



**VICTORIAN  
WOMEN  
LAWYERS**

# Resourcing Yourself: Professionally and Personally

Noting the unique issues and stresses that arise in the practice of law this event is aimed at minimising the risk of vicarious trauma to family law, personal injury and medical negligence lawyers and allied professionals such as psychologists, family reporters and HR professionals in their dealings with clients.

We will attempt to address and cover the dynamics and profiles of clients who are often at their most vulnerable and the fact that lawyers find themselves navigating issues such as assessing and documenting risk of family violence without the social scientist background or skills.

**DATE:** 24 August 2016

**TIME:** 5.30pm - registrations  
6.00pm – 7:30 pm: panel discussion

**VENUE:** Nicholes Family Lawyers  
Level 12  
460 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne

**COST:** \$20 for VWL Members  
\$50 for non-members

**RVSP:** [www.vwl.asn.au](http://www.vwl.asn.au)

## PRESENTATIONS BY:

### DR CATHERINE BOLAND



Dr. Catherine Boland is a Clinical Psychologist with expertise in working with children, young people and parents who are experiencing relationship issues and are in situations of family conflict and separation. She is an accomplished speaker, author and clinician who understands the complex realities of child and adolescent mental health and provides evidence-based direction to those who work with them. Catherine is an experienced therapist offering services to families in Court proceedings where children are involved. Catherine has developed a model by which families ordered to attend therapy are assessed, treated and reported.

### ABIGAIL SULLIVAN



Abigail is a later lawyer, practising solely in the areas of family law and family violence since being admitted. Abigail started her career with WLSV as a volunteer, before joining the case work team and then the legal education team. Abigail enjoys the opportunity to use her experience as a casework lawyer in an educational context. Abigail is a passionate trainer who enjoys designing and delivering practical and meaningful training programs to assist families going through the family law process.

### HELEN MATTHEWS



Helen has practised as a family lawyer for over 25 years and is an accredited family law specialist. Her family law experience has been both in private practice and for Victoria Legal Aid (VLA). Helen has also held education and training roles including positions at the University of Queensland and at VLA. In her current role, Helen has responsibility for the overall supervision of legal advice and representation provided by Women's Legal Service Victoria and contributes to its training programs and policy work.

### DR MELANIE HEENAN



Dr Melanie Heenan is the Executive Director of Court Network, a not for profit organisation that provides support to people going through the court system. Previously, she managed the Preventing Violence Against Women Program at VicHealth that addressed the underlying causes of violence against women. In 2006, she was the first manager of the Respect and Responsibility program at the Australian Football League. Melanie's career has included more than 25 years of research, policy and practice experience.

### WITH HER HONOUR JUDGE EVELYN BENDER

Her Honour was appointed to the Federal Circuit Court of Australia (then the Magistrates Court of Australia) on 15 September 2008 and presides predominantly in the Family Law jurisdiction. In addition, Her Honour is notably active in various committees concerning Family Violence particularly the Family Law Courts Family Violence Committee and the Magistrates' Court of Victoria, Family Violence Taskforce and recently participated in the Council of Australian Government Advisory Panel. Her Honour commenced her professional career as a country solicitor before returning to Melbourne where Her Honour became the Family Law partner in a large suburban firm. Her Honour was then a Registrar of the Family Court of Australia for thirteen years. At the time of her appointment Her Honour was the Family Law In-House Counsel at Victoria Legal Aid



***This professional development activity contains content that may meet the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) needs of lawyers. If this session does meet your CPD needs according to the LIV CPD Rules 2008 you may claim 1 CPD unit for each hour of attendance (breaks excluded)***