in Practice: A Commentary for Australian Legal Practitioners*. He has written extensively on legal ethics.

Stafford is a sessional member at the Queensland University of Technology. On 15 November 2021 he was appointed as an Adjunct Professor with the School of Law and Justice, University of Southern Queensland. He holds a Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws (Commercial and Corporate) from the University of Queensland, a postgraduate certificate in arbitration and mediation from the University of Adelaide. Stafford is also a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP). Stafford's areas of interest are trust, succession law and the equitable doctrines underpinning legal ethics. Stafford was recently appointed as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern Queensland.

---

## Erin Shaw

Director | O'Reilly Shaw Lawyers

Erin has extensive experience in complex family law cases, and has a focus on achieving creative solutions outside of court.

She holds a Master's Degree in Applied Family Law, and has been a family lawyer for more than 14 years, across both Sydney and Brisbane.

Erin is a contributing editor of the CCH Family Law Guide, the preferred resource textbook used by family lawyers, barristers and Family Court judges in Australia, and is presently servicing as an elected Committee Member of the Queensland Association of Collaborative Practitioners.

A natural and creative problem-solver, Erin is dedicated to assisting families to reach creative, win-win resolutions without going to court, using the collaborative law model and mediation.

Where litigation is necessary, her background in litigation for high net wealth families means Erin is a well-experienced tenacious advocate for her clients.



## **Susan Warda**

**Family Law Partner, Mills Oakley**

**Accredited Specialist Family Law**

**Collaborative Lawyer**

**Parenting Coordinator**



Susan Warda is widely recognised as a leader in the field of family law, with extensive expertise in matters that involve complex financial issues, including property settlements dealing with family businesses, multiple assets and superannuation splitting. Highly regarded for her professionalism, Susan has gained a reputation for achieving the best possible results for her clients, in some of the most difficult and challenging situations.

Susan's achievements have seen her named again as a Recommended Family Lawyer (Sydney) by Best Lawyers, a Recommended Sydney Family & Divorce Lawyer and as a Leading Family Lawyer (High-Value and Complex Property Matters) in the prestigious Doyle's Guide.

As well as property and financial issues, Susan also acts for parents involved in parenting disputes including Hague Convention Applications for international child abduction, and a variety of complex matters concerning parenting arrangements, child support and de facto relationship cases. Susan is also a trained Parenting Coordinator, using her skills and expertise to work with parents to minimise the impact of post-separation conflict on children.

With a pragmatic and results-focused approach, Susan played a pioneering role in the introduction of Collaborative Law to New South Wales. She became one of the first fully trained collaborative lawyers in Sydney, was a founding member of the Western Sydney Collaborative Family Lawyers network and is a board member of the NSW Collaborative Professionals and the Australian Association of Collaborative Professionals. She is well recognised for her considerable success in family dispute resolution and her ability to resolve disputes without resorting to costly and time-consuming litigation. Susan completed her mediation training at Bond University in 2004.