

**NJCA SYMPOSIUM 2026**

# Memory, Trauma, Evidence, and the Courts

21 - 22 August 2026, Adelaide

**DATES**

21 - 22 August 2026

**LOCATION**

Adelaide, SA

**OPEN TO**

Members of the broader legal community

**REGISTRATION**

\$1,150 **Early bird – until 31 May 2026**  
\$1,250 Full price from 1 June 2026  
Includes John Doyle Oration and Dinner

**Legal and Judicial Education | Neuroscience and Law | Trauma-Informed Justice | Evidence and Practice**

Recent decades have witnessed significant advances in the understanding of how memories are formed, consolidated, and retrieved. Neuroscientific research has revealed the unique ways experiences are encoded in the brain, while psychological studies have documented phenomena such as dissociation, fragmentation, and delayed disclosure that frequently characterise trauma survivors' testimony. At the same time, research on memory malleability, false memories, blocked memories, and the suggestibility of witnesses has raised important questions about evidentiary standards and safeguards.

## Keynote Speaker



### Professor Barbara Spellman

*Professor of Law and Psychology, University of Virginia School of Law*

Professor Barbara A. Spellman joined the faculty of the UVA Department of Psychology in 1997 and moved to the Law School in 2008. She teaches evidence and various courses on the intersection of psychology and law (Behavioural Decision-Making and Law; Empirical Methods in Law).

Professor Spellman received her law degree from NYU in 1982. In the mid-1980s she practised tax law at Chadbourne & Parke in New York City and worked as a writer and editor at Matthew Bender Company. She then moved to UCLA and earned a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology. Her psychology research focused on memory, analogical reasoning, and causal reasoning. Professor Spellman now writes about judicial reasoning, forensics, and the replication crisis in science.

**The NJCA is delighted to welcome Professor Spellman to Australia.**

## Program Overview

### Day 1 - Friday 21 August

Plenary sessions covering the foundations of memory science.

### Day 2 - Saturday 22 August

Three concurrent specialist streams.

#### Stream A

##### Criminal Law

*Eyewitness evidence, children's testimony, investigative practices, wrongful convictions, and jury directions.*

#### Stream B

##### Civil Law

*Memory reliability in civil litigation, institutional abuse claims, and historical memory assessment.*

#### Stream C

##### Family Law

*Family violence and trauma, children's memory, trauma-informed practice, and expert evidence.*

### Who should attend

- Judicial officers, Tribunal members, and Judicial Registrars
- Barristers and solicitors
- Forensic and clinical psychologists
- Victim advocates and policymakers
- Law or psychology students

## Symposium Committee

### The Hon. Glenn Martin AM KC – *Chair*

*Formerly, Supreme Court of Queensland*

### Chief Justice Helen Bowskill

*Supreme Court of Queensland*

### Justice Katrina Banks-Smith

*Federal Court of Australia*

### Justice Sam Doyle

*Supreme Court of South Australia*

### Judge Kate Hughes

*Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia*

### Magistrate Jay Pandya

*Magistrates Court of South Australia*

## Registration

**NJCA SYMPOSIUM**

**JOHN DOYLE ORATION & DINNER**

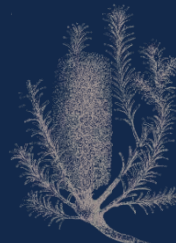
## Enquiries

For academic, students, and not-for-profit pricing, contact [njca@anu.edu.au](mailto:njca@anu.edu.au).

**THE JOHN DOYLE ORATION 2026**  
**Celebrating Leadership in Judicial Education**

**The Honourable Justice Robert Beech-Jones**  
*High Court of Australia*

Date  
Friday, 21 August 2026  
Location  
Adelaide, SA  
Pre-dinner drinks  
From 6.30 pm  
Dress  
Business Attire





## NJCA Symposium 2026

# Memory, Trauma, Evidence, and the Courts

21 - 22 August 2026 | Adelaide, South Australia

## Program and Registration

### Program at a glance

#### Day 1 - Friday 21 August 2026 Plenary: Foundations of Memory Science

8.30am	Arrival tea and coffee
9.00am	Welcome and opening remarks – Chief Justice Laura Stein, Supreme Court of South Australia
9.30am	Session 1 - Keynote: "What Courts Need to Understand About Human Memory" Professor Barbara Spellman
10.15am	Session 2 - The Neurobiology of Memory
11.00am	Morning break
11.30am	Session 3 - Trauma and Memory Phenomena
12.15pm	Session 4 - Memory Malleability, Suggestibility and False Memories
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Session 5 - Interviewing, Investigation and Memory Reliability
3.00pm	Afternoon break
3.30pm	Session 6 - Panel: How Should Courts Use Memory Science? Cross-disciplinary panel discussion
4.45pm	Day One close

#### Day 2 - Saturday 22 August 2026 Concurrent Streams

Stream A - Criminal Law	Stream B - Civil Law	Stream C - Family Law
<b>9.30am</b> Session 8A - Eyewitness Memory, Stress and Identification Evidence	<b>9.30am</b> Session 8B - Memory in Civil Litigation: Reliability, Delay and Credibility <i>(Chair: Prof Spellman)</i>	<b>9.30am</b> Session 8C - Trauma, Memory and Family Violence: What Family Courts Need to Know
<b>Following</b> Session 9A - Children's Memory, Trauma and Suggestibility	<b>Following</b> Session 9B - Memory Distortion and Confabulation in Civil Claims	<b>Following</b> Session 9C - Children's Memory, Trauma and Suggestibility in Family Law
<b>Post break</b> Session 10A - Panel: Investigative Practices and Wrongful Convictions	<b>Post break</b> Session 10B - Panel: Assessing Memory in Institutional Abuse and Historical Claims	<b>Post break</b> Session 10C - Panel: Trauma-Informed Family Court Practice
<b>Post lunch</b> Session 11A - Workshop: Jury Directions on Witness Memory <i>Judicial contributors: Justice James Henry, Supreme Court of Qld   Judge Kara Shead, District Court of NSW</i>	<b>Post lunch</b> Session 11B - Workshop <i>Judicial contributors: Chief Justice Helen Bowskill, Supreme Court of Qld   Justice Katrina Banks-Smith, Federal Court of Australia</i>	<b>Post lunch</b> Session 11C - Workshop: Designing Trauma-Informed Family Court Procedures <i>Judicial contributors: Justice Rick O'Brien, Family Court of Australia   Judge Kate Huges, FCFCOA</i>

**3.00pm** Closing Session (Plenary) - synthesis across streams | Symposium concludes 3.30pm

Full program and speaker details will be released progressively.

### Registration fees

<b>Early bird SAVE \$100</b> Register by 31 May 2026	<b>\$1,150</b>
<b>Full price</b> From 1 June 2026	<b>\$1,250</b>

### What is included

- All plenary and concurrent sessions across both days
- Catering: morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea daily
- All program materials and resources
- John Doyle Oration and Dinner, Friday 21 August

\* Flights and accommodation are not included.

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