

PROGRAM

FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER
2021

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

9:45 AM - 10:00 AM AEST

- Uncle Frank Doolan (Riverbank Frank)

INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM AEST

- Conference Co-Organisers: Sarah Schwartz, Zoe Bush, Susan Wnukowska-Mtonga, Teela Reid, Brooke Greenwood

INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE: MOVEMENT LAWYERING FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM AEST

- Vince Warren, Executive Director of the Center for Constitutional Rights

How can lawyers work with social movements to create lasting structural change? In this international keynote address, international movement lawyer and leading expert on racial injustice, Vince Warren, will draw on his own work with campaigns such as those to end Stop and Frisk in New York City and close Guantanamo Bay to discuss the varied ways in which lawyers can use tools of strategic litigation, advocacy and the media to build the power of marginalised communities and social movements.

AUSTRALIAN KEYNOTE: THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM AEST

- Professor Megan Davis, Pro-Vice Chancellor Indigenous UNSW

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is an invitation from First Nations to "walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future", and calls for structural reform including constitutional change. In this Australian keynote address, Professor Megan Davis reflects on her role as a lawyer in developing and advocating for the Uluru Statement, and explores how First Nations sovereignty should inform lawyers' work with historically disempowered communities.

SYSTEMIC RACISM, POWER AND JUSTICE

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM AEST

- Professor Larissa Behrendt, Director of Research at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning UTS

What does justice mean for First Nations in a legal system that was built to uphold colonisation? In this session, Eualeyai/Kamillaroi lawyer, author and filmmaker, Professor Larissa Behrendt will be in conversation with conference co-organiser Teela Reid, to discuss how First Nations movements engage with concepts of power, race and justice.

LUNCH

1:15 PM - 1:45 PM AEST

BREAK OUT ROOM 1

1:45 PM - 2:15 PM AEST

BEYOND COURT: HOLISTIC ADVOCACY FOR MOVEMENT LAWYERS

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM AEST

- Rawan Arraf, CEO of Australian Centre for International Justice
- Sophie McNeill, Australia Researcher for Human Rights Watch
- Rodney Croome AM, Founder of Just Equal

A comprehensive advocacy strategy is critical in advancing movements and ensuring systemic change. From an effective media strategy to strategic litigation, this session covers some of the tools and tactics that have been utilised in successful campaigns.

PROGRAM

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER
2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

9:15 AM - 9:30 AM AEST

GLOBAL APPROACHES TO MOVEMENT LAWYERING

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM AEST

- Noura Erekat, Palestinian-American activist, academic, and human rights attorney
- Marbre Stahly-Butts, Executive Director of the US based Law for Black Lives
- Alejandra Ancheita, founder and Executive Director of the Mexico City-based NGO ProDESC

Lawyers around the globe are working with and being led by movements for systemic change. This panel will feature three movement lawyers from the US, Mexico and Palestine who have founded or developed organisations working directly with liberation movements. They will discuss the way in which lawyers can use the law to shift power towards communities and social movements for systemic change.

LAWYERING IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE: SUPPORTING THE FIGHT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM AEST

- Murrawah Johnson, Spokesperson, Community Organiser and Campaigner for the Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners Family Council
- Fleur Ramsay, Special Counsel for the International Program at the Environmental Defenders Office

First Nations and Pacific Island communities are amongst the most impacted by climate change, and are at the forefront of the global climate movement. In this conversation, Wiridi woman and changemaker, Murrawah Johnson, and Samoan woman and lawyer, Fleur Ramsay, will interrogate how lawyers can better support communities fighting for climate justice.

ABOLITIONIST LAWYERING: USING THE LAW TO DISMANTLE CARCERAL SYSTEMS

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AEST

- Debbie Kilroy, CEO of Sisters Inside
- Tabitha Lean, Gunditjmara story-teller, writer, poet and abolition activist
- Allison Whittaker, Gomeri writer and Senior Researcher at Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning UTS

Australia's first police forces were formed to effect the violence of colonisation. Since then, First Nations and those with lived experience have been leading the fight to end racist carceral systems. This panel of organisers, storytellers and experts with lived experience of carceral violence will discuss the prison abolition movement and examine ways in which lawyers can work with abolitionist organisers to dismantle carceral systems.

LUNCH

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM AEST

BREAK OUT ROOM 2

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM AEST

FUNDING FOR CHANGE: THE CHALLENGE OF RESOURCING REBELLIOUS LAWYERING

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM AEST

- Jennifer Robinson, Australian human rights lawyer at Doughty Street Chambers
- Rachel English, Philanthropic advisor at Mutual Trust, co-chair of NEXUS Australia
- Liv Metter, Ally Fundraising Director at the Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network
- Catherine Brooks, Senior Advisor Wendy Brooks and Partners

Navigating funding opportunities to support movements can be difficult. This session explores the components of successful fundraising strategies, the advantages and disadvantages of various funding models and the challenges of fundraising for and alongside grassroots movements.

CLOSING PLENARY: ORGANISING FOR THE FUTURE

3:15 PM - 3:45 PM AEST

- Conference Co-Organisers: Sarah Schwartz, Zoe Bush, Susan Wnukowska-Mtonga, Teela Reid, Brooke Greenwood

In this closing plenary, the conference co-organisers will sum up the themes of the conference and will open up a discussion about how we can organise amongst ourselves into the future to empower movements for systemic change.