

# 11 Managing Partners Forum Boutique Firms

20 May 2025 | W - Melbourne

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# 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- 11:50

**SESSION THREE**

**SMARTER LEGAL WORKFLOWS: COCOUNSEL FOR BOUTIQUE LAW FIRM SUCCESS**

Boutique firms thrive on efficiency, expert client service, and the ability to punch above their weight. The latest iteration of our award winning AI Legal Assistant, CoCounsel, directly addresses the core needs of small firms by rapidly accelerating legal research, drafting initial documents, and summarising complex information. CoCounsel now connects seamlessly with other trusted Thomson Reuters solutions, as well as Microsoft 365 and your existing document systems, helping to simplify your workflow. Learn how lawyers are using CoCounsel for everyday tasks to help reclaim valuable time, enhance productivity, and ultimately boost profitability, so you can focus on what truly matters: your clients and strategic growth.

**AJ KAUR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER THOMSON REUTERS**

**SUMIT GHIMIRAY SOLUTIONS CONSULTANT THOMSON REUTERS**

11:50 - 12:45

**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 LEGAL**

12:45 -13:45

**BREAK**

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

13:45 - 14:00  
**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.

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

14:00 - 14:45  
**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**

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**

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## CHAIRPERSON:



**MOLLIE TREGILLIS**  
MENTOR & COACH

## OPENING REMARKS

Previously the Executive Director of Legal Optimisation Consulting at MinterEllison, Mollie is now a strategic advisor, facilitator, coach, speaker and writer with a focus on the intersection of operations, technology people and change in the legal industry. She is passionate about human centric strategy and clever ways of working, with a deep and abiding focus on the people at the heart of every legal team. She is allergic to 'busy work' and is deeply interested in improving the culture within the legal industry to reduce burnout and allow lawyers to thrive rather than just survive.

## SESSION ONE:



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

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

Dara Simkin is Australia's leading voice in Playful Work Design and the founder of Culture Hero, a consultancy that helps organisations rethink how they learn, lead and adapt—through play. She's worked with some of the world's most respected brands and thinkers, including The LEGO Foundation, McKinsey, IDEO, and legendary play researcher Dr Stuart Brown. Dara's delivered keynotes and workshops for teams at Google, IKEA, AGL, Hall & Wilcox, and beyond. A dynamic facilitator and passionate advocate for human-first workplaces, Dara believes play isn't the opposite of work—it's the key to doing it better. She's currently leading a major research initiative with RMIT University on the role of play in business.

## SESSION TWO:



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

## GENERATIONAL CHANGE: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF GEN Z ON THE FUTURE OF WORK

Tessa is a renowned human rights and public law expert, and a talented people manager and leader with a demonstrated record of providing expert legal and strategic solutions. Her commitment to social justice, equality, and inclusion is evident in her professional choices and impactful work. She is a people-oriented individual who thrives on fostering a sense of community and enabling others to reach their full potential.

With extensive experience in human rights and public law, litigation, government, and social justice, Tessa has acquired a deep understanding of the value of person-centred design of policy and practice, the advantages of collaboration and strategic partnerships, and the benefits of working with values-based organisations. Through her membership on the FFV Tribunal and Directorship of a small not-for-profit organisation, Tessa leverages her strategic thinking, leadership, and governance skills to make a meaningful impact in diverse contexts.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## SESSION THREE:

### SMARTER LEGAL WORKFLOWS: COCOUNSEL FOR BOUTIQUE LAW FIRM SUCCESS

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**AJ KAUR**  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGER  
**THOMSON REUTERS**



**SUMIT GHIMIRAY**  
SOLUTIONS CONSULTANT  
**THOMSON REUTERS**

## SESSION FOUR:

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



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

With a collaborative and commercial approach, Adrienne is a senior lawyer providing advice to clients in relation to general commercial, corporate and contracting matters, as well as sales, purchases and joint venture arrangements. She has experience across a range of sectors including health, private health insurance, retail/ consumer goods, energy, IT, agribusiness and telecommunications.



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

Carlie Andrews is a Senior Associate at Hive Legal with expertise in advising clients on commercial matters across a range of industries and sectors. Carlie has experience working in private practice in addition to completing several in-house secondments, including a six-month secondment with an in-house government legal team. Carlie also has a particular interest in legal design thinking, service design and process design. Carlie is a founder of Hive Legal's wellbeing program in addition to being named as a finalist for Wellness Advocate of the Year (Individual) 2022 at the Women in Law Awards.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## TECH TALK:

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



Brendan is the Commercial Director for the Affinda Group, including Draftable, the document comparison solution built for lawyers. At Draftable, Brendan leverages over 20 years' experience in business intelligence, sales and strategy, with a strong focus on how firms can leverage technology to automate and improve document workflows. His expertise in workflow optimisation helps firms unlock the full potential of Draftable document comparison solutions.

**BRENDAN MCGREEVY**  
COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR  
DRAFTABLE

## SESSION FIVE:

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



Andrew has more than 20 years experience practicing as a risk and claims adviser. He has a particular focus on risks emerging out of the digital economy - cyber security, online content and technology risks - and insurance cover for those risks. He is especially recognised for his market leading expertise in cyber security and cyber insurance. He has advised insurers and other companies on the evolving legal and regulatory landscape for cyber exposures, assisted insurers in developing insurance products and policy wordings covering those exposures and advised on breach response protocols.

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

## SESSION SIX:

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



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.

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

SILVER PARTNER



### Document Automation for every Law Firm

Smarter Drafter is a complete end-to-end document automation solution designed specifically for lawyers. It is a single platform that automates the production of complex legal documents from online instruction-taking, all the way through to eSignature, keeping the lawyer in the loop at every stage.

**Automation:** A cloud-based no-code visual builder that empowers your existing Knowledge Team to automate even the most complex precedents, incorporating intricate decision trees, calculations, and end-user guidance. With Smarter Drafter's tight integration with Microsoft Word, you can implement a consistent practice-wide style guide for headings, bullets, numbers, columns, and more, all within the familiar Word interface through the Smarter Drafter app—no specialist coding expertise required.

**Integrated** Smarter Drafter is fighting a war on rekeying by tightly integrating with all major practice management solutions, synchronising client and matter details directly into your automated documents. As an iManage Technology Partner, Smarter Drafter can also be embedded seamlessly into your legal tech stack, reducing the change management required.

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Thomson Reuters clarifies today's complex legal landscape with AI and technology, deep subject-matter expertise, and content governments and institutions worldwide have trusted for over 150 years — giving legal professionals the confidence to know today, navigate tomorrow, and lead a fast-evolving world.

We empower lawyers to reduce inefficiencies so they can do more of the work that matters, act decisively to add greater value for critical stakeholders, and anticipate future challenges to face the unexpected.

As the future arrives faster than ever, we're standing alongside legal professionals to help to inform the way forward.

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