



ESLA NEWSLETTER

Connecting Lawyers. Building Community.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

You may have noticed that we haven't issued a newsletter since February. As President, it has been an especially busy period, so thank you for your patience — this edition brings you a combined March, April and May wrap-up of what has been highly engaging and well-attended few months for ESLA.

MARCH CPD

Our March CPD explored Intellectual Property and Digital Data/AI, with exploration of the human brain, digital content/brain, and where they intersect — and why that intersection matters for *all* lawyers, regardless of practice focus.

We heard from **Harvey Bowlt, Jonathan Williamson and Emma Hann**, who covered trademarks and copyright, alongside emerging issues in AI, evidence and the risk of “cognitive surrender.

This evening also saw the announcement of [Mary Technology](#) joining us as a sponsor. Thank you Mary!

APRIL CPD

Our April CPD session explored **life after separation, divorce and bereavement**, bringing together insights across family law, wills and estates, and financial planning.

We were fortunate to hear from **Stephanie Doyle, Tony Bartel and Nicola Beswick**, who each shared practical, real-world perspectives from their respective practice areas.

What made this session particularly valuable was its relevance across multiple areas of practice. Issues arising from major life transitions rarely sit neatly within one discipline — they often intersect across legal, financial and personal considerations. This session reinforced the importance of recognising those overlaps and ensuring we are well-equipped to guide clients through these complex and often emotionally challenging periods with a holistic lens.

MAY CPD

Our May CPD event, focused on **Wills and Estate Planning**, was exceptionally well received, with **over 130 registered attendees**.

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We extend our thanks to our outstanding speakers:

- **Anna Hacker** (Pitcher Partners – sponsor)
- **Paul Traianedes** (Tishner Liner FC Law)
- **Pamela Nasikis and Kevin Philip** (Equity Trustees – sponsor)

The session delivered practical insights and reinforced the importance of proactive estate planning in legal practice.

A highlight of the evening was our **goodie bag door prizes**, made possible through the generous contributions of our sponsors — thank you for your continued support.

And remember, events like these wouldn't be possible without our community and the support of [Law Institute of Victoria](#) and our sponsors [Pitcher Partners](#), [Equity Trustees](#), [Greens List Barristers](#), [Stewart Title](#), [Mary Technology](#) and [The College of Law](#).

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE LIV PRESIDENT

We were also grateful to welcome the **President of the Law Institute of Victoria, Tom Ballantyne**, to our May event and hear an update on the happenings at the LIV.

We extend our appreciation to Tom for taking time out of his busy schedule and engaging with the ESLA community.

SUPPORTING OUR SPONSORS AND SPEAKERS

Our events are made possible by you, the members, and the ongoing support of our speakers and sponsors.

We encourage members that, where your professional needs align, you consider reaching out to and supporting those who support ESLA. You can find more information about our speakers and sponsors via the **Speakers & Sponsors** section on our website: <https://esla.au>

COMMITTEE UPDATE AND CPD ON 9 JUNE 2026

The Committee has been meeting monthly, and our 2026 events program is well underway. Our next CPD event will be: **Focus on Financials and Reporting Obligations** 📅 **9 June 2026**

Bookings opened on **13 May 2026**, and we encourage you to secure your place early to assist with planning. 🖱️ <https://thq.fyi/se/e468c87a9cc6>

The sessions will span:

- Billing your client: from Cost Agreement to Taxation

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- AML/CTF Obligations & Professional Ethical Considerations
- Firm Financials: Your Trust Account

JOIN THE ESLA COMMITTEE

There are currently two vacant Committee positions. Members interested in contributing to ESLA's work are encouraged to express their interest by speaking to a Committee member or emailing ESLACommittee@gmail.com.

YOUNG LAWYERS COFFEE CATCH-UP | REGISTER NOW

Join Emerging Lawyers Representative, Mikayla Shaw for an informal opportunity to connect.

☉ Cost is \$5 and tickets include a beverage of your choice.

📌 Numbers are capped and **booking is essential**.

Register here: <https://thq.fyi/se/580398f2c810>

STAY CONNECTED | REMEMBER, WE'RE LIVE ON SOCIALS

Follow us for event updates, insights, and highlights. Please follow and tag us.

[Instagram](#) | <https://linkedin.com/company/eastern-solicitors-law-association/about/>

A WORD FROM OUR SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS

Law Institute of Victoria (LIV)

LIV membership connects you with a collegiate community of peers and provides you with high-quality education, resources and support to help you achieve professional excellence throughout your career.

Join or renew your LIV membership for **2026–27** and unlock instant benefits.

Pitcher Partners | Insolvency expertise from Pitcher Partners

When considering insolvency appointments, you need an expert you can trust. Pitcher Partners is a leader in corporate restructuring, business recovery and insolvency.

As commercially minded insolvency specialists, they deliver practical outcomes for creditors and key stakeholders, with deep technical expertise in complex investigations both in Australia and internationally.

Their services include:

- Voluntary administrations
- Court appointments
- Liquidations
- Dispute resolution
- Receiverships

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If you are looking to appoint a leading insolvency team, reach out to your Pitcher Partners contact.

Mary Technology | The Financial Disclosure Tool Family Lawyers Have Been Waiting For...

Ever spent countless hours combing through bank statements?

Mary Technology has built a solution specifically for this challenge. Upload your client's bank statements, ask questions, and receive a clear, structured index of key financial insights, including:

- Gambling, alcohol, adult entertainment and unexplained withdrawals
- Payments between parties across defined periods
- Categorised spending (e.g. groceries, medical, utilities)

Every result is verifiable to the source document in a single click — and it performs even with poor-quality or heavily scanned documents.

Curious? Book a chat with their resident family lawyer, Emma.

Equity Trustees

Equity Trustees have proudly supported ESLA for many years and value being part of a profession built on shared expertise and practical insight. Our team regularly contributes to ESLA CPD events, with recent sessions including “Tick the Box, Take the Risk: The Reality of Restrictive Practices in Substitute Decision-Making” (Pamela Nasiakos and Kevin Philip), along with past presentations from Nick McColl and Suzie Willis.

This reflects what we do every day - working alongside practitioners when estate matters become more complex. Whether that’s navigating decision-making issues, managing challenging client dynamics, or dealing with the practical steps involved in administering estates.

We’re also pleased to contribute to the ESLA community throughout the year - from giveaways and goodie bags to simply being here as a consistent, supportive partner when those challenges arise in practice. For more information visit www.eqt.com.au or contact Rachael Brown D +61 3 8623 5220 or E Rachaelb@eqt.com.au