

Phillips | Family Law Bulletin

The current crisis in the family law system and solutions to keep you out of court.



When we first meet people experiencing relationship breakdown and seeking our assistance to resolve the issues which arise for them, commonly a big fear is of ending up in Court, in a lengthy, acrimonious and expensive legal battle.

To compound such fears, over recent months there has been a sharp focus in the media on stories about the lack of resourcing available within the family law court system. Just last week the Family Court Chief Justice Diana Bryant spoke out about the Family Court not having the resources it needs to protect families and has called for the government to set aside more funding to help the court triage serious allegations of family violence to ensure the safety of children.

Family Law Judge Justice Colin Forrest has also recently shared his concerns about the lack of resourcing of the Family Law Courts at a conference for the Family Law Practitioners Association in Cairns, at which our Senior Associate, Fiona Caulley also presented. Justice Forrest's presentation was thought provoking and a rare insight from the perspective of a Judge into the issues currently facing the family law system.

To read the full article click [here](#)

Fiona Caulley, Senior Associate

Case in Point: The High Court has agreed to review a spousal maintenance decision



In *Hall & Hall [2016] HCATrans23*, the wife sought maintenance of \$28,000 per month from her husband. The wife claimed a financial need. The husband said that the wife could support herself because she had some prospective entitlement in her late father's estate (but there was no evidence available to the court about that at the time of the hearing). The court decided in favour of the wife. They directed the husband to pay the interim maintenance to her.

The husband appealed and also filed another application to vary the order - he put forward evidence that the wife would soon receive \$7.2M in shares from her late father's estate. The lower court declined to change the maintenance order.

The husband pressed on with his appeal.

To read the full Case in Point click [here](#)

Sarah Bastian-Jordan, Senior Associate

Mindfulness – what it is and how it can benefit the modern professionals and their clients



Our Senior Associate, Fiona Caulley recently had the opportunity to travel to Cairns, in the balmy tropical north to speak at a conference held by the Family Law Practitioners Association (FLPA) themed “The Modern Family Lawyer”. Whilst it was a conference for lawyers, is it relevant for all professionals dealing with stress and stressed clients.

To read the full article click [here](#)

Sydney Coastrek – walk to restore sight!

On 4 March 2016 our Lawyer, Olivia Phillips trekked 50 kilometres along the Sydney coastline to help raise funds for The Fred Hollows Foundation.

Phillips Family Law was proud to sponsor Olivia’s team to help raise them raise almost \$3,000 to support The Fred Hollows Foundation’s sight-restoring work to change lives. The event raised \$2,685,747 for the Fred Hollows Foundation which made the very sore legs and blisters worth it.

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