

# Family Law

**Thursday 15 August 2024**

**Session 3 – 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

## **Coercive control as a criminal offence, and its impact on and interrelationship with family law proceedings**

The session will cover the particularisation of the ‘new’ offence, and the role ‘culture’ may play in the prosecution and/or defence of a coercive control charge. It will also look at the importance of family law cases in the area of coercive control, namely, but not limited to, *Morton & Beatty* [2022] FedCFamC2F 784, *Gadhavi & Gadhavi* [2023] FedCFamC1A 117, and *Ramzi & Moussa* [2022] FedCFamC2F 1473, as well as evidence gathering across both criminal and family jurisdictions.

### **Meet the speaker**

#### **Carolina Soto, Barrister, Black Chambers**

Carolina Soto maintains a practice in criminal law and family law. The intersection between these two disciplines provides a comprehensive advice base for her representation of clients in parenting matters where criminal allegations are made, or where issues of risk are involved. Carolina specialises in domestic violence jurisprudence across Local and District Courts, in both first instance and appellate matters. Before being called to the Bar, Carolina was a solicitor at Legal Aid for ten years, working exclusively in criminal law. Prior to that, Carolina worked as a Judge’s Associate in the New South Wales District Court and interned at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. Her practice extends to international jurisdictions, including the Pacific Islands, where she was recently called to the Bar in Vanuatu.