



**FAMILY LAW
SECTION
NEW ZEALAND LAW SOCIETY**

NZLS EST 1869

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FLS executive election

On 31 March, there will be three vacancies on the executive committee. Eight [nominations](#) have been received. Voting will open shortly. Full members of the FLS will receive an email from **Electionz.com**, an experienced electronic elections company the Law Society uses to run its elections. To ensure you receive the election information, please make sure the Law Society has your correct email address (only those without email addresses will be provided with a postal voting pack). If you are a full section member and have not received an email from Electionz.com with voting instructions first check any “junk mail” or “clutter” email inboxes. If you cannot locate the email with voting instructions contact Bronwyn Jones (email: bronwyn.jones@lawsociety.org.nz or call: 04 463 2906). We encourage all members to vote. Voting will close at 5.00pm on 24 April.

Survey of New Zealand family law professionals

[Associate Professor Bruce Smyth](#) from the [Australian National University](#) is investigating how families stuck in high-conflict make shared-time arrangements after separation ‘work’ (or ‘not work’) for their children – emotionally, practically and financially. Bruce is seeking the views of NZ family law professionals (e.g. lawyers, judicial officers, mediators and psychologists) about: (a) their attitudes to shared-time arrangements in various circumstances; (b) whether they use particular strategies when working with high-conflict clients or cases; and (c) what impact, if any, working with high-conflict cases has on their personal wellbeing. Bruce hopes that our members will participate in this interesting and important study. Participation is of course voluntary, the survey is anonymous and takes about 20 minutes to complete. All information will be treated in strict confidence. To participate in the survey, please click [here](#). For more detailed information about the survey please click [Participant Information Sheet](#). If you would like to discuss any aspect of the study, please contact Bruce on (+61) 1800 702 927 (toll free, business hours AEDT) or email him at Bruce.Smyth@anu.edu.au. The ethical aspects of this research

have been approved by the Australian National University Human Research Ethics Committee (Protocol 2013/574). Many thanks on Bruce's behalf for considering this request.

Family Court forum – Auckland – 13 March

There was a great turnout of FLS members from the Auckland, Waitakere and North Shore at a forum with the judges from those courts on Monday 13 March at the Auckland District Court. A list of [contact numbers](#) for court staff is available for matters that require urgent action or “escalation”. You will need to use your username and password to access this list. Your username is the 6-digit number on your practising certificate. If you have forgotten your password please use this [link](#). If you did not verify your attendance on the evening, here is a [form](#) you could use to ask a colleague to sign to claim your one CPD hour.

Family law intensive – Whangarei – Friday 28 April

The annual one-day family law [intensive](#) will be held in Whangarei on Friday 28 April. Due to the significant interest in attending this intensive, the **early bird rate has been extended until 20 March**. To show appreciation for the support for this intensive, the organisers have included a dinner on Thursday 27 April to be held at the Discovery Settlers Hotel, 61 Hatea Drive, Whangarei. The price of the dinner is included in the registration price for the intensive. A cash bar will be available. Please email tania@flcw.co.nz to register your attendance at the seminar and if you wish to attend the dinner.

Lawyer for child forum – Hamilton – Friday 24 March – Last chance registration

Registration will close on Wednesday 22 March for the Hamilton lawyer for child forum to be held on Friday 24 March. We have had over 50 registrations so there are limited spaces left. Click here to access the [registration](#) form if you are wishing to attend.

Children Young Persons and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Bill

The bill was introduced on 8 December and received its first reading on 13 December. The bill was referred to the social services select committee and submissions were due by 3 March. The Law Society [submission](#) was filed on 3 March. The FLS prepared part of the submission dealing with the care and protection provisions. We extend our heartfelt thanks to those members from our advisory panel and executive who

worked hard to prepare this submission under extremely tight timeframes. The Law Society, with representation from the FLS, will appear before the select committee on 22 March.

NZLS CLE family law conference

The NZLS CLE family law conference will be held in Rotorua on 19 and 20 October. There will be two pre-conference workshops held on the afternoon of 18 October, followed by the powhiri and the FLS sponsored drinks and canapes function. Save these dates in your diary!

Michelle Duggan

Chair

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