



# Legal Advocacy Skills Development

## Coaching with specialists

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Workshop leaders include Barristers Craig Smith, presentation specialist, Jane FitzGerald, with workshop guidance training from Professional Development specialist, Margaret Voight. This team will provide innovative, customised advocacy coaching for our growing workforce.

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Supporting Barristers-at-Law will guide each ATSILS staff member in small teams relating to core case planning and theory. Practice will allow for individual pace regardless of experience. Feedback throughout the workshop on your work will be warm, direct, constructive and case-based.



## Increased legal advocacy skills and confidence: a practical, hands-on workshop

The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Service gathers its Statewide team of 37 Family, Child Protection, Civil Law legal practitioners and paralegals for its inaugural advocacy skills development program, Brisbane: April 2016.



# Grasping a Brief's potential:

An evening of case theory to improve case analysis techniques and planning capacity  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 4:30 – 7:00pm

## Advocacy Workshop lecturer



### Craig Smith, Lecturer

QUT Lecturer - Executive Masters of Business  
QUT Staff Partner - Professional Legal Training  
QUT Unit Coordinator - Criminal Law  
QUT Unit Coordinator - Employment Law  
Tutor - Criminal Responsibility  
Lecturer - Bar Practice Course

College of Law, Adjunct Lecturer - Masters of Law (Managing Legal Teams, Dispute Management, Capstone)

**Preparation: bring your Brief, notebook & pen**

**Lecture, discussion and a working supper will be provided:**

**4:30-7:00pm**

### Solid case analysis is critical to legal advocacy success

Mr Craig Smith reminds legal professionals in his lecture that careful planning and analysis will ensure a positive and lasting effect in all professional practice.

His concentration will be to lead the workshop with a focus on a practical framework for developing robust case theory, building persuasive arguments, and presenting evidence in a way that assists a judge to make good decisions.

The preparatory sunset session prior to Day 1 will ensure timely preparation to turn improved case theory into practice.

Craig will highlight the Case Brief, purpose-built for the workshop. This proven lecture will assist you in developing advocacy confidence over the following two days.

In the week preceding the Workshop, the Brief will be issued for all delegates.

Attending the 4:30-7:00pm session is critical to the Workshop's success. A working dinner will be provided at the Conference venue. Small Group allocations will be confirmed at the close of the evening.

### Margaret Voight

LLB (Hons); GradDipLegPrac; LLM, Certificate IV Training & Development;

Adjunct Lecturer College of Law, Former Lecturer Practical legal Training Course (QUT) and former Director/Warden Bar Practice Course.



Currently completing her Professional Doctorate in Family Law, experienced professional development specialist for the legal industry, Margaret has offered her expertise and is available to assist us with any challenges arising with individual learning outcomes, witness cross-examination or other skills over the two workshop days.



**AIM:** build a strategic framework for applying a disciplined, flexible and responsive approach to all casework advocacy. Confidence is achieved to enhance legal advocacy in a variety of court, mediation and tribunal settings for the full range of ATSILS Family & Civil Legal Practitioners.

**METHOD:** Structured coaching sessions involve active participation designed to allow considerable individual development by practice, not merely example. This is achieved in a variety of workshop sessions as follows:

**9:00am OPENING & WELCOME:** Greg Shadbolt, ATSILS PLO

**9:15AM SPECIALIST PRESENTATION** Presence, confidence and communication clarity in advocacy settings – Jane FitzGerald outlines why taking your attention off your case to read the judge, the client, the other party and dealing with unexpected advocacy pitfalls. Jane will outline ways to work with a dynamic, connected and focused approach.

### **SMALL GROUP MENTORING (ALL DAY)**

Working with your Brief, prepare your Opening and Evidence in Chief component presentations. Opportunity for individual presentations will be provided to every participant in your Small Group. You will be mentored by a specialist guest Barrister, building confidence with their guidance and encouragement. Accelerated learning does not have to be uncomfortable: so every staff member will receive feedback on their opening or closing addresses using film footage.

# Workshop Day 1: casework, feedback, evidence.

Interactive skills  
development Thursday  
28th April: 9:00am – 5:00pm.

Ms Jane FitzGerald,  
Barrister-at-Law



**FEEDBACK SESSIONS** Jane FitzGerald will observe and interact with you in your presentation learning sessions. Feedback (including through video) is a proven method for accelerated skills development and can be provided before your Small Group and/or in private. This rare opportunity to improve personal presentation skills and techniques through considered feedback is provided to all ATSILS delegates.



Most of the workshop is undertaken in small group settings with a specialist Barrister aiding each group over two days.

ATSILS Qld gratefully acknowledges the pro-bono and/or discounted services provided which have made this workshop possible. This initiative forms part of our emerging ATSILS Workforce Development Cultural Plan.

ATSILS also acknowledges its funding by the Commonwealth through the Attorney-General's Department.

### Special thanks to our 2016 Barristers-at-Law:

Mrs Simone Fraser

Ms Rebecca Harding

Ms Karen Oakley

Mr Kila Pedder

Mr Johnny Selfridge and

Mr Jason Voight (ATSILS)

**ATSILS standard Bi-Annual Family/Civil Law Conference 26 & 27 April is supplemented by this Advocacy Workshop 28 & 29 April 2016 in Brisbane.**

**Venue Co-ordination, travel & Meal enquiries to:**

**Angela Jacob, Executive Support Officer ATSILS Brisbane**

**[Angela.jacob@atsils.org.au](mailto:Angela.jacob@atsils.org.au)**

**(07) 3025 3888 or 0459 020591**

## Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**HOURS: 9:00am – 3:00pm**

The day kicks off with cross-examination of an Expert Witness before the large group.

Small-group presentations will continue with brief introductions from the various specialists on case highlights.

Today we further refine your cross-examination techniques and put them to practice.

### WITNESSES

All delegates will have the opportunity to work with Witnesses to the Case. These friendly and even familiar Witnesses will be acting from our bank of volunteer ATSILS staff. The day ends with the delivery of your Closing statements, and a group feedback session to the floor.

### OUTCOMES

The aims of this program are to:

- increase your understanding of how to better prepare for your appearance in court,
- develop the skills for effective court advocacy, and
- build your confidence as a professional advocate.



# Workshop Day 2: evidence, crossexam. closing

## Advocacy Workshop themes:

UNDERSTAND

DEVELOP

PRACTISE

GROW

SUCCEED



If you have one, please BYO smart phone/tablet to enable filming and retention of your presentation.