

Family Law

Thursday 17 August 2023

Session 4 – 1.45pm – 2.45pm

Best practice for Court based Dispute Resolution: Make the deal, don't break the deal

Join Senior Judicial Registrar Brett McGrath and Court Child Expert Joyce Snedden for an exploration of the best practice for practitioners when engaging in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia's Dispute Resolution setting. Topics will include the Court's conference structure, preparation and planning, dealing with risk, and the best approach for making the deal – not breaking the deal.

Meet the speakers

Brett McGrath, Director – National Registrar Operations (Dispute Resolution), Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

Brett McGrath is a highly experienced solicitor with expertise in family law and dispute resolution. He currently holds the position of Senior Judicial Registrar of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, where he presides over interim applications and conducts complex parenting and property dispute resolution conferences. Brett was appointed as the Director of National Registrar Practice (Dispute Resolution) in October 2022. Brett's legal career began in 2012, working in private practice, specialising in family and criminal law. He has also served on the Board of the Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales as the solicitor representative and lectures in family law and family dispute resolution at Western Sydney University. Brett has made a significant voluntary contribution to the legal profession and was elected to the Council of the Law Society of New South Wales in 2018. He currently serves as the Senior Vice President of the Law Society of New South Wales.

Joyce Snedden, Court Child Expert, Court Children's Service, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

Joyce Snedden is both a Social Worker and a Psychologist and has worked in the Federal Circuit and Family Court as a Court Child Expert for five years. She has participated in a number of Alternative Dispute Resolution sessions and has experienced positive results from this. Before coming to the Court, she was Manager, Wellbeing, in a large school system and supervised both family and school counsellors. She has also delivered educational events to teachers around subjects such as autism, behaviour support and mental health. Other roles have included work in child protection and family therapy.