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# 11th Managing Partners Forum Boutique Firms

20 May 2025 | W - Melbourne

GOLD PARTNER



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SUPPORTING ORGANISATION



Chilli IQ

connecting leaders + ideas

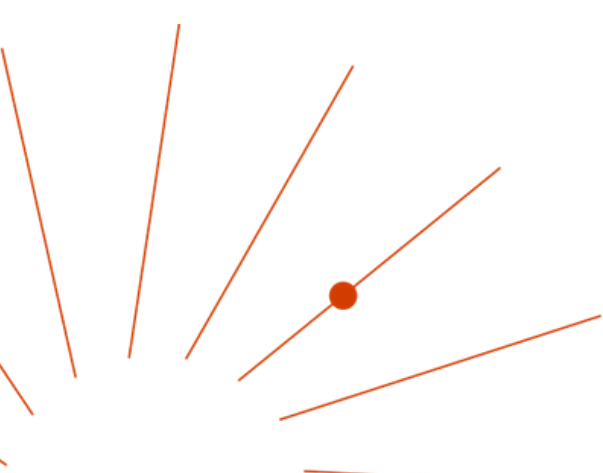
# ABOUT CHILLI IQ

## connecting leaders + ideas

We are a leading creator of conferences and summits who aim to bring together great minds with avid learners amongst the thought-inspiring atmosphere of leading venues.

Chilli IQ has many years of collective experience in the area of creating and developing innovative conferences and summits for the changing business environment. This is not though what differentiates us from the crowd, what makes us unique is our modus operandi. We value quality and strive to ensure that every aspect of our events reflects this – from the choice of speakers, the venue and the genuine attention to detail.

Our main objective is to lead the field in the area of knowledge delivery and as this is a fluid process we are constantly seeking new avenues and evolving to make sure we never just settle. We ensure that all who partake in the Chilli IQ conference experience – whether it be as a delegate, a speaker, a sponsor or an endorsing association – maximise their investment and attain a higher level of understanding and awareness of the chosen business theme.



# ADVISORY PANEL

In order to best represent the interests and needs of the legal profession, we have assembled some of the most prominent legal leaders and thinkers to form the 2025 Advisory Panel that assists with the direction and planning of topics for the 11th Managing Partners Forum - Boutique Firms

Our esteemed panelists include:



**MELISSA LYON**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
EXPERIENCE DESIGNER  
**HIVE LEGAL**



**MARY DIGIGLIO**  
MANAGING PARTNER  
**SWAAB**



**WARREN KALINKO**  
CEO  
**KEYPOINT LAW**



**MICHELLE VAN NIEKERK**  
GENERAL MANAGER  
**HICKS OAKLEY CHESSELL  
WILLIAMS**

20th May 2025 - W Melbourne

# ABOUT THE EVENT : **THEME**

## **UNDERSTAND. ADAPT. THRIVE**

“

It is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today.

No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be.

**Issac Asimov**

”

The legal sector is in the midst of a profound transformation, driven by the rapid pace of technological progress, shifting client expectations, and an increasingly complex regulatory environment. To stay ahead of the curve and ensure their continued relevance, law firms and legal organizations must develop a culture of adaptability and resilience. In this new era, embracing change is not just a strategic choice, but a fundamental requirement for success and sustainability in the legal industry.

As the legal sector grapples with change - including a significant transformation in its workforce, driven by technological innovation, economic changes, and recent events. Law firm leaders face challenges in managing multi-generational teams, adapting to new billing models, and upskilling employees. To remain competitive, they must prioritize employee satisfaction and well-being, and leverage technology and innovation to drive business success. By embracing these changes, law firms can turn challenges into opportunities and achieve growth and sustainability in a rapidly changing landscape.

These relevant topics will be addressed throughout the day at the event by expert speakers and thought leaders at the upcoming 11th Managing Partners Forum for Boutique Firms. Over the last eleven years it has provided an opportunity for collaboration, learning, and knowledge exchange over an enriching day and is a must attend event for law firm leaders.

# WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

## The 11th Managing Partners Forum | Boutique Firms programme will be focussing on:

- **Generational Change:** Understanding the impact of Gen Z on the future of work
- **Cyber Security:** Law firm cyber incident response and management
- **Talent and Culture:** Attracting and retaining top talent in the legal industry
- **Succession:** what are the options for lawyers. How are firms dealing with succession and how do you value your firm?
- **Wellbeing:** Supporting the mental and physical health of lawyers, understanding its deeper importance as a whole
- **Financial Management:** Strategies for Success in a Boutique Setting
- **Don't Fear Change, Play With It:** Reinventing Adaptability in the Modern Workplace
- **Generative AI Masterclass:** Practical Tools, Ethical Guidance & Legal Use Cases

# CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

The following speakers have been invited for their expertise and knowledge on the chosen topics:

**DARA SIMKIN** FOUNDER **CULTURE HERO**

**TESSA VAN DUYN** CEO & PRACTICE LEADER **MOORES**

**ANDREW MIERS** PARTNER **HWL EBSWORTH**

**ADRIENNE TRUMBULL** PRINCIPAL **HIVE LEGAL**

**CARLIE ANDREWS** SENIOR ASSOCIATE **HIVE LEGAL**

**TRUDY MACDONALD** FOUNDER & MANAGING DIRECTOR **TALENTCODE HR** *TBA*

**DAKS SADARANGANI** CO-FOUNDER & CEO **AIUNLOCKED**

**MOLLIE TREGILLIS** MENTOR & COACH

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This event has been exclusively produced to address the function and capacity of the following position holders from mid-tier to large law firms:

- Managing Partners (current and imminent)
- Executive Committee members including Chief Executive Officers; Chairpersons; Chief Operation Officers, Chief Finance Officers
- Senior Partners with an eye towards Management
- General Counsel from leading organisations
- Partners interested in the management role of a law firm

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

8:30 - 9:00

**REGISTRATIONS OPEN**

9:00-9:15

**OPENING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR : MOLLIE TREGILLIS MENTOR & COACH**

9:15 -10:15

**SESSION ONE**

## **DON'T FEAR CHANGE, PLAY WITH IT: REINVENTING ADAPTABILITY IN THE MODERN WORKPLACE**

Adaptability isn't a nice-to-have, it's your edge. In a world where client demands and Gen Z expectations evolve faster than ever, legal professionals need more than logic to thrive. They need imagination, curiosity, and the courage to experiment. That's where play comes in. Research shows what takes 400 repetitions through rote learning can take just 10 when play is involved. Join Australia's leading Play at Work expert, Dara Simkin, for a dynamic session on how collaboration and play can rewire your brain for change. You'll walk away with science-backed, practical tools to lead through uncertainty and enjoy it through the process.

**DARA SIMKIN FOUNDER CULTURE HERO**

10:15- 11:00

**SESSION TWO**

## **GENERATIONAL CHANGE:**

Understanding the impact of Gen Z on the future of work

**TESSA VAN DUYN CEO & PRACTICE LEADER MOORES**

11:00- 11:30

**BREAK**

## **MORNING BREAK AND TIME TO CHAT**

11:30- 11:45

**SESSION THREE**

## **COCOUNSEL 2.0 - INTEGRATED LEGAL ASSISTANT**

After being in the Australian market for over a year now, Thomson Reuters has taken learnings and coupled this with the latest in AI technology to bring you the latest iteration of our award winning AI Legal Assistant: CoCounsel 2.0. With new capabilities also comes the ability to be connected across TR services, MS365, and document management systems for lawyers. Ziggy Cheng will take you through the most common things we see lawyers using this new technology for while giving you a tour of the new look and feel.

**ZIGGY CHENG LEGAL AI SPECIALIST THOMSON REUTERS**

11:45 - 12:30

**SESSION FOUR**

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING AND PRIORITISING THE WELLBEING OF LAWYERS.**

Supporting and prioritising the wellbeing of lawyers has never been more important. With significant levels of stress, anxiety, depression and burnout in the legal industry, thinking about wellbeing is not just a "nice to have", but something that all firms need to address and prioritise. In this session, Adrienne and Carlie will draw on their experiences at Hive Legal, a firm that seeks to improve the experience of Hive's clients and team alike. Adrienne and Carlie will discuss:

- the prevalence of stress, anxiety, depression and burnout in the legal industry;
- their experience in designing programs and offerings that specifically enhance wellbeing and improve the experience of employees; and
- practical tips to stay on top of, and encourage, wellbeing across your team.

**ADRIENNE TRUMBULL PRINCIPAL HIVE LEGAL**

**CARLIE ANDREWS SENIOR ASSOCIATE HIVE**

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

12:30 -13:30  
**BREAK**

## LUNCH BREAK AND TIME TO CHAT

13:30 - 13:45  
**TECHTALK**

### HOW TO GET BETTER SOFTWARE FASTER: LESSONS IN EVALUATING AND DEPLOYING NEW TECHNOLOGY

With IT and application teams at law firms overloaded with projects like Windows upgrades, cloud migrations, renewals and adopting AI tools like Copilot, it's tempting to default to the same vendors each renewal period. However, it often means firms get stuck with the wrong software that's overpriced and lacking modern features. To help you choose the best software, speed up evaluations and deploy new software with less friction, Draftable shares their set of best practices based on lessons from piloting, evaluating and deploying legal software with hundreds of firms.

#### Three key learnings:

1. **Pilot smarter, not longer** – Run focused pilot tests that deliver the same insights in weeks, not months, so you can make decisions with confidence and keep projects moving.
2. **Make vendors work for you** – Have the right conversations early to get the features and improvements you need before you buy, and keep vendors engaged post-purchase for continuous support and upgrades.
3. **Know when to switch, and how to do it right** – Use real data to de-risk switching vendors, then deploy new software in phases to reduce disruption, build internal champions, and fine-tune training for smoother adoption.

**BRENDAN MCGREEVY** COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR **DRAFTABLE**

13:45 - 14:30  
**SESSION FIVE**

### LAW FIRM CYBER INCIDENT RESPONSE - A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES

In April 2023, Australia's largest legal partnership, HWL Ebsworth, experienced a large ransomware cyber incident. Andrew Miers of HWL Ebsworth will share some insights from the incident, particularly from the perspective of the unique features of a data breach in the context of legal professional services and lessons for law firms in responding to and preparing for cyber breaches. Some of the issues Andrew will discuss include:

- the challenges of dealing with impacted data in a law firm setting where data may be held on behalf of corporate and government clients and is non-homogenous in nature;
- the challenges of dealing with a cyber incident in a partnership structure;
- the question of ransoms - to pay or not to pay;
- the use of injunctions to restrain further use of stolen data;
- the business impact of managing a cyber incident and maintaining BAU; and
- the mental health and wellbeing impact for partners, management and staff.

**ANDREW MIERS** PARTNER & CYBER SPECIALIST **HWL EBSWORTH**



# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

14:30 -14:45  
TECHTALK

## SMARTER DRAFTER

14:45 - 15:15  
BREAK

## AFTERNOON BREAK AND TIME TO CHAT

15:15 -17:00  
SESSION SIX

## Ai HANDS ON MASTERCLASS

### GENERATIVE AI MASTERCLASS - PRACTICAL TOOLS, ETHICAL GUIDANCE & LEGAL USE CASES

As generative AI reshapes the legal landscape, firms have an opportunity to harness these tools for smarter, faster, and more client-responsive work, without being overwhelmed by the technology.

This hands-on session is designed to offer a practical, tool-agnostic introduction to generative AI, with real-world legal use cases. We will explore how AI can support different activities from client communications and research to internal efficiencies.

Whether you are AI-curious or already using AI, this masterclass will help you to start applying AI in a meaningful, ethical, and strategic way.

#### **DAKS SADARANGANI** CO-FOUNDER & CEO **AIUNLOCKED**

*Daks is a seasoned AI strategist and innovation leader who has led enterprise AI initiatives at one of Australia's largest companies. With a strong background in product, data, and emerging technologies, he brings real-world expertise in making AI practical, accessible, and transformative.*

17:00- 18:00  
POST-EVENT  
DRINKS

## POST-EVENT DRINKS & REFRESHMENTS

18:00  
CLOSE

## END OF FORUM

May 2023 | Lancelotti Mansion - Werribee, VIC



# EVENT INFORMATION

**EVENT DATE:** 20th MAY 2025  
**EVENT NAME:** 11TH MANAGING PARTNERS FORUM -  
BOUTIQUE FIRMS

**VENUE**            **W HOTEL - MELBOURNE**  
408 FLINDERS LANE  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000  
THE GRAND ROOM

Conference Registration: **8:30am - 9:00am**  
Conference Sessions: **9:00am - 5:15pm**  
Post-event networking Drinks **5:15pm - 6:00pm**

**DRESS CODE:** Conference and Drinks: Smart Casual

## REGISTER NOW

\*Special Early Bird rate: **\$545 + GST each** valid until : 030/04/2025  
\*Delegate Rate:            **\$645 + GST each** valid after: 30/04/2025  
\*refer to who should attend

Solution Provider Rate **\$1,295.00 + GST each**

For special group rates please contact [george.kat@chilliiq.com.au](mailto:george.kat@chilliiq.com.au)

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**

you will be directed to the Thomson Reuters registration and payment portal