

# ELEVATE:

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Strategic Leadership Skills for  
Boutique to Mid-Tier Law Firms

5<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2026 - W HOTEL  
MELBOURNE

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Chilli IQ

Connecting leaders + ideas

Gold Partner



Silver Partners



## **Connecting Leaders + Ideas**

We are a prominent organiser of conferences and summits dedicated to uniting brilliant minds with enthusiastic learners in inspiring venues.

Chilli IQ boasts many years of collective experience in designing and developing innovative conferences and summits tailored for the evolving business landscape. However, it's not just our experience that sets us apart; it's our approach. We prioritize quality and ensure that every component of our events reflects this commitment—be it the selection of speakers, the venue, or our meticulous attention to detail.

Our primary goal is to lead the knowledge delivery sector, and as this is an ever-changing process, we continuously explore new paths and adapt to ensure we never become complacent. We strive to guarantee that everyone involved in the Chilli IQ conference experience—whether they are delegates, speakers, sponsors, or endorsing associations—maximises their investment and gains a deeper understanding of the selected business theme.

Building on nearly two decades of experience producing the Managing Partners Forum, Chilli IQ brings deep insight, trusted networks and a proven understanding of the issues shaping law firm leadership to ELEVATE. Now in its nineteenth year, the Managing Partners Forum has become a leading event for legal leaders across the Asia-Pacific region, with a strong focus on strategy, leadership, innovation and technology.

That same expertise now informs the development of ELEVATE – a purpose-built event designed to support partners and legal leaders as they navigate the changing legal landscape. With guidance from Chilli IQ's knowledge base and long-standing connections across the legal profession, ELEVATE brings together carefully selected speakers, highly relevant topics and practical insights.

The programme is designed to equip aspiring partners and emerging leaders with the knowledge, perspective and confidence needed to understand the expectations of partnership, build their leadership capability, strengthen their personal brand and contribute meaningfully to the future success of their firms.

## **INTELLIGENT FIRMS - HUMAN LEADERS**

**The future of law is tech-enabled and human-led.**

ELEVATE: Strategic Leadership Skills for Boutique and Mid-Tier Law Firms

The Australian legal industry is changing – and fast. New technologies, shifting client expectations, evolving workforce dynamics, increasing competition from alternative legal service providers, and a rapidly changing regulatory environment are reshaping what it means to run a successful law firm. For boutique and mid-tier firms, the pressure to adapt has never been more real – or more urgent.

ELEVATE is a one-day conference designed specifically for the leaders and decision-makers of boutique and mid-tier law firms who want to get ahead of the change, not be caught off guard by it. This is not a theoretical conversation. Bringing together industry leaders, legal experts, business strategists, and innovators, ELEVATE will cut through the noise and give you a clear, honest, and practical picture of what is coming – and more importantly, what you need to do about it.

Over the course of the day, you will gain a deeper understanding of the forces currently reshaping the legal landscape in Australia and beyond – from the rise of artificial intelligence and legal technology, to the growing expectations of a new generation of clients and talent, to the shifting competitive dynamics that are challenging the traditional law firm model.

But ELEVATE goes beyond awareness. It is about equipping you with the strategic thinking, leadership skills, and practical tools to respond with confidence. Whether you are a managing partner navigating the pressures of growth, a firm owner rethinking your business model, or a senior leader stepping into greater responsibility, ELEVATE will give you the insights and connections to lead your firm through change – strategically, sustainably, and with purpose.

Because in a rapidly evolving industry, the firms that will thrive are not simply the ones that adapt – they are the ones that lead.



**It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one most adaptable to change.**

— Charles Darwin



The legal industry is undergoing its most significant transformation in decades. Rapid advances in technology, shifting client expectations, and an increasingly competitive market mean that technical legal expertise alone is no longer enough to lead a successful firm. Today's law firm leaders must think and act like business strategists — building high-performing teams, driving growth, navigating disruption, and inspiring the next generation of talent. ELEVATE has been designed to give boutique and mid-tier firm leaders the practical tools, fresh perspectives, and peer connections needed to lead with clarity and confidence in a rapidly evolving landscape.

## **THE FOLLOWING TOPICS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANCE AND RELEVANCE IN THIS CHANGING LANDSCAPE:**

- **THE FUTURE OF LAW IS NOW**
- **THE FIRM AS A BUSINESS: STRATEGIC THINKING FOR MANAGING PARTNERS**
- **HOW TO PRACTICALLY IMPLEMENT AI IN YOUR PRACTICE**
- **EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE & PEOPLE LEADERSHIP: THE SKILLS THAT ACTUALLY RETAIN TALENT**
- **GROWING THE FIRM: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, LATERAL HIRES & COMPETITIVE POSITIONING**
- **CLIENT-CENTRIC LEADERSHIP: TURNING SERVICE INTO STRATEGY**
- **SUCCESSION PLANNING & BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS**
- **THE FUTURE FIRM: AGILITY, CULTURE & LEADING THROUGH UNCERTAINTY**

## Invited **speakers**

- **JEANNIE MARIE PATERSON** PROFESSOR OF LAW - CENTRE FOR AI AND DIGITAL ETHICS **THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE** **CONFIRMED**
- **JOEL BAROLSKY** PRINCIPAL, **EDGE INTERNATIONAL &** MANAGING DIRECTOR, **BAROLSKY ADVISORS** **CONFIRMED**
- **ADRIAN CARTLAND** PRINCIPAL **CARTLAND LAW** **CONFIRMED**
- **CHELSEA GORDON** LEGAL LEAD - AI ADVISORY **MINTERELLISON**
- **DR CARLY SCHREVER** DIRECTOR **HUMAN ETHOS**
- **MELISSA LYON** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & EXPERIENCE DESIGNER **HIVE LEGAL**
- **MARY DIGLIO** MANAGING PARTNER **SWAAB LAWYERS**

## Who should **attend & why**

### **ELEVATE | Strategic Leadership skills for Boutique to Mid-Tier Firms**

This one-day conference designed specifically for boutique and mid-tier law firms who want to get ahead of the change, not be caught off guard by it. Bringing together industry leaders, legal experts, and business strategists, ELEVATE will cut through the noise and give you a clear, practical picture of what's coming — and what you need to do about it.

### **This event is particularly relevant for:**

#### **Firm Leaders:**

- Managing Partners, Chief Executive Partner
- Chair of Partners
- Office Managing Partner
- General Managers

#### **Principals and Partners**

- Principal Partners
- Equity Partners
- Senior Partners
- Practice Group Leaders
- Practice Manager
- Practice Director

#### **Operations & People**

- Head of Operations
- CFO
- Finance Director
- Commercial Director
- Head of People and Culture
- HR Director

## SESSION 1

### **THE FUTURE OF LAW IS NOW**

The future is no longer a distant planning exercise—it is arriving in client expectations, AI-enabled service delivery, new talent models, cybersecurity pressures, pricing transparency and intensifying competition from both traditional and alternative providers. This session will examine what is coming next for legal leaders and how law firms can make the right strategic choices now to remain relevant, resilient and profitable.

**JEANNIE PATERSON** PROFESSOR OF LAW  
CENTRE FOR AI AND DIGITAL ETHICS | THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

## SESSION 2

### **AI in the Firm: Leading Through Disruption Without Getting Left Behind**

As new technology tools and platforms proliferate, law firm leaders will have to learn how to leverage and combine the skills of both human and artificial intelligence to get results that matter to clients, striking the right balance between automation and the human touch.

## BREAK

### **Morning Tea and time to chat - Break**

## SESSION 3

### **Emotional Intelligence & People Leadership: The Skills That Actually Retain Talent**

Among the most relevant leadership competencies today are business vision, emotional intelligence — managing one's own emotions and those of others with empathy even under pressure — and talent management: attracting, developing, and retaining high-potential lawyers while aligning their growth with the firm's strategic goals.

## SESSION 4

### **Growing the Firm: Business Development, Lateral Hires & Competitive Positioning**

Understanding the broader business context in which clients operate is essential — attorneys need to provide not only legal guidance but also strategic advice that considers risk management, regulatory trends, and market opportunities.

## BREAK

### **Lunch and time to chat - Break**

## SESSION 5

### **Talent, Teams & the New Leverage Model: Building Your Firm's Human Engine**

The proportion of equity partners and associates in law firms has declined over the past five years, while non-equity partners and other lawyers have increased — and this reshaping of the law firm model is increasing demand for business development, project management, leadership skills, and other human skills. This session covers hiring strategy, team building, mentorship structures, and how to get the most from a leaner team.

## SESSION 6

### **How to Practically Implement AI in Your Practice**

**ADRIAN CARTLAND PRINCIPAL CARTLAND LAW**

## BREAK

### **Afternoon Tea & time to chat - Break**

## SESSION 7

### **Succession Planning & Building the Next Generation of Leaders**

Succession planning is one of the most critical — and most overlooked — challenges facing boutique law firms. This session explores how smaller firms can take a deliberate and structured approach to identifying future leaders early, transferring knowledge effectively, and building a pipeline of talent that ensures the firm's longevity well beyond its founders.

## SESSION 8

### **The Future of Law Firms in an AI World**

**JOEL BAROLSKY** PRINCIPAL, **EDGE INTERNATIONAL** & MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
**BAROLSKY ADVISORS**

**DRINKS**

**Closing remarks & drinks**

**END**

**End of conference**

## Standard Delegate Pass

\$495.00

### INCLUSIONS

- 1-Day Conference Pass
- Conference luncheon & refreshments
- Networking & Drinks
- Delegate bag
- Exhibition Pass



**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

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## Further information

**DATE :** 5th AUGUST 2026

**VENUE:** W Melbourne  
408 Flinders Ln,  
Melbourne VIC 3000,  
Australia

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## Group Rates & Solution providers

For any enquiries for GROUP DISCOUNTS or If you are a solution provider please contact [george.kat@chilliiq.com.au](mailto:george.kat@chilliiq.com.au) for more information about securing a partnership package to be involved at the event.

# Chilli IQ

[www.chilliq.com.au](http://www.chilliq.com.au)

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