The Board of the Judicial College of Victoria

**The Honourable Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC**  
Supreme Court of Victoria  
Chair of the College

**The Honourable Justice Gregory Garde AO RFD**  
President, Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

**His Honour Chief Judge Michael Rozenes AO**  
County Court of Victoria

**His Honour Chief Magistrate Peter Lauritsen**  
Magistrates’ Court of Victoria

Appointee of the Governor-in-Council on the recommendation of the Attorney-General:

**Adjunct Professor Susan Long**

The Judicial College of Victoria was established in 2002 to provide education and ongoing professional development for judges, magistrates and VCAT Members. We keep judicial officers abreast of developments in the law and social issues, and help them build and maintain the skills they need to perform their roles successfully.

The College embraces the principle of peer education. Victorian judicial officers are actively involved in the design of the education programs and resources that it develops. Judges, magistrates, coroners and VCAT Members comprise the steering, editorial and special purpose committees, and all Victorian jurisdictions support the College’s programs and resources.

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Prospectus design: andrewhoggdesign.com  
Prospectus photography: Sarah Anderson Photography
The Judicial College of Victoria is delighted to present the 2015 program of education for the Victorian judiciary. In this coming year, the College will bring a greater focus on the educational needs of each individual jurisdiction. We will also continue to deliver a range of programs of cross-jurisdictional relevance, addressing the professional development and learning requirements of all judicial officers to enable them to perform their roles with rigour.

The College recently undertook a significant consultation exercise involving online surveys and face-to-face consultations with judicial officers across all the courts and VCAT. In response to that feedback, the College is extending its collaboration with each jurisdiction to respond to their needs and educational priorities.

The result is a 2015 Prospectus that contains an exciting array of seminars and workshops. Substantive law programs and practical skills development remain core, as does an ongoing commitment to multidisciplinary, face-to-face learning. And we will continue to offer field visits, which provide unique experiential learning opportunities.

The College is pleased to announce some pioneering additions, including projects on family violence for the Magistrates’ Court and serious injury proceedings for the County Court, incorporating the development of a new online Serious Injury Bench Book. In addition, I will chair a steering committee to develop a new program on balancing the demands and challenges of judicial life.

The College is also excited to be collaborating with the National Judicial College of Australia on a number of initiatives including the National Judicial Orientation Program and an orientation program for magistrates and tribunal members.

I would like to thank the steering and editorial committees, as well as College staff, whose commitment and imagination have made this Prospectus possible. I do hope that you will take full advantage of it.

The Honourable Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC
Supreme Court of Victoria
Chair of the College
The Age of Statutes: Statutory Interpretation and Administrative Law

Course outline
Are you over-burdened and challenged by the proliferation in the number and length of statutes?

Almost all judicial work now involves statutory interpretation. This highly relevant program will assist you in your day-to-day judicial role. It will take an academic and practical perspective on judicial reasoning in the context of statutory interpretation and administrative law.

Through presentations, facilitated discussions, and practical exercises, the program will canvass a range of topics, including:

- Essentials of statutory interpretation;
- The relationship between statute and common law;
- Identification of jurisdictional facts;
- The relevance of legislative intention; and
- The distinction between judicial review and merits review.

Who should attend
This program has practical and academic relevance to all judicial officers. Some sessions will be streamed to cater for:

- Judicial officers sitting at VCAT;
- Supreme Court judges hearing judicial review cases; and
- Court of Appeal judges.

Faculty
Justice Tim Ginnane
Deputy President Mark Dwyer
Laureate Professor Cheryl Saunders AO
Melbourne Law School
Professor Adrienne Stone
Melbourne Law School

Presenters
Justice Chris Maxwell
President, Court of Appeal
Justice Tim Ginnane

Dates
February 2015

Time
9.00am – 4.00pm

CPD hours
12 hours

To register
Email: jcvrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
Or: Login to the CPD database via JOIN

‘Today in Australia, we go about our lives under a mountain range of statutory words, imposing obligations and restrictions, creating rights and liabilities and conferring powers on a large array of regulatory bodies, public authorities and officials.’

Chief Justice Robert French AC, ‘The Judicial Function in the Age of Statutes’ (Speech delivered at the University of Wollongong, 18 November 2011)
Course outline
Are you grappling with the constant change in the sentencing arena, one of the fastest moving areas of the law?
Focusing on recent legislative and case law developments, practical sentencing considerations and the social context of offending, this program will look at:
- Baseline sentencing;
- Methods for determining current sentencing practices without falling into error;
- Commonwealth sentencing;
- Sentencing and Verdins principles;
- Sentencing for particular offences including family violence and sexual offences;
- The range of sentencing options available, such as judicial monitoring and community corrections orders; and
- Court craft with regard to victim impact statements.

Who should attend
All judicial officers who hear criminal matters.

Steering Committee
Justice Phillip Priest
Judge Carolyn Douglas
Judge Jane Patrick
Magistrate Tony Parsons
Magistrate Jo Metcalf

Dates
March 2015

Time
9.00am – 4.30pm

CPD hours
12 hours

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Relevant publications
Victorian Sentencing Manual

‘Every single human situation is unique, and the sentencing judge’s instinctive synthesis involved a distillation of numerous individual factors into an appropriate head sentence and non-parole period. It must be remembered that the exercise of the sentencing discretion does not involve the application of a mathematical formula. Reasonable minds can, and do, differ as to their assessment of an appropriate sentence for criminal offences.’
Justice Phillip Priest, McPhee v R [2014] VSCA 156 at [8]

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Why give Oral Reasons?

Course outline
Are you drowning in reserve judgments? Are you over-relying on the written word?

This highly interactive skills-based program will:
• Consider when the use of an oral decision is appropriate;
• Identify the special features and requirements for the delivery of an oral decision, including effective introductions, different decision structures, audience modifications and practical tips; and
• Improve your technique for preparing and delivering an oral decision through coaching, group work and the opportunity to practise the delivery of oral decisions in a safe and supportive environment.

Who should attend
All judicial officers.

Faculty
The Honourable David Harper AM QC
Judge Frank Gucciardo
Deputy Chief Magistrate Lance Martin
Senior Part Time VCAT Member
Bernadette Steele

Presenter
Professor Edward Berry
University of Victoria
British Columbia, Canada

Dates
May 2015

Time
9.00am – 4.30pm

CPD hours
12 hours

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Professor Edward Berry
Professor Berry holds a Ph.D. from the University of California (Berkeley) and an LL.D. (Honorary) from the University of Victoria where he was Professor of English and served a term as Dean of Humanities.

A specialist in Shakespeare and Renaissance English literature, he has written four academic books.

In conjunction with the National Judicial Institute, Professor Berry helped to develop a program on oral judgments that is now given to all new federally and provincially appointed judges in Canada. He is the lead instructor in oral judgment programs given by the Judicial College of Victoria in Australia and the Institute of Judicial Studies in New Zealand. In 2013, he was the lead instructor for a new oral judgment program given by the Subordinate Courts of Singapore.


‘There are occasions when justice can best be done by the delivery of soundly based and well constructed oral reasons. They are also important in the management of the judicial workload and the avoidance of delay. Because this program will increase your confidence and skills in their delivery, it is an important element in the 2015 curriculum.’

The Honourable David Harper AM QC

Cross-jurisdictional Programs
Evidence, Evidence, Evidence

Course outline
It came as no surprise that the College’s recent judicial education survey identified Evidence as the most popular and requested program. In 2015, the Evidence program will provide Victorian judges and magistrates with the opportunity to discuss Uniform Evidence Law and examine some of the questions that continue to present difficulties.

This workshop will examine:
• Discretionary and mandatory exclusion of evidence;
• Tendency, coincidence and uncharged acts;
• Hearsay;
• Privileges;
• Good character evidence in a criminal trial;
• Use and admissibility of expert evidence;
• Determining the probative value of evidence;
• Cross admissibility and limited admissibility; and

Some sessions, such as admissions, client legal privilege, good character and hearsay, will be streamed.

Who should attend
Judicial officers from the Supreme, County and Magistrates’ Courts.

Steering Committee
The Honourable Tim Smith QC
Judge Wendy Wilmoth
Chief Magistrate Peter Lauritsen
Magistrate Duncan Reynolds
Associate Professor Andrew Palmer
University of Melbourne

Dates
June 2015

Time
9.00am – 4.30pm

CPD hours
12 hours

To register
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‘After five years, the Uniform Evidence Law leaves open a range of uncertainties with which judicial officers must be familiar. Further study of the laws of evidence is essential to deciding promptly and confidently these questions, which arise frequently and, at times, unexpectedly.’

Judge Wendy Wilmoth
Balancing the Demands of Judicial Life

Course outline
Judicial officers are uniquely placed in a cross-fire of risk factors for stress. The ‘legal personality’ itself, the ever-increasing and never-ending tide of cases, isolation, a limited capacity to delegate, exposure to a cumulative trauma load and the critical spotlight of media attention are factors that can convert stress to distress.

This program will facilitate discussion on how to recover quickly after ongoing exposure to a busy caseload, often with significant traumatic content. It will include skills-based training for judicial officers managing physical and psychological health so as to maximise continued engagement, motivation and concentration.

Who should attend
Judicial officers from all jurisdictions.

Steering Committee
Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC
Chief Judge Michael Rozenes AO
Maryanne Mooney
Organisational Psychologist

Dates
August and September 2015

Time
9.00am – 4.30pm

CPD hours
12 hours

To register
Email:
cjvrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
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‘Judges, because of the way they work and the company they keep, become isolated, lonely and immersed and enmeshed with their work, which as you all know is complex and difficult, onerous and troubling at times. Twenty years ago this conversation would not have been taking place. I encourage all judicial officers to have it now.’

Chief Judge Michael Rozenes AO

New ‘wellbeing’ research
The College is recognised as a world leader among judicial educators in developing programs and resources to promote judicial wellbeing. Beginning with the landmark ‘Court Craft: 360 Degree Feedback’ program, which addressed the fundamental psychological need for honest and constructive feedback, and continuing with programs on Judicial Leadership, Mindfulness, Stress and Resilience, the College has long recognised its role in supporting judicial officers to meet the uncommon pressures and complications of judicial work.

In 2015, the College will work collaboratively with a researcher from the University of Melbourne School of Psychology to investigate the factors that promote and undermine wellbeing in the judicial environment. An aim of the research project will be to identify, with reference to comparable overseas studies, possible interventions that could be implemented to support judicial officers in their roles.
Speaking their Language: Young People and the Courtroom

Course outline

Young people face unique challenges when they encounter the legal system, whether as a witness, defendant or complainant. With their vocabulary, language and memory capacity still developing, they can find it difficult to reconstruct past events in a way that meets the courts’ needs. However, there are well-recognised trial management techniques which judicial officers can employ to ensure young people avoid fatigue, and which recognise a young person’s developing communication skills.

Using a combination of presentations, facilitated discussions and practical exercises, this two-day interactive workshop will address topics like:

- Influences on language development;
- Use of age-appropriate language;
- When to intervene in improper questioning; and
- How familiarity with technology affects the way children and young people communicate.

Who should attend

Judicial officers who hear matters involving offences against children or where children appear as witnesses.

Steering Committee

Judge Meryl Sexton
Magistrate Jennifer Bowles
Magistrate Roslyn Porter

Dates

October 2015

Time

9.00am – 4.00pm

CPD hours

12 hours

To register

Email: jcrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
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‘As long as our criminal justice system requires evidence to be given and tested before an alleged crime can be proven, it is necessary for children who are the subject of alleged sexual assault or other crimes or family violence to give evidence. Managing all this can be done in an effective and proper manner, with preparation, practice and patience.’

Judge Meryl Sexton, ‘Children – Competency, Running Your Court and Walking the Tightrope’ (Speech delivered at a Magistrates’ Court Professional Development Day, 28 July 2011)
Back to Country: A Weekend on Gunai Kurnai Land

Course outline
This field visit provides a unique opportunity to stay on Gunai Kurnai Country (Gippsland region) in the company of Traditional Owners.

Over the course of the weekend, participants will visit sites of historical and contemporary significance, and learn the stories and history of the local area. Elders, respected people and community members will welcome participants onto their land, and speak to them about their connection to it.

Participants will have both formal and informal opportunities to speak with Gunai Kurnai Elders and Traditional Owners over the course of the weekend.

This is a joint program with the National Judicial College of Australia.

Who should attend
Judicial officers from all jurisdictions, particularly new appointees and those sitting in regional areas.

Steering Committee
Judicial Officers’ Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Committee (JOACAC), chaired by Justice Stephen Kaye AM.

The JOACAC brings together judicial officers from all jurisdictions (including federal), as well as other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians with an interest in judicial education.

Dates
November 2015

CPD hours
12 hours

To register
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‘This Back to Country visit will provide judicial officers with a first hand understanding of important cultural issues affecting our Indigenous persons, and in particular their unique and profoundly spiritual connection to their Country.’
Justice Stephen Kaye AM
Forensic Medicine for Judicial Officers

Course outline
Having trouble telling your mitochondria from your nucleus, or your amino acids from your organic acids? Having difficulty deciphering the difference between subcutaneous haematoma and subdural haematoma? Forensic evidence continues to play a critical role in many trials and coronial proceedings. However, without a sound understanding of how forensic evidence is collected and analysed, judicial officers risk misunderstanding the evidence and its limits.

This program is critical to understanding the evidence that is called in the courtroom, and avoiding the miscarriages of justice that can occur when barristers present evidence they do not fully understand.

The specialist team at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) will discuss difficult forensic medicine concepts and demystify the practical procedures and processes conducted on the living and deceased to determine such things as identity, cause of injury or death and state of intoxication.

Topics will include:
• Crime scene investigation and gathering of physical evidence, fingerprints and photographs;
• Interaction between police and forensic pathology services in relation to death;
• Interaction between police and forensic physicians in relation to injury and abuse investigations;
• Injury investigation and classification;
• Autopsies, including pre-examination procedures, human dissection and expert investigation in relation to toxicology, odontology, anthropology and radiology, as well as the autopsy report;
• Introduction to DNA and molecular biology and presentation of DNA analysis; and
• Toxicology collection and analysis.

Who should attend
All judicial officers who want to learn more about forensic medicine or who regularly review forensic evidence in their court or tribunal.

‘This new program, the first of its kind to be offered to Victorian judicial officers, is designed specifically around the needs of the judicial role. Led by world renowned VIFM and scientific experts, it presents a unique opportunity to gain in-depth insight and knowledge into forensic medicine processes.’

The Honourable John Coldrey QC

Steering Committee
Judge Ian Gray
State Coroner
Judge Frank Gucciardo
Deputy Chief Magistrate
Felicity Broughton

Chair
The Honourable John Coldrey QC

Presenters from VIFM
Associate Professor David Ranson
Professor Stephen Cordner
Associate Professor David Wells
Dr Angela Williams
Dr Dimitri Gerostamoulos
Dr Richard Bassed

Dates
November 2015

Time
9.00am – 4.30pm

CPD hours
12 hours

To register
Email: jcvgrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
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In collaboration with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.
New Collaborations
National Judicial Orientation Program

Course outline
The transition to the role of a judicial officer brings different responsibilities and a new way of thinking. This is a practical course for recently appointed judges who want to develop the skills they need to oversee their courtrooms effectively. It is also an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences with participants from across Australia.

Sessions will include:
- Communication skills;
- Courtroom management skills;
- Judgment writing; and
- Social and cultural awareness.

Who should attend
Newly appointed judicial officers from the Supreme and County Courts.

Steering Committee
Justice Emilios Kyrou
Supreme Court of Victoria, Court of Appeal
Justice Monika Schmidt
Supreme Court of New South Wales
Justice Debra Mullins
Supreme Court of Queensland
Justice Robert Benjamin
Family Court of Australia
Judge Stephen Norrish
District Court of New South Wales
Judge Julie Wager
District Court of Western Australia

Dates
June 2015

Location
Broadbeach, Queensland

CPD hours
30 hours

To register
Email: jcvrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
Or: Login to the CPD database via JOIN

Magistrates and Tribunal Members’ Orientation Program

Course outline
This program brings a fresh approach to professional development for new appointees. It will provide opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences through interactive workshops and problem solving exercises. Topics to be covered include:
- Judicial conduct and ethics;
- Court craft;
- Judgment and decision writing;
- Delivering oral decisions;
- Contempt;
- Sentencing;
- Cultural awareness;
- Social media;
- Children as witnesses; and
- Maintaining physical health.

Some parts of the program will be streamed to meet the particular needs of each jurisdiction.

Who should attend
Newly appointed magistrates and tribunal members from across Australia.

Planning Committee
Chief Magistrate Michael Hill
Magistrates’ Court of Tasmania
Deputy Chief Magistrate
Dan Muling
Magistrates’ Court of Victoria
Magistrate Martin Flynn
Magistrates’ Court of Western Australia
Magistrate Mary-Louise Hribal
Magistrates’ Court of South Australia

Dates
August 2015

Time
9.00am – 4.30pm

CPD hours
18 hours

To register
Email: jcvrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
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NEW COLLABORATIONS
### Jurisdiction-specific Programs

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Supreme Court
Mega-litigation

Course outline
In 2015, we will collaborate with the Supreme Court of Victoria to present a seminar on mega-litigation. Supreme Court judges will have an opportunity to join their colleagues to discuss lessons from recent mega trials on topics such as management of expert evidence, how to manage multiple parties, practical considerations in class actions and what can be learnt from recent experiences in settled cases such as the Kilmore East bushfires trial and the Great Southern trial.

Steering Committee
Justice Jack Forrest
Justice Clyde Croft
Associate Justice Rita Zammit

Date
April 2015

To register
Email: jcvrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
Or: Login to the CPD database via JOIN

‘No judge wants to hear a mega-trial. But with the rise of class actions and the growing complexity of society, every Supreme Court judge needs to be ready for the next Kilmore East or Great Southern trial. This seminar will provide an excellent opportunity to sit back, reflect and prepare.’

Justice Jack Forrest

Supreme Court
Koori Twilights

In 2015, we will continue to collaborate with the Judicial Officers’ Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Committee (JOACAC), chaired by Justice Stephen Kaye AM, to deliver this annual twilight seminar series.

In March, the first seminar will explore the Aboriginal understanding of family and kinship arrangements. The disruption of Aboriginal families and communities by the stolen generation has had an ongoing impact on Aboriginal culture. This twilight will broaden judicial officers’ awareness of kinship, and identify contemporary issues faced by Aboriginal people in the family context.

The JOACAC brings judicial officers from each of the Victorian and federal jurisdictions together with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians who have an interest in judicial education around Aboriginal cultural awareness issues.

Dates
March and August 2015

Time
4.30pm – 6.00pm

To register
Email: jcvrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
Or: Login to the CPD database via JOIN

Jurisdiction-specific Programs
Serious injury proceedings form a significant part of the County Court’s civil jurisdiction, with over 1,500 proceedings every year. Most of these cases involve plaintiffs seeking leave to bring a common law claim for injuries sustained at work or while on the road. Serious injury proceedings also form a substantial part of the Court of Appeal’s work, with plaintiffs and defendants regularly challenging serious injury decisions.

In 2015, the Judicial College is delighted to launch a new resource for judges sitting in the civil jurisdiction in the County Court. The [Serious Injury Bench Book](#) is being developed under the leadership of Judge Philip Misso and Judge Chris O’Neill.

As part of the College’s suite of offerings for the County Court in 2015, we will formally launch the new bench book and present a seminar on key issues in serious injury proceedings.

‘… what is happening in this list becomes an impossibility. We can’t manage the cases. A mature approach has to be taken… cases that used to take a day or a day and a half – you’ve heard the cases called over this morning and the estimates given, six days, four days, two days. The rate at which these proceedings are being issued and the way they have to be determined, the reasons that have to be given, the scrutiny that’s given to the reasons, all of which is part and parcel of the process, means it’s becoming an impossibility.’

Judge Frank Saccardo
Quoted by President Maxwell
TAC v Zepic [2013] VSCA 232
Course outline
This internationally informed workshop has been developed in response to the ever-increasing caseload of family violence cases. It is a timely response to systemic questions of preventability raised in the context of recent family violence tragedies. The program, presented by multidisciplinary experts, will assist judicial officers to make more informed and consistent decisions in the courtroom. There will be a focus on small group discussion and reflection in response to previous judicial officer program feedback.

Topics will include:
- Patterns of family violence and implications in provision of evidence;
- Dynamics of victims and perpetrators including gender issues;
- Neurobiological brain changes caused by family violence;
- Family violence homicide;
- Generational cycle of family violence;
- Mental health issues including parental mental health;
- The effect of family violence on children (including child development and attachment perspective);
- Managing courtroom dynamics with unrepresented litigants;
- Interface between family violence and other court proceedings;
- Managing cases with children; and
- Impact of cultural issues.

Who should attend
Magistrates and judicial registrars from the Magistrates’ Court, Children’s Court and Coroners Court, particularly those dealing with criminal cases, child protection cases and coronial cases.

‘Family violence cases make up a substantial proportion of our lists and raise diverse and complex social and risk issues. This comprehensive program, to be presented by a multidisciplinary panel of experts, has been specifically developed to inform and assist magistrates in best practice management of family violence cases. This is an essential program for all magistrates.’

Supervising Magistrate Kate Hawkins

Steering Committee
Chief Magistrate Peter Lauritsen
Supervising Magistrate Kate Hawkins
Magistrate Anne Goldsborough
Magistrate Jennifer Bowles

Dates
Workshop 1
February 2015
Workshop 2
August 2015
Workshop 3
February 2016

Time
9.00am – 4.30pm

CPD hours
12 hours

To register
Attendance will be in consultation with the Chief Magistrate

Relevant Publications
Family Violence Bench Book
Coroners Court
Coroners’ Intensive

Course outline
This practical two-day workshop provides a chance for coroners to closely examine the intricacies of their work in the coronial jurisdiction. Its inquisitorial nature creates particular challenges for coroners. As coronial findings are increasingly reported in mainstream media, it has never been more important for coroners to further develop their understanding of the legal and practical issues which affect them on a daily basis.

In addition to keeping coroners on top of issues arising under the Coroners Act 2008, the Intensive will help to further develop and refine coroners’ case management skills.

Topics will include:
- Effective and sensitive management of self-represented family members;
- Understanding the pathology behind causes of death;
- A medical perspective on the meaning of ‘life’; and
- A further examination of end-of-life decisions.

Chair
Judge Ian Gray
State Coroner

Steering Committee
Magistrate Audrey Jamieson
Magistrate Caitlin English
Coroner Jacqui Hawkins
Sarah Gebert
Principal In-House Solicitor, Coroners Court

Dates
August 2015

Time
Day 1 9.00am – 5.00pm
Day 2 9.00am – 3.30pm

CPD hours
12 hours

To register
Email:
jcvrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
Or:
Login to the CPD database via JOIN

‘The work performed by those in this jurisdiction is confronting and at times very difficult. The Coroners’ Intensive provides us with an opportunity to meet in a collegial environment to address those legal and practical issues which are unique to our work.’
Judge Ian Gray, State Coroner
The number of children coming into contact with the child protection system has risen significantly in recent years. In 2012/13 alone, over 70,000 reports of suspected abuse and neglect were made to the Department of Human Services.

At the same time, the child protection system is in a state of transition, and the Children’s Court is at the centre of some of the most significant reforms. This program, developed in conjunction with the Children’s Court, will focus on the role of the Court in child protection matters and will consider in detail some of the key recent legislative reforms to the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005.

Particular areas for consideration will include:

- Case management powers in the Act, with an emphasis on best practice in child protection proceedings;
- The court’s role under a less adversarial approach to child protection proceedings;
- Case plans and changes to the circumstances in which they are required;
- Reforms to the orders available in child protection matters;
- The effect of introducing new principles emphasising the concept of permanency, rather than stability, on decision-making in child protection proceedings;
- Cultural considerations for cases involving Aboriginal children, including analysis of the resources available to the court to assist decision-making; and
- Transitional matters in respect to the various reforms.

The program will also consider other reforms affecting the Children’s Court, including changes to the Court’s power to defer sentences and to deal with family violence matters.

‘The views of children should be given proper consideration in relation to matters affecting them. Children are especially entitled to protection from harm, and to human development. Those values are inherent in the best interests of the child which is the foundational principle of the Children, Youth & Families Act.’

VCAT

Mastering the Skill of Decision Writing

Course outline
Are you finding the task of writing decisions to be joyless and stressful? Are you struggling to write succinct decisions swiftly? This practical skills-based program will reignite your enthusiasm for writing decisions.

It will focus on developing techniques for preparing and writing better decisions through:

- Identifying the elements of a decision and developing effective structure addressing audience, purpose and style;
- Learning to make ‘readable decisions’ that are simple yet clarify reasons;
- Considering practical and ethical obligations to write clearly and in plain, correct and persuasive English; and
- Using time effectively.

Presenter
His Honour Tom Wodak

Steering Committee
Judge Pamela Jenkins
His Honour Tom Wodak

Dates
March 2015

Time
Day 1 9.00am – 5.00pm
Day 2 9.00am – 4.00pm

CPD hours
12 hours

To register
Email: jcvrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
Or: Login to the CPD database via JOIN

VCAT

Firm but Fair! Tribunal Craft for VCAT Members

Course outline
This program will help you to develop an effective judicial management style in your tribunal room.

Through the use of scenarios, this skills-based program presents a unique opportunity to:

- Reflect on your style on the bench and identify areas for improvement; and
- Focus on techniques which can assist you to manage and deal effectively with difficult people and situations in the tribunal room.

Steering Committee
Deputy President Catherine Aird
Senior VCAT Member Margaret Baird

Date
August 2015

Time
9.00am – 4.30pm

CPD hours
6 hours

To register
Email: jcvrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
Or: Login to the CPD database via JOIN

Jurisdiction-specific Programs – Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT)
Let’s Settle this Matter: Compulsory Conferencing

Course outline
This program will provide you with the skills and techniques to confidently conduct compulsory conferences and to deal with intense and complex VCAT matters, including:

- Identifying and clarifying issues in dispute;
- Developing effective methods and strategies for promoting settlement;
- Developing skills to support parties to shift from passive conflict melodrama to active conflict reality;
- Working with the ‘predictability’ of parties’ irrational behaviour in dispute settings;
- Supporting parties to make decisions to achieve settlement; and
- Making the transition if there is no settlement.

Presenter
Professor Nadja Alexander
James Cook University (Queensland) and Shue Yan University (Hong Kong)

Steering Committee
Deputy President Catherine Aird
Deputy President Ian Lulham
Senior Sessional VCAT Member Michael Levine
Senior Sessional VCAT Member Margaret Lothian

Date
September 2015

Time
9.00am – 4.30pm

CPD hours
6 hours

To register
Email:
jcvrego@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au
Or:
Login to the CPD database via JOIN

Professor Nadja Alexander
Professor Alexander is Foundation Director and Professor of the Institute for Conflict Engagement and Resolution at Hong Kong Shue Yan University and an Adjunct Professor at James Cook University, Australia. She is an accredited conflict resolution professional in Australia (National Accreditation, LEADR) and Hong Kong (HKIAC).

Nadja has extensive experience as a practitioner, trainer and consultant in Australasia, the Pacific and Europe and is listed in the International Who’s Who of Commercial Mediation.
Through this journal, and the College’s ongoing work, the community will gain a window into the court’s educational journey. This journey mixes self-reflection, peer learning and traditional educative methods. I am sure that, like the College’s other publications, this will become a key resource for courts and the public to learn about the Victorian justice system.

The Honourable David Habersberger QC