

A SYMPOSIUM: CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL MEDIA FOR COURTS & TRIBUNALS

26-27 May 2016

Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens, 380 William Street, Melbourne

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY

- 12.00pm Light lunch
- 1.00pm Opening of the Symposium
- 1.10pm **What is social media and how it works**
A briefing on the forms and functions of social media: from Facebook, Blogs and Twitter to Chat sites, Youtube, Podcasts and LinkedIn
Moderator: Professor Greg Reinhardt, Executive Director, AIJA
Presenter: Dr Marilyn [Krawitz](#) The University of Notre Dame Australia, Western Australia
- 2.00pm **When judicial officers and tribunal members (and their families) personally use social media – the potential benefits and risks.**
Judicial officers and tribunal members need to know how social media works in order to understand the risks and unwanted scrutiny to which it can expose them.
Moderator: Mr Paul Conroy, County Court of Victoria
Panellists: The Hon Justice Rebecca [Ellis](#), High Court, New Zealand
Mr Josh Bornstein, Maurice Blackburn, Solicitors, Victoria
Video clip from the Judicial College of England and Wales, which illustrates the potential repercussions for a tribunal member of her teenage daughter's uploads to Facebook.
- 3.15pm Afternoon tea

- 3.45pm **When courts and tribunals use social media – the potential benefits and risks**
 Many courts and tribunals now use social media to inform the public about their decisions and reasoning, in particular in relation to sentencing and most have developed detailed guidelines to cover it. The session will also cover the issues of social media in evidence and the issue of webcasting and TV broadcasting from court.
- Moderator: **The Hon Justice John Griffiths**, Federal Court of Australia*
*Panellists: **Professor George Williams AO**, University of New South Wales and **Dr Alysia Blackham**, University of Melbourne
Ms Denise Healy, National Media and Public Affairs Manager, Family Court and Federal Circuit Court of Australia
Mr Jason Walker, Partner, Gadens Lawyers, Victoria*
- 5.00pm Conclusion followed by drinks at the Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens.

FRIDAY

- 9.00am **When social media is used to analyse and comment upon the work of the courts and tribunals**
 Members of the public, journalists and others, including even jurors, can use social media to provide commentary or analysis of court and tribunal proceedings and decisions. This raises issues in relation to matters such as open justice and the risk of a fair trial. Existing court-media arrangements need to cover “citizen journalists” who can publish to the entire world.
- Moderator: **The Hon Justice Greg Garde AO**, President Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal*
*Panellists: **Dr Margaret Simons**, Melbourne University Centre for Advancing Journalism
Ms Katie Miller, Solicitor, Victoria
Mr Stephen Warne, Barrister, Victoria
Ms Carolyn Alexander, Manager, Strategic Communications, Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal*
- 10.30am Morning tea
- 10.45am **Social Media and Courts & Tribunals – A view from Government**
***Senator the Hon George Brandis QC**, Attorney General, Australia*
*Chair: **The Hon Justice Steven Rares**, Federal Court of Australia*
- 11.30am **When social media is used maliciously or contemptuously to denigrate, threaten or cyberstalk judicial officers or tribunal members: the issues involved, can judicial officers and tribunal members be protected, and the potential for government response**
 Members of the public can use social media to denigrate, and even defame and threaten judicial officers and tribunal members. This can often be done anonymously or from outside Australia. There is a need to know how this is done, what are the issues involved, and what is the potential for judicial officers and tribunal members to respond to or avoid such attacks

*Moderator: **The Hon Justice Steven Rares***

*Panellists: **The Hon Justice Sharon Johns**, Family Court of Australia
Ms Denise [Healy](#), National Media and Public Affairs Manager, Family Court of Australia
Mr John-Paul Cashen, Macpherson Kelley Lawyers, Victoria*

1.00pm Lunch

2.00pm **What can be done: the way forward**

A structured, roundtable discussion to develop specific strategies and policies, and any other actions.

Rapporteur Professor Greg Reinhardt sums up. Then discussion by:
Justice Steven Rares, Justice Greg Garde, the Hon Justice Simon Whelan, Court of Appeal Victoria and **Dr Marilyn Krawitz**.

3.30pm Conclusion of Symposium.