

Sub-Committee: Civil Litigation

Key leadership:

Chair: Lauren Absalom

Vice Chair: Ellen Ferris

Secretary: Bernie Musry

Key Objectives for 2024 and 2025

- To increase member engagement through both in person and online meetings, and to encourage people to return to in-person attendance at meetings.
- To continue or revive other key events which Civil Litigation has historically held – Speed Networking and the Guest Speaker series. To continue hosting the Great Debate.
- To continue to develop a strong succession plan for the subcommittee, building on the historical strength of succession planning in our subcommittee.
- To continue working on an event co-presented between our subcommittee and the new barristers committee from the Bar Association. Progress on this is well underway – and we are excited!
- Building a strong relationship with the new barristers committee to enable information sharing and event co-hosting – it is an opportune time given that a key member of that committee is a former long-time member of Civil Lit.
- Consider updates to the Civil Litigation publications.
- Christmas event will be hosted in early December! All are welcome to join us.

Key Sub-Committee Initiatives/Projects achieved since Mid-Year Assembly 2024 (include initiatives, projects, submissions and publications)

- Case updates at as many meetings as we can. A member volunteers to discuss a case relevant to an aspect of civil litigation.
- Streamline the structure of meetings to promote engagement.
- We have continued our 'Fast 5' segment where a member volunteers to answer 5 non-law questions to generate post meeting discussion and aim to get to know one another better.
- We have revived The Great Debate, and it is being hosted next Wednesday – 13 Nov – and tickets are still available!
- We have continued our post meeting networking initiative – this session brings together current members of Civil Litigation to build relationships and develop strong networks. It often also connects existing members with previous members of Civil Litigation, giving members exposure to opportunities to build wider networks.
- We are continuing to explore submission opportunities, including revisiting previous civil litigation publications to consider whether they can be updated.
- An update is well underway for the Practitioners Guide to Briefing Experts under the leadership of long-time committee member Jem Punthakey and vice chair Ellen Ferris.

Further comments to the AA Forum

- Another successful year for Civil Lit and its members – both professionally and personally. One thing that we do each meeting is celebrate each other's milestones and achievements. We've had some great career successes within our membership this year – new jobs, promotions, case wins! And we've had some great personal successes as well – a few members have had children, at least one got married, and a few have bought houses or moved out on their own. Celebrating each other's successes in all facets of life has assisted with a very collegial culture within our subcommittee.