

# Start at the Top Family Law Conference 2016

Parliament House was the venue for the 2016 Start at the Top Family Law Conference, held on 21 and 22 January. The Law Society Northern Territory (the Society) hosted this conference with the generous support of the Federal Circuit Court and Family Court and in particular, Judge Peter Cole. The conference attracted fifty-eight delegates, both local and interstate, who had the unique opportunity to have direct access to the judiciary, something they cited as being one of the most beneficial aspects of the conference.

This conference, which has become the Society's flagship professional development event, offered delegates the chance to personally speak with and gain insights from Family Court judges, Federal Circuit Court judges, expert presenters and other practitioners.

The conference program covered a diverse range of topics which included surrogacy, methamphetamines, mental health and family law, practical tips for enforcement proceedings and interlocutory hearings, some ethical scenarios, improving cost recovery, a review of cases of interest and more. It enabled delegates to earn ten CPD points across all competencies.

The conference commenced with a heartfelt welcome to country delivered by James Parfitt followed by the opening address by Society President, Tass Liveris.

As always, conference delegates were encouraged to dress casually and enjoy the relaxed, tropical Darwin atmosphere. A whistle-stop tour of Parliament House was a highlight for many delegates as was the informal dinner at the Darwin Sailing Club complete with background sunset.

The Society looks forward to working with the Federal Circuit Court to ensure the ongoing success of the Start at the Top Family Law Conference.

