



Judicial
College of
Victoria



**2024 Education
Prospectus.**

Cover artwork:

The Lore and The Law

Located at 540 Little Bourke Street,
Melbourne.

Artist: Kaff-iene



Welcome to the Judicial College of Victoria’s calendar of events for 2024. This Prospectus highlights the education on offer to Victoria’s judges, magistrates, coroners and VCAT members for the year ahead.

The Prospectus also showcases a large, powerful mural in the heart of Melbourne’s legal precinct by renowned street artist (and Honours law graduate) Kaff-iene. Painted behind Owen Dixon Chambers during the winter of 2022 and currently obscured by leafy trees on Little Bourke Street, the work speaks to the tension implicit in its title, ‘The Lore and the Law’. It also encourages us to notice not just what is apparent in the everyday, but that which may be less obvious in our environment and in our work.

As Kaff-iene writes:

‘I wanted the mural to facilitate conversation amongst Victoria’s lawmakers; to highlight the continued conflict between First Nations legal systems and the Colonial/Australian Westminster legal system, and to encourage or provoke those with power to work towards resolving the conflict.’

As it has done for many years, this year the College is offering several programs on First Nations’ cultural awareness, as well as a range of immersive educational events and twilight seminars covering key judicial knowledge, skills and professional development.

Thank you to the many judicial officers and others who generously give their expertise and time to the peer learning on offer at the College.

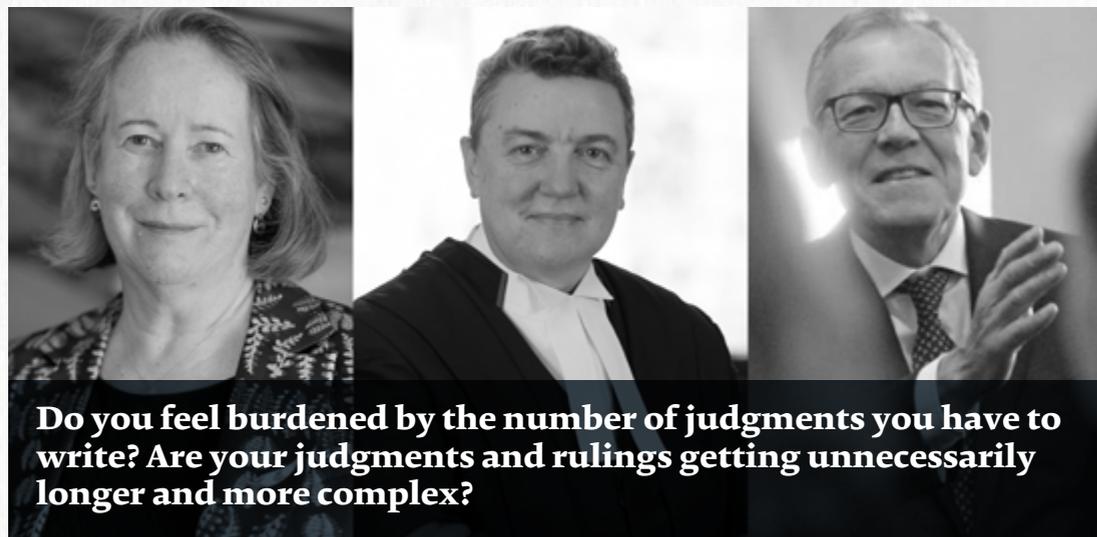
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15 & 16 February or 22 & 23 August 2024

2 FULL DAYS

Mastering the art of judgment writing.



Do you feel burdened by the number of judgments you have to write? Are your judgments and rulings getting unnecessarily longer and more complex?

Learn how to step off the judicial writing treadmill and liberate time to focus on other aspects of the judicial role.

In this 2-day experiential workshop, you will learn from judge-educators and eminent writers to hone your judgment writing techniques to become more efficient and effective.

Participants will develop a range of effective ways to write tightly structured, precise and accessible decisions that use language that is clear for your intended readers.

You will learn:

- how to write clearly, concisely, and efficiently
- how to use narrative structure and voice
- frameworks for writing and structuring judgments.

15 & 16 February 2024

SUPREME COURT AND
COUNTY COURT ONLY

22 & 23 August 2024

CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL

Teaching faculty:

The Faculty is co-chaired by the **Hon. Kim Hargrave** and **Justice Kristen Walker** and includes **Justice Cameron Macaulay**, **Justice Paul Cosgrave**, of the Supreme Court of Victoria and **Judge Fiona Todd**, County Court of Victoria.

Speakers:



The Hon. Justice Debra Mortimer

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE
FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



The Hon. Professor Peter Gray

FORMER FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA JUDGE
AND ADJUNCT PROFESSOR SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY



Professor Helen Sword

WRITESPACE LIMITED

Writing coaches:



Dr Don Watson

AUTHOR, SPEECHWRITER AND SCREENWRITER



Alice Pung OAM

AUTHOR AND LAWYER



Jock Serong

AUTHOR AND REFORMED LAWYER



Kate Mildenhall

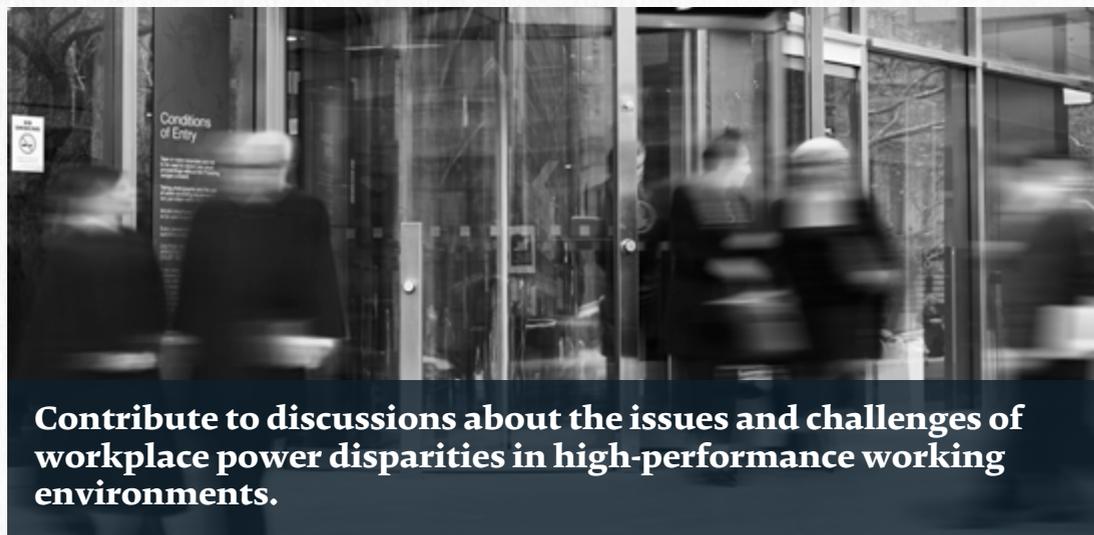
AUTHOR, TEACHER AND PODCASTER

February 2024

FULL DAY

Courts as workplaces:

PREVENTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT & BYSTANDER TRAINING.



Learn from colleagues about how they try to maintain a safe and respectful culture at courts, and how they manage the difficulties that inevitably crop up.

This workshop invites judicial officers to lead the conversation about preventing sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour in and out of court. Go from bystander to upstander and become more comfortable with responding to and preventing sexual harassment and bullying in your workplace.

Sessions are tailored to each jurisdiction and include panel discussions with judicial officers and scenario-based conversations.

You will:

- discuss the expectations of a judicial officer when responding to both alleged perpetrators and complainants of sexual harassment
- learn how to promote a culture where sexual harassment and other inappropriate behaviours are prevented.

Facilitators:



Sally Ryan

PSYCHOLOGIST AND DIRECTOR,
HUMAN ETHOS



Erica Edmonds

PARTNER AND LEAD FACILITATOR,
EN MASSE



Stuart Kay

EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT,
EN MASSE

23 February 2024

FULL DAY | SUPREME COURT OF VICTORIA

Courts as workplaces:

PREVENTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT &
BYSTANDER TRAINING.

27 February 2024

HALF DAY | VCAT

Tribunals as workplaces:

PREVENTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT &
BYSTANDER TRAINING.

From March 2024

TWILIGHT

First Nations twilight series.



*Image credit – Mural by Adnate.

As Victoria begins to move towards Treaty, the Judicial College recognises the changing cultural and legal landscape for First Nations peoples and allies in this state.

In 2024, our First Nations Twilights celebrate First Peoples' storytelling and resilience; explores key organisations and services that act as first responders to a myriad of First Nations issues within the justice system; examines how the courts can incorporate lessons from the past into present judicial practice; and taps into an expansive view of Country's imaginative possibilities.

This series of events is presented in partnership with the Judicial Officers' Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Committee (JOACAC), chaired by Justice Jane Dixon and Magistrate Rose Falla.

5 March 2024

Ablaze: Film screening with director Tiriki Onus.

Relax into the cinematic experience of First Peoples' visual storytelling with a film screening of **Ablaze**, a feature documentary by Tiriki Onus and Alec Morgan that explores the discovery of a 70-year-old film made by Tiriki's grandfather, Aboriginal leader and filmmaker Bill Onus.

Tiriki Onus will join judicial officers for a discussion after the screening.

28 May 2024

Koori participants across courts: Who is here to help?

In this exploration of services for First People in the justice system, key organisations will showcase their culturally specific skills and strategies to inform judicial officers about a range of available responses to the varied and diverse requirements of Koori people appearing in courts.

6 August 2024

Inquiries, reviews, inquests:

LESSONS IN MINIMISING RISK.

Much has been written on the hundreds of Aboriginal lives lost to systemic racism and ongoing intergenerational trauma caused by colonisation. Recommendations abound: but what works and what doesn't? In this Twilight event, we hear about those caught in the crossfire, positive steps that have been taken across courts to ameliorate harm and how judicial officers can continue to make a difference within the system.

7 November 2024

Lore and literature.

This celebration of First Nations' writing and storytelling provides access into new worlds and probes our collective presuppositions about voice, authority and knowledge. With leading First Nations writers and thinkers, we explore the future of the Australian imagination when we summon those historical and contemporary influences that have previously inhabited the fringes – from where all great art originates.

1 March 2024

FULL DAY

Sovereign citizens, querulant litigants & high-conflict behaviours.



Courts continue to experience a range of behaviours from sovereign citizens and querulant litigants. Learn about these groups from the experts and develop practical strategies to respond with calm authority in court.

You will increase your understanding of:

- the sovereign citizen movement and common arguments raised in court
- the case law in relation to sovereign citizens
- the characteristics and assessment of querulant litigants
- how to respond to high-conflict behaviour.

Speakers:



Justice Peter Kidd
CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COUNTY COURT



Professor Michele Pathé
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY, SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY



Professor Jim Ogloff AM
UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF FORENSIC BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE & DEAN, SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES, SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

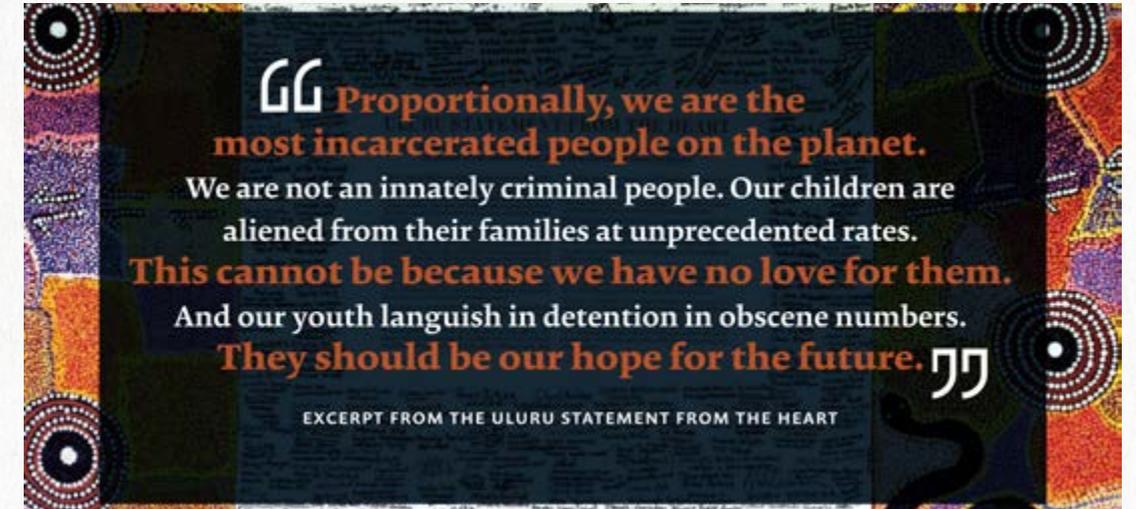
21 March 2024

HALF DAY | MAGISTRATES' COURT ONLY

12 September 2024

TWILIGHT | ALL JURISDICTIONS

Aboriginality and bail.



Develop knowledge and confidence in hearing bail applications involving Aboriginal people in these expert-led discussions of imminent legislative changes to the *Bail Act 1977 s 3A*.

These sessions will:

- explore the expansion of the mandatory considerations in section 3A of the Bail Act
- equip bail decision makers to identify broader systemic factors that drive inequality and factors that make Aboriginal people particularly vulnerable in custody.

These sessions have been designed with input from the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service.

Steering committee for 21 March event:



Magistrate Jennifer Bowles
CHILDREN'S COURT OF VICTORIA



Magistrate Donna Bakos
MAGISTRATES' COURT OF VICTORIA



Magistrate Michelle Hodgson
MAGISTRATES' COURT OF VICTORIA



Magistrate Rose Falla
MAGISTRATES' COURT OF VICTORIA

21 March 2024

12 September 2024

22 March 2024

FULL DAY | VCAT

VCAT orientation:

ETHICAL AND BEHAVIOURAL DIMENSIONS OF THE ROLE.



An opportunity for new VCAT members to come together and learn about their role, preventing sexual harassment and other inappropriate behaviours, and key skills for managing hearings through effective communication.

Developed specifically for recently appointed VCAT members, this event includes both theory and practical skills on:

- preventing sexual harassment, including bystander training
- the ethical dimensions of the role
- how to exercise authority in the hearing room
- communicating effectively in the hearing room.

Please note that attendance is by invitation only.

Speakers & facilitators:



Erica Edmonds
PARTNER AND LEAD FACILITATOR,
EN MASSE



Stuart Kay
EXECUTIVE CONSULTANT,
EN MASSE



Simon Wood
DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER,
SEEDLING LEADERSHIP

17 April 2024

TWILIGHT | 5PM-8PM

Prima Facie: Film screening with playwright Suzie Miller.



An unexpected event forces a criminal barrister to confront the lines where the patriarchal power of the law, burden of proof and morals diverge.

Don't miss this special screening of the National Theatre UK's production of Suzie Miller's electrifying play. Renowned actor, Jodie Comer, gives a riveting one-woman performance as a rising young criminal defence barrister whose view of the justice system is shattered after she is sexually assaulted.

This internationally award-winning play is mandatory viewing for newly appointed High Court judges in Northern Ireland. This thought-provoking performance offers a fresh perspective on power and insight into the experience of sexual assault victims of the court process.

Suzie Miller will join judicial officers for a discussion after the screening.

Speaker:



Suzie Miller
PLAYWRIGHT, LIBRETTIST
AND SCREENWRITER

19 April 2024

FULL DAY | VCAT

Delivering oral decisions effectively.



Delivering effective oral decisions is an essential skill of efficient tribunal members. Oral decisions assist in managing case loads, and counter over-reliance on the written word.

This skills-based program will teach you to deliver oral reasons with competence and confidence. You will practice delivering oral decisions under the guidance of experienced facilitators.

Topics you will cover:

- when to use an oral decision
- techniques for preparation and delivery
- the requirements of an oral decision – including introductions, structure and tailoring to your audience.

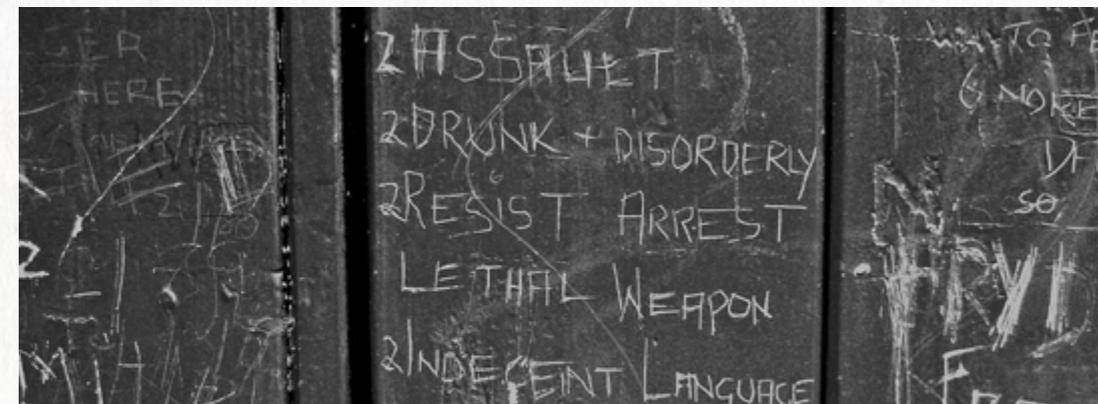
Steering committee:

- **Judge Caitlin English**
- **Deputy President Richard Wilson**
- **Deputy President Ian Proctor**
- **Senior Member Anita Smith**
- **Member Alison Glynn**
- **Member Susan Whitney.**

April 2024

FULL DAY

Inside prisons.



An escorted tour of Victorian prisons gives judicial officers deep new insights into the reality of imprisonment.

Through these visits, you will:

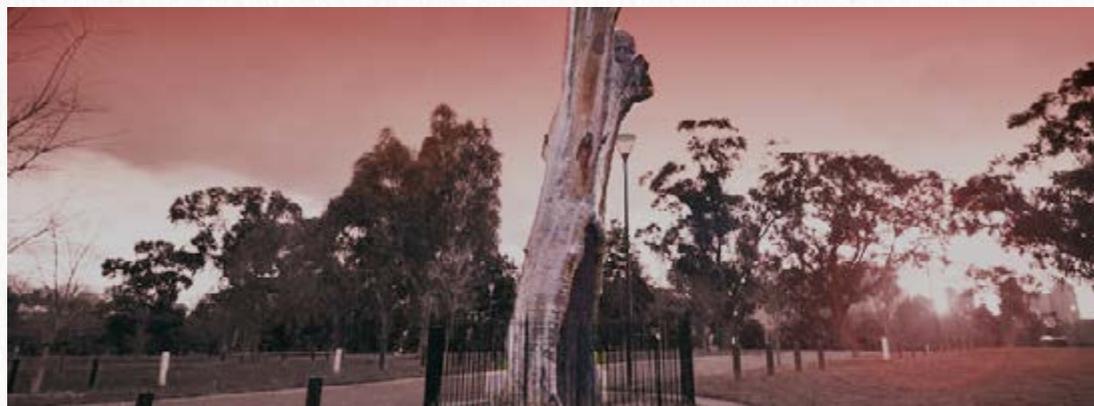
- expand your understanding of prisons and the prison industry
- explore issues related to sentence management, rehabilitation programs and family contact arrangements
- be exposed to different perspectives on custodial settings.

This full-day tour will involve visits to three prisons. It is suitable for judicial officers sitting in crime.

30 April 2024 and 19 November 2024

FULL DAY

First Nations cultural awareness for judicial officers.



Build a nuanced cultural awareness about First Nations people to foster respect and understanding in Victoria’s court system.

This program will support you to take a culturally informed approach to your role and to more deeply understand First Nations peoples’ experience of the courts and the justice system.

In this workshop, you will build knowledge and skills to navigate the complexities of First Nations people’s experiences of the law and promote an equitable justice system for all.

This program is essential for new appointees but all judicial officers are welcome to attend.

You will learn about:

- Aboriginal culture and identity
- self-determination
- terminology and definitions
- pre-colonisation and post-colonial history
- closing the gap
- voice, treaty and truth in Victoria
- specific issues relevant to First Nations people’s experiences of the justice system relevant to you as a judicial officer.

30 April 2024

19 November 2024

14 May 2024

TWILIGHT

Understanding personality disorders and complex trauma.



Mental disorder or impairment and drug dependency are common in people appearing in the criminal justice system. Yet they often don’t get the support they need.

Continuing our popular 2023 Twilight series on mental disorder, drug dependency and the law, this seminar will build your knowledge of personality disorder and its intersection with complex trauma.

You will learn about the range of supports and resources available to help you confidently respond in cases involving these issues.

You will also explore:

- forensic assessment and diagnoses
- connection between personality disorders and complex trauma
- treatment and/or behavioural change options

- what to consider when sentencing people with personality disorders
- courtroom interactions with people with personality disorders.

Presenters:



Associate Professor Andrew Carroll
CO-DIRECTOR,
OUR CURIOUS MINDS



Brett Bridges
CO-DIRECTOR,
OUR CURIOUS MINDS

24 May 2024

FULL DAY

Jury trial management.



Deepen your understanding of key legal and judicial practices in jury trial management.

Managing jury trials is a core part of any criminal judge's work. You are responsible for ensuring a fair trial in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures, managing the experience of witnesses and jurors, and ensuring counsel comply with their obligations to the Court.

Explore key parts of the trial judge's role in managing a jury trial, including:

- empanelling and excusing jurors
- discharging jurors or the jury
- time management and scheduling within the trial process preparing for and conducting the *Jury Directions Act 2015* Part 3 'conversation'
- preparing and delivering either traditional or integrated jury directions.

This program is essential for any new judge and will provide a refresher for more seasoned judges.

31 May 2024

HALF DAY | COUNTY COURT ONLY

Understanding family violence.

9 August 2024

FULL DAY | ALL JURISDICTIONS



Making the justice system safer for victim-survivors remains a priority for all courts and tribunals.

In this introductory program, you will learn about foundational concepts such as the dynamics of family violence, coercive control and how to assess and respond to risk in your courtroom.

Learn about topics such as:

- the nature of family violence, including myths and misconceptions
- the impact of family violence on children and young persons
- understanding and using the most widely used family violence risk assessment tool in Victoria – the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) framework
- ways to appropriately communicate with people who use violence
- the nature of trauma and how it affects people appearing in family violence matters in your courtroom.

31 May 2024

9 August 2024

28 June 2024

FULL DAY

Managing sexual offence cases.



Sexual offence law is highly complex with judicial officers required to navigate law, evidence, procedure and emotion, in the context of changing legislation and evolving jurisprudence.

Image: Detail of Artemisia Gentileschi's 'Judith beheading Holofernes'

Learn from experienced judicial officers and experts about the latest legal principles and practices relevant to sexual offence cases in Victoria.

In this full-day program, you will deepen your understanding of:

- procedures to get the best evidence from complainants and vulnerable witnesses, including through ground rules hearings and intermediaries
- major areas of evidence law relevant to sexual offence cases, including hearsay exceptions and the tendency and coincidence rules
- the impact of changing legislation on the elements of offences, definitions of consent and the obligation to give certain jury directions
- how to manage the additional challenges that arise when childhood sexual abuse is not disclosed for decades.

19 July 2024

HALF DAY

Evidence essentials.



A perennial favourite, this event provides judicial officers with the opportunity to hear from experienced judicial officers and experts on complex areas of evidence law.

Evidence law is at the heart of the judicial process. However, even when the principles are clear, the range of values attributed to multiple factors creates complexity.

Your questions will be collectively examined through scenario work and group discussion. Key topics about evidence law will be addressed, such as:

- hearsay and opinion
- tendency, coincidence and cross admissibility
- assessing probative value and prejudicial effect
- the credibility rule
- admissions.

Speaker:

Justice Peter Kidd

CHIEF JUDGE OF THE COUNTY COURT

26 July 2024

FULL DAY | VCAT

Clear and concise decision writing.



Expert facilitators will guide you through practical exercises to finesse your decision writing.

You will learn about:

- planning for and understanding your audience
- determining the relevance of and communicating complex and technical information
- refining the architecture of writing, including structuring findings and narrative sequence
- understanding voice, clear communication, and plain language principles.

Steering committee:

- **Judge Caitlin English**
- **Deputy President Richard Wilson**
- **Deputy President Ian Proctor**
- **Senior Member Anita Smith**
- **Member Alison Glynn**
- **Member Susan Whitney.**

30 July 2024

FULL DAY

Courtroom communication.



Set in a courtroom, coaches Simon Wood and Angela Twigg will share with you the fundamentals of courtcraft.

Over the day, you will:

- enhance your verbal and non-verbal communication skills
- learn strategies for keeping calm in stressful situations
- reflect on how you want to be perceived in your courtroom
- put your new skills into practice
- receive feedback to develop your own personal style.

Facilitators:



Simon Wood

DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER,
SEEDLING LEADERSHIP



Angela Twigg

SENIOR ASSOCIATE CONSULTANT,
SEEDLING LEADERSHIP

14 August 2024

TWILIGHT

Understanding cognitive impairment and forensic disability services.



The fifth session of our popular Twilight series considers people with cognitive impairments involved in the criminal justice system who require access to specialist forensic support and treatment, or who require additional supports to enable them to access mainstream forensic services.

Speakers:



Dr Matt Frize

DIRECTOR, FORENSIC DISABILITY SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, FAIRNESS & HOUSING



David Pearce

MANAGER, DISABILITY JUSTICE COORDINATION, DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, FAIRNESS & HOUSING

You will explore topics such as:

- cognitive impairments including neurological disability, acquired brain injury and intellectual disability
- DFFH Forensic Disability Services, including disability justice coordination and clinical services
- court-based supports for people with disability
- NDIS and the justice system
- treatment and/or behavioural change options for people with cognitive impairment
- sentencing people with cognitive impairment.

6 September 2024

FULL DAY | MAGISTRATES' COURT

Running contested hearings.



Summary contested hearings canvass many issues and must be resolved in a short space of time. Magistrates must often respond to unexpected procedural and legal challenges.

Practical and interactive, this full day workshop will explore such issues as:

- preparatory steps to ensure the smooth running of the hearing with practical pointers and clarity on what to do before and at the start of a hearing
- how to evaluate the reliability and credibility of witnesses
- decision-making and unconscious bias risks arising from subconscious processes and assumptions.

October 2024

FULL DAY

Inside parole and community corrections.



An opportunity for judicial officers to learn more about the services that a person experiences while serving a Community Correction order or on parole.

This escorted tour of key Victorian community corrections sites and the Adult Parole Board will enhance your understanding of:

- community work teams and the experiences of sentenced persons on Community Correction orders
- forensic intervention services and group programs
- the Adult Parole Board and what parole involves.

The tour runs for a full day and is suitable for judicial officers sitting in crime.

18 October 2024

FULL DAY | VCAT

Tribunal craft.



An introduction to managing communication in your tribunal room.

This full-day skills-based program for tribunal members focuses on developing and practising techniques to manage the tribunal room more effectively. Experienced coaches will guide you through interactive exercises that will build your confidence and give insight into improving your communication.

Topics covered include:

- your tribunal management style
- strengths and blind spots
- how you are perceived
- managing and dealing effectively with difficult people and situations in the tribunal room.

Facilitators:



Simon Wood

DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER,
SEEDLING LEADERSHIP



Raj Sidhu

ASSOCIATE CONSULTANT,
SEEDLING LEADERSHIP



Senior Member Cathy Aird

VICTORIAN CIVIL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL



Senior Member Charlie Powles

VICTORIAN CIVIL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

25 October 2024

FULL DAY | COUNTY COURT AND SUPREME COURT

Judicial management forum.



Guided by senior judicial officers acting as judicial mentors, the Judicial Management Forum invites new judicial officers to learn management practices and principles from colleagues. You will have the opportunity to contribute to discussions about the legal and ethical obligations of the shared workplace including in relation to sexual harassment and bullying.

Participants will take part in skills sessions that explore:

- allocating work and setting expectations
- giving and receiving feedback including good, difficult, constructive and timely feedback
- mentoring and establishing boundaries
- conversations in chambers about cultural contexts arising in or out of court
- debriefing after court and having tricky conversations.

Facilitator:



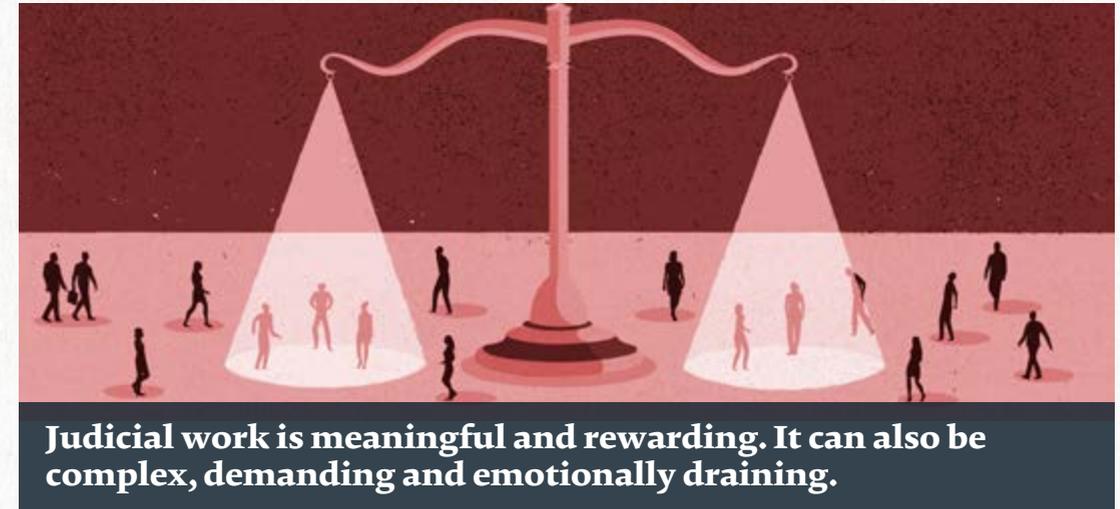
Kristen Hilton
FORMER VICTORIAN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER

Invitation only for new appointees to the County Court and Supreme Court of Victoria.

29 November 2024

FULL DAY

Balancing the demands of judicial life.



Designed for recent appointees, you will explore the human dimension of judging and how to take up the judicial role with optimism and confidence.

This is a cross-jurisdictional and collaborative event. You will participate in facilitated conversations with your judicial colleagues to:

- learn about the known pressure-points in judicial work
- explore opportunities for growth and fulfilment
- walk away with a personal wellbeing plan to support you in your judicial career.

Speakers:



Sally Ryan
PSYCHOLOGIST AND DIRECTOR, HUMAN ETHOS



Carly Schrever
PSYCHOLOGIST AND DIRECTOR, HUMAN ETHOS

6 December 2024

FULL DAY

Magistrates' orientation.



Developed especially for recently appointed magistrates and coroners, this program includes theoretical and practical sessions on:

- preventing sexual harassment and other inappropriate behaviours, and bystander training
- exercising authority in the courtroom
- the essential ethical and personal qualities required to succeed in the role
- skills and techniques for communicating effectively with all parties in the courtroom.

2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

360 degree feedback.



The 360-degree survey was first developed by the College in 2006 and has been refreshed and refined over the years.

It enables you to receive confidential and formalised feedback from your peers – including advocates who appear before you, and non-judicial colleagues.

You will complete the 360-degree survey with support from organisational psychologist Maryanne Mooney.

You can personalise the survey to the specific strengths – and challenges – you face in your role.

The 360-degree feedback survey is available for judicial officers with at least 3 years' experience, via an expression of interest process.

Expressions of interest can be emailed to education@judicialcollege.vic.edu.au

Facilitator:



Maryanne Mooney
ORGANISATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

College publications.

The Judicial College of Victoria publishes a suite of highly valuable legal resources. Our bench books provide clear, accurate and accessible explanations of the law – across a variety of areas, while our resources provide current expertise across legal, procedural and behavioural practices.

All our publications are written by experienced College staff in collaboration with Victorian judicial officers and tribunal members.

You can access all our bench books and resources via our website at

www.judicialcollege.vic.edu.au

Bench books.

Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Bench Book

Children’s Court Bench Book

Civil Juries Charge Book

Criminal Charge Book

Criminal Proceedings Manual

Disability Access Bench Book

Family Violence Bench Book

Guide to the Guardianship and Administration Act 2019

Modern Slavery: Guidance for Australian Courts

Open Courts Bench Book

Personal Safety Intervention Orders Bench Book

Serious Injury Manual

Uniform Evidence Manual

Victorian Sentencing Manual and Case Sentencing Summaries

Resources.

Conduct and ethics – **New**

Courtcraft

Criminal law and procedure

Evidence

Family violence

First Nations

Judicial Precedent Builders – **New**

Judicial wellbeing

Scholarship for the legal community

Sexual harassment

Victims and witnesses

Coming soon.

Civil Procedure Bench Book – **New edition**

Coroner’s Bench Book – **New edition**

Intervention Orders Manual

Judgment writing resources

