

**39TH IPSANZ
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
21 TO 23 AUGUST 2026
HYATT REGENCY SYDNEY**

**Preliminary Conference Program¹
June 2026**

Friday 21 August 2026

2:30pm – 3pm	Registration	Foyer, Lobby Level
3pm – 5pm	Table Topics Session	Heritage Rooms 1-4, Lobby Level
6pm – 8pm	Melbourne Law School Welcome Reception	The Upper Deck, Level 11

Saturday 22 August 2026

9am – 10:45am	<p>International Session</p> <p><i>Session 1: ‘How much is enough, and how little will do?’</i></p> <p>Although novelty and obviousness take up the lion’s share of most patent disputes, questions about the quality of the disclosure in the document, which have always played a role, are taking on increasing importance. As well as giving rise to what are, at least conceptually, different reasons why a patent may be invalid (inutility, ambiguity and lack of basis), these issues can also play a role in inventive step, they can lead to a loss of priority, the failure of an amendment and they can determine infringement – both in terms of construction and in the application of a doctrine of equivalents. International divergence on these questions can pose problems for an international filing system</p>	Wharf Room, Lobby Level
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¹ The Preliminary Conference Program is indicative only and subject to confirmation. The Society reserves the right to change timing of sessions, topics and speakers. A final program will be issued closer to the conference.

	<p>like the patent system. This lecture will aim to bring coherence to this area and propose ways of avoiding the pitfalls.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Right Honourable Lord Justice Colin Birss, Chancellor of the High Court of England and Wales (Head of Chancery Division), and Lead Judge for Artificial Intelligence, Royal Courts of Justice, London <p><i>Session 2: 'Intellectual Property in the Age of AI: What Must Change, and What Must Endure?'</i></p> <p>This session will examine how artificial intelligence is testing the foundations of intellectual property law across jurisdictions, including the human-centred assumptions underlying protection, the risk of fragmented national approaches, and the role of courts and institutions in preserving coherence, legitimacy, and incentives for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. Following brief introductory remarks, the fireside conversation will consider how the international IP system should adapt while retaining its essential purposes.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Daryl Lim, H. Laddie Montague Jr. Chair in Law, Associate Dean for Research and Strategic Partnerships, and Founding Director of the Intellectual Property Law and Innovation Initiative, Penn State Dickinson Law, Pennsylvania <p>IN CONVERSATION WITH the Honourable Justice Stephen Burley, Federal Court of Australia, Sydney</p> <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Horak KC, Barrister, Young's List 	
<p>10:45am – 11:15am</p>	<p>Morning Tea</p>	<p>Foyer, Lobby Level</p>
<p>11:15am – 12:30pm</p>	<p>Copyright/AI Session</p> <p><i>'Copyright and the Arts: Navigating the AI Frontier'</i></p> <p>The panel will explore the 'Three Cs' (Consent, Credit, Compensation), the application of fair dealing in the age of generative AI, and the future legal landscape regarding the training of AI algorithms on protected works.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor John Swinson, Law School, The University of Queensland, Brisbane • Alida Stanley, Member, Copyright Tribunal of Australia and Associate Lecturer, University of Technology, Sydney <p>Chair:</p>	<p>Wharf Room, Lobby Level</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Daryl Lim, H. Laddie Montague Jr. Chair in Law, Associate Dean for Research and Strategic Partnerships, and Founding Director of the Intellectual Property Law and Innovation Initiative, Penn State Dickinson Law, Pennsylvania 	
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch	Foyer, Lobby Level
1:30pm – 3pm	<p>Trade Marks Session</p> <p><i>‘Wisdom and Clarity in Trade Mark Law and Brand Protection?’</i></p> <p>The High Court of Australia has heard three cases over the last year (<i>Bed Bath ’N’ Table</i>, <i>Katy Perry</i> and <i>Zip</i>), and the NZ Court of Appeal was split on a decision on what constitutes use as a trade mark (<i>Zuru v Lego</i>). We are looking forward to a lively discussion from our panel of trade mark gurus on the impact of these decisions in Australia and New Zealand, and what we can expect next.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justine Beaumont SC, Barrister, Nigel Bowen Chambers, Sydney • Professor Michael Handler, Professor and Deputy Dean (Education), Faculty of Law & Justice, UNSW, Sydney • Tania Goatley, Barrister, Tania Goatley Law, Auckland <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy Davis, Barrister, Emmerson Chambers, Melbourne 	Wharf Room, Lobby Level
3pm – 3:30pm	Afternoon Tea	Foyer, Lobby Level
3:30pm – 5pm	<p>Patents Session</p> <p><i>‘Defining Invention: From Eligibility to Inventive Step and Beyond’</i></p> <p>Invention for the purposes of manner of manufacture, support and sufficiency, novelty and inventive step. This topic is designed to appeal to both patent attorneys and lawyers across Australia and New Zealand.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg Arthur KC, Barrister, Clifton Chambers, Wellington • Craig Smith SC, Barrister, List G Barristers, Melbourne • Dr Ronelle Geldenhuys, Principal and ICT Patent Attorney, Jones Maxwell Smith & Davis (JMSD), Brisbane <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauren John, Partner, Allens, Melbourne 	Wharf Room, Lobby Level
5pm – 5:45pm	IPSANZ Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2026	Wharf Room, Lobby Level

6pm – 7pm	Pre-Dinner Reception	Heritage Atrium, Lobby Level
7pm – 10:30pm	President’s Dinner	Wharf Room, Lobby Level
10:30pm – Late	After-Dinner Drinks	Zephyr Rooftop Bar

Sunday 23 August 2026

9am – 10:30am	<p>Judges’ Session</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honourable Justice Ian Gault, High Court of New Zealand, Auckland • The Honourable Justice Helen Rofe, Federal Court of Australia, Melbourne • Senior Judicial Registrar Alison Legge, Federal Court of Australia, Melbourne <p>With special international guest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Right Honourable Lord Justice Colin Birss, Chancellor of the High Court of England and Wales (Head of Chancery Division), and Lead Judge for Artificial Intelligence, Royal Courts of Justice, London <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Horak KC, Barrister, Young’s List 	Wharf Room, Lobby Level
10:30am – 11am	Morning Tea	Foyer, Lobby Level
11am – 12:30pm	<p>Ethics Session</p> <p><i>‘Ethics v AI?’</i></p> <p>The adoption and abuse of AI has refocused the ethical duties of lawyers and attorneys. From competence to candour, supervision to authority, privilege and fair charging, our panellists will each bring unique perspectives to the use of AI in IP practice. To AI or not AI? That is not the question. Rather, how does best practice need to adapt to ensure accountability?</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Andrew Christie, Chair of Intellectual Property, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne • Dr Duncan de Geest, Principal, AJ Park Law Limited, Wellington 	Wharf Room, Lobby Level

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ali Dibbenhall, Head of Legal, Asia & Pacific, LexisNexis Legal & Professional, Sydney <p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Simpson, Legal Writer - Practical Guidance Intellectual Property, LexisNexis Legal & Professional, Sydney 	
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch	Foyer, Lobby Level

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