

CHAIR



Mark Colthart, FortyEight Shortland Barristers, Auckland

With over 30 years of legal experience, Mark is a trusted authority in commercial arbitration, construction law, and complex property disputes. Consistently recognised as one of New Zealand's leading construction lawyers, he has been ranked in the Doyles Guide as a leading construction and infrastructure barrister for nine consecutive years (2017–2025). Mark is equally well regarded for his expertise in commercial and residential property law and sits on leading arbitration panels in New Zealand and internationally and serves on the Executive Committee of the Property Law Section of the New Zealand Law Society.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Tony Alexander, Economist, Wellington

Tony has spent over three decades analysing and writing about the New Zealand economy and delivers over 60 presentations annually across New Zealand and internationally. His audience includes home buyers, property investors, and small to medium-sized businesses. Tony is known for his ability to communicate complex economic trends in clear, accessible language. Rather than focusing on predictions, he explains underlying economic trends and their implications for households, businesses, and investors. Since October 2019, he has published a free weekly newsletter, Tony's View, and runs monthly surveys of real estate agents and consumer spending plans.



Philly Powell, Wellbeing First, Wānaka

Philly is the founder of Wellbeing First, a consultancy dedicated to helping organisations create thriving, sustainable workplaces by prioritising employee wellbeing. With a background in human resources and a passion for holistic health, she has spent over a decade driving systemic change in workplace culture. Philly began her career leading an award-winning wellbeing programme at Chorus, later qualifying as a nutritionist and launching initiatives that challenge outdated practices and reduce burnout risk. She is the creator of Wellbeing Tick, a global accreditation programme that sets the standard for workplace wellbeing. Philly's mission is clear; wellbeing isn't a perk – it's a business imperative.

SPEAKERS



Natasha Clarke, Gallagher Insurance, Christchurch

Natasha is the southern manager of the financial and professional risks division at Gallagher Insurance Brokers, with 39 years of experience in the insurance industry, including 25 years as a corporate fire and general broker with international firms. She specialises in managing insurance portfolios for professionals such as solicitors, engineers, architects, and construction companies. Natasha brings extensive expertise in addressing the unique insurance challenges faced by professionals and legal advisors in the property market.

SPEAKERS



Mark Dow, Dow and Associates, Christchurch

Mark is a registered valuer, Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Valuers, a director of Dow and Associates Limited, and a senior professional teaching Fellow at Lincoln University. His areas of expertise over his career include commercial property, industrial property, block land, specialist properties, residential property, compensation valuation and specialist property assignments. Mark has a particular interest in valuations for compensation and has provided expert evidence on property matters to arbitration tribunals, District Courts and the High Court, as well as acting as arbitrator/umpire on many occasions. Currently, he is a member of the Land Valuation Tribunal.



Thomas Gibbons, Thomas Gibbons Law, Hamilton

Thomas is a specialist property and development lawyer, dealing with complex issues in unit titles, residents' societies, subdivisions, land development and infrastructure. He is co-author of *Subdivisions Law and Practice* (LexisNexis, 2025), is often called upon to provide opinions for other lawyers and has given expert evidence in the High Court on a number of occasions. Thomas is a Fellow of the Australian College of Strata Lawyers and regularly writes and presents on property law issues.



Patrick Griffin, Tōitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand, Hamilton

Patrick Griffin is the principal titles lead in the Property Rights group, specialising in land transfer registration. With more than 18 years at Land Information New Zealand, he has expertise in property rights and the regulatory frameworks that support them. Patrick's career reflects progressive responsibility across regulatory and registration roles, combining technical knowledge with a focus on customer outcomes.



Catherine Hattaway, WSP, Christchurch

Catherine is a property consultant specialising in land acquisition, disposal, and Treaty settlement matters under the Public Works Act 1981. Drawing on her background as a property solicitor, she leads acquisition negotiations for several New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi projects. Catherine's expertise includes property acquisition strategy, stakeholder engagement, and resolving complex issues involving government agencies, ensuring outcomes that balance project needs with fair and constructive engagement.



Oliver Hobbs, Dentons, Wellington

Oliver is a partner in the real estate team, with more than a decade of extensive experience in developments, acquisitions, funding structures and major projects. He regularly acts as lead advisor on large-scale development, acquisition and leasing matters, specialising in providing advice on commercial and industrial development projects, infrastructure and renewable energy assets, unit-titled buildings, and Crown settlements and transactions for iwi.

SPEAKERS



Cameron Hockly, Hockly Legal, Tāmaki Makaurau

Cameron is a public and constitutional lawyer with a practice that includes the Māori Land Court and Waitangi Tribunal proceedings. He is based in Tāmaki Makaurau.



Johanna King (JK), Tavendale + Partners, Christchurch

JK leads the planning and environmental law team and specialises in primary sector matters under the Resource Management Act 1991. She regularly provides strategic advice to, and has helmed environmental due diligence investigations for, a number of significant or complex transactions, including for farming conglomerates, large-scale infrastructure assets, industrial sites, and high-country pastoral leases. JK also advises rural clients on biosecurity matters and acquisitions under the Public Works Act 1981 and has appeared before various council hearing panels, the Environment Court, District Court and High Court, including appearing as junior counsel in both the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.



Colette Mackenzie, Greg Kelly Trust Law, Wellington

Colette has extensive experience in all aspects of trust law, advising clients on the use of trusts and wills in the context of asset planning. She has particular expertise in dealing with the treatment of trust property on the division of relationship property. Colette is also a contributing author to the 8th edition of Garrow and Kelly's Law of Trusts and Trustees and the New Zealand Guide to Trusts.



Niamh McMahon, McMahon Butterworth Thompson, Auckland

Niamh is a partner and practises primarily in the commercial law area. She was a convenor of the ADLS Documents & Precedents Committee for seven years and drafter of the 4th ed ADLS/REINZ Standard Agreement for Sale and Purchase of a Business. Niamh was a member of the Law Society's Property Law Section Executive Committee from 2013 to 2016, a member of Standards Committee 5 (Auckland) for seven years, and a costs assessor and an investigator for the Law Society. She was also a presenter at the CLE Stepping Up course from 2019 and course director from 2023-2025. She is currently a member of the Lawyers & Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal. Niamh is a regular presenter for CLE.



Honor Millar, Tavendale + Partners, Christchurch

Honor is a senior associate and rural property and primary sector specialist, with extensive experience in property law. Her expertise spans large-scale acquisitions, divestments, leases, Crown leases, livestock and grazing contracts, developments, and subdivisions. Honor was named Young Achiever of the Year 2025 at the Property Council NZ South Island Property People Awards, recognising professionals under 35 who are shaping the future of the industry.

SPEAKERS



Matthew Ockleston, Dentons, Auckland

Matthew is a real estate partner and has 25 years' experience, particularly with the Public Works Act (PWA), infrastructure projects and public law. A PWA specialist, he has acted for the New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi on almost every major State Highway project in the North Island since 2004 and several in Christchurch, and for other central and local government clients on a range of PWA, compensation and related property issues. Matthew advises on the current PWA reforms.



Suzy Petersen, Tōitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand, Christchurch

Suzy has been a solicitor at LINZ for four years, supporting the property rights team with complex legal matters arising from land transfer registration. Prior to joining LINZ, she worked in private practice for eight years, predominantly doing rural and private client work. Suzy also worked for a LINZ-accredited supplier doing disposal work and on secondment to the Canterbury Earthquake Authority.



Duncan Terris, Barrister, Christchurch

Duncan has practised in property law for more than 35 years. He recently transitioned from sole practice to barrister sole and undertakes property-related opinion, dispute resolution and expert witness engagements. Duncan also serves as a Disputes Tribunal Referee for the Ministry of Justice. He was involved in the development of the original Landonline and continues to support its evolution as convener of the Land Titles Sub-committee, engaging with LINZ on the recent LINZ "STEP" programme. He has served on the Property Law Section Executive for 20 years and is a regular presenter at property-related events.



Stephen Tomlinson, Tomlinson Law, Christchurch

Stephen is a partner of Tomlinson Law. He has lectured in taxation, finance and business law at the University of Canterbury and is a well-known presenter of taxation and trust law seminars and webinars. Stephen advises on a wide range of taxation issues, including the GST and income tax implications of property transactions. He is a member of The Law Association of New Zealand Trust Law Committee, and a past member of the Law Society Tax Law Committee.



Gene Turner, LawHawk, Wellington

Gene founded LawHawk with Allen Li in 2016 after a 17-year legal career, including six years as a corporate and finance partner at Buddle Findlay. He first implemented legal automation at Westpac in 2000, reducing document prep time from an hour to just minutes. Over time, it became clear that delivering automation at scale required a unique combination of legal, process, and tech skills, so Gene learned HotDocs and created LawHawk.

SPEAKERS



Sarah Wroe, Eldon Chambers, Auckland

Sarah is a barrister with over 25 years of international experience. She specialises in advocacy, mediation, and negotiated settlements, assisting clients to resolve and avoid disputes. Sarah's practice focuses on disputes arising from the ownership, leasing and sale of commercial and residential property. She accepts instructions as an experienced civil litigator for interim determination on claims for compensation under sale and purchase agreements.

NON-PRESENTING AUTHOR



Michelle Hill, Dentons, Auckland

Michelle is a partner and the business unit leader of the national real estate practice. With extensive expertise in commercial leasing, acquisitions, disposals, and developments, she has established herself as a leading real estate lawyer. She serves on the Law Society Property Law Section Executive Committee and contributes regularly to The Property Lawyer magazine with her column on commercial leasing topics.

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