

Personal Injury

Thursday 17 August 2023

Session 6 – 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Panel: Opportunities for improving the CTP scheme

Practice and procedure in Compulsory Third Party (CTP) claims have undergone huge changes in recent years. This expert panel will be discussing the current climate in CTP practice from various perspectives, including from those representing plaintiffs and defendants and the view from decision makers. The session will provide an update on the Personal Injury Commission, ideas and tips on case management, and delve into challenges faced by practitioners, potential improvements, and projections of the future landscape.

Meet the speakers

Moderator: Ian Jones, Partner, Sparke Helmore Lawyers

Ian Jones is a partner in the Commercial Insurance Group at Sparke Helmore Lawyers specialising in major and catastrophic motor vehicle insurance claims for major insurers. He advises on all aspects of motor vehicle disputes, including major/catastrophic claims, indemnity disputes, fraud and actions against third parties, including recovery actions between insurers. He has particular expertise in the assessment of damages and identifying strategies early for the effective management of major claims. Ian has practised exclusively in insurance law for 20 years, representing insurers in a variety of areas, including dust diseases, workers compensation, property damage and CTP insurance. He has a strong interest in policy and practice issues arising in relation to injury compensation law and, as a committee member of the Law Society of New South Wales' Injury Compensation Committee, he has consulted with the NSW Government's CTP reform reference panel in relation to the recent CTP reform in NSW.

Leigh Davidson, Principal Solicitor, Advantage Legal

Leigh Davidson is one of the founding Principal Solicitors of Advantage Legal, an Accredited Specialist in Personal Injury Law, the Deputy Chair of the Law Society of New South Wales' Injury Compensation Committee and was previously a Decision Maker at the Dispute Resolution Service. He has a passion for assisting injured people. Leigh has extensive experience working for compensation law firms and ASX listed insurance companies and is committed to improving the way compensation schemes operate in NSW. Leigh has appeared on multiple occasions before the NSW Parliament Legislative Council Standing Committee on Law and Justice to provide evidence on how the NSW motor accident compensation scheme could be improved to better serve injured people. He also has a significant interest in bicycle safety and how emerging technologies such as autonomous vehicles are changing the law.

His Honour Judge Gerard Phillips, President, Personal Injury Commission

His Honour Judge Gerard Phillips is the inaugural President of the Personal Injury Commission of NSW. Prior to his appointment to the District Court of New South Wales bench in 2019, Judge Phillips was a solicitor in private practice for over 30 years. His Honour specialised in employment and industrial law and was a partner in the global law firm K & L Gates and served on its global management committee. While in practice, Judge Phillips was a frequent author in the *Australian Financial Review* on a range of legal and industrial relations topics. His Honour is currently a council fellow at St John's College within the University of Sydney.

Sarah Warren, Barrister, 9 Windeyer Chambers

Sarah Warren was admitted to practice in 2008 and was called to the Bar in 2015. Experienced in defendant and plaintiff personal injury, Sarah has appeared in numerous jurisdictions from the Local Court through to the Court of Appeal, as well as tribunals such as NCAT and the Personal Injury Commission. Prior to being called to the Bar, Sarah worked in-house for a national insurer, practising in insurance litigation. Between 2018 and 2021, Sarah was a Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) Claims Assessor and a Claims Assessment and Resolution Services (CARS) Assessor. Sarah was involved in NSW Young Lawyers from 2009 and was previously the Chair of the NSW Young Lawyers Civil Litigation Committee from 2015-2017 and an Executive Councillor between 2015 and 2017. Sarah served as a member of the Law Society of New South Wales' Injury Compensation Committee in 2011 and 2012, the NSW Bar Association Common Law Committee between 2015 to 2018, and the NSW Bar Association Diversity and Equality Committee.