



# Commercial Law Conference 2025

**Structuring Success:  
Legal Frameworks for the Modern  
Commercial Practitioner**

**The *Law*  
Association**  
OF NEW ZEALAND

Conference Programme for Thursday, 17 July 2025

In-person at The Law Association of New Zealand  
premises and Livestream

# *Join us at the* **Commercial Law** **Conference 2025**

Commercial law continues to evolve – shaped by shifting business needs, regulatory expectations, and the realities of risk and innovation.

This year's conference offers a fresh look at topical legal issues driving commercial practice today. From contracts and governance to disputes and technology transformation, our expert speakers will share practical insights, legal strategies, and real-world experience to help you advise with confidence in a changing landscape.

Whether you're navigating traditional transactions or tackling emerging complexities, this conference is designed to sharpen your thinking and elevate your practice.

**Secure your place today!**

## **Networking Opportunities**

Build valuable connections at the Commercial Law Conference 2025. Engage with peers and industry experts during networking break and post-event refreshments.

Expand your professional network, exchange insights and connect with like-minded professionals in a relaxed and engaging setting.

**Don't miss this chance to  
grow your connections!**



# Commercial Law Conference *Tickets*

Thursday, 17 July 2025  
12:30 PM – 5:00 PM (4 CPD Hours)

TLANZ, Level 18, Vero Centre, 48 Shortland Street, Auckland

Livestreamed and In Person  
Limited in-person spaces available.

	Member	Non-member
Early Bird Pricing 30% Discount	\$385 <sub>+GST</sub>	\$545 <sub>+GST</sub>
Full pricing for Half-day Conference	\$550 <sub>+GST</sub>	\$775 <sub>+GST</sub>
Early Bird pricing ends 27 June 2025		



Register for  
Auckland In Person



Register for  
the Livestream

Group bookings available by emailing  
[cpd@thelawassociation.nz](mailto:cpd@thelawassociation.nz)

# The Programme

Time	Mins	Session	Presenters
12:00 PM	30	<b>Registration and Coffee</b>	
12:30 PM	5	<b>Opening by Chair</b>	<b>Chair: Jane Parker,</b> Partner, MinterEllisonRuddWatts
12:35 PM	45	<b>Common Issues in Supply Agreements</b> A well-drafted supply agreement is key to successful commercial relationships. This session provides a practical overview for lawyers of essential contract elements, including forecasting, pricing, delivery, termination, and dispute resolution. It will also cover key legal considerations such as consumer protection, risk allocation, intellectual property, confidentiality and successfully exiting the contract. Attendees will gain insights into drafting clear, effective agreements that minimise disputes and support long-term business success.	<b>Hannah Wilson,</b> Partner, Russell McVeagh
1:20 PM	45	<b>When Worlds Collide: Commercial Litigation Lessons from Employment Law Disputes</b> Is an employment dispute really a commercial case in disguise? This session explores the intersection of employment and commercial litigation, where claims of breach of good faith, fiduciary like duties, conversion, and misuse of confidential information, arise from relationships that began as employment — but ended in litigation. Drawing on live case examples, we'll examine dual (or more)-track proceedings (ERA, EC and High Court), tactical use of freezing and search orders in employment contexts, jurisdictional confusion, and how to structure enforceable settlements across jurisdictions. This session offers practical insights into a growing class of hybrid disputes.	<b>Kalev Crossland,</b> Litigation Principal, Righteous Law
2:05 PM	30	<b>Leases in Business Transactions: Acting for the Tenant</b> When buying or selling a business that involves leased premises, key leasing issues can significantly impact the deal. This session explores what to look out for when acting for a tenant – whether dealing with an existing lease or arranging a new one. Topics include lease assignment, landlord consent, fit-out and maintenance obligations, and common pitfalls to avoid in commercial transactions.	<b>Joanne Ward,</b> Senior Legal Counsel and Privacy Officer, The Warehouse Group
2:35 PM	30	<b>Networking Break / Afternoon Tea</b>	



# The Programme (Cont'd)

Time	Mins	Session	Presenters
3:05 PM	50	<b>Directors' Duties</b> Directors face increasing scrutiny over their duties, and failing to navigate corporate governance correctly can lead to costly legal risks. Understanding the evolving responsibilities of directors and applying key case law insights is crucial to minimising those risks. In this session, John Land, Barrister at Bankside Chambers, will share actionable insights on how you can guide your clients in fulfilling their legal obligations and minimising potential liabilities. Drawing from recent case law, John will provide practical strategies to assist in advising directors with confidence and safeguarding their interests.	<b>John Land,</b> Barrister, Bankside Chambers
3:55 PM	60	<b>Panel: AI Policy and Legal Governance: Navigating Liability, Ethics, and Regulation</b> The rise of generative AI and predictive analytics across both public and private sectors has outpaced the development of corresponding legal frameworks. Lawyers are increasingly being asked to advise on or interact with AI systems, often without clear guidance on who holds legal liability in the event of harm or error. This panel will discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How existing legal principles (e.g. tort, contract, privacy, IP, and consumer protection) intersect with AI-driven decisions;</li> <li>• Who is accountable when AI tools fail, mislead, or cause damage;</li> <li>• The importance of transparency, explainability, and auditability in AI governance;</li> <li>• Vendor accountability and contract law: terms of use, disclaimers, and professional responsibility;</li> <li>• Ethics and responsible AI and how this intersects with legal professional responsibility;</li> <li>• Interaction between AI and obligations under the Privacy Act 2020 and the Human Rights Act 1993; and</li> <li>• The global direction of AI regulation and the extent to which New Zealand is keeping pace.</li> </ul>	<b>Chair: Lloyd Gallagher,</b> Managing Partner/ Arbitrator/Mediator, Gallagher & Co. Consultants  <b>Steve Keall,</b> Barrister and Legal Tech Founder  <b>Edwin Lim,</b> Partner, Hudson Gavin Martin  <b>Chantal McNaught,</b> Owner, The Fully Automated Luxury Lawyer Newsletter  <b>Jane Parker,</b> Partner, MinterEllisonRuddWatts
4:55 PM	5	<b>Closing by Chair &amp; TLANZ Representative</b>	<b>Chair: Jane Parker</b> <b>Tony Herring,</b> TLANZ President
5:00 PM	60	<b>Networking Refreshments &amp; Canapés</b> Take the opportunity to further build connections with other professionals in the legal field.	

# Our *Presenters*



## **Chair of the Conference: Jane Parker**

**Partner, MinterEllisonRuddWatts**

Jane is a specialist in commercial projects and commercial law with a particular focus on technology and services agreements, large complex commercial agreements, public sector contracting, procurement, probity and governance. She also advises on health and safety through the supply chain.

She has more than 25 years of experience working in and for technology, energy, and financial services organisations, on the supplier and customer sides. She understands how relationships, operations, and commercials work together, so clients can agree better outcomes. With strong connections to both the North Island and South, Jane enjoys working with clients and catching up with friends and family across the motu.

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## **Kalev Crossland**

**Litigation Principal, Righteous Law**

Kalev has been a litigator since 1989.

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## **Lloyd Gallagher**

**Managing Partner/Arbitrator/Mediator,  
Gallagher & Co. Consultants**

Lloyd is actively involved around the world in Alternative Dispute Resolution where he acts as Arbitrator and Mediator. With a strong IT background, Lloyd works with law practitioners and policy makers to develop solutions that focus on access to justice, Artificial Intelligence, and technology security. He is the convenor of The Law Association's Technology & Law committee.

# Our *Presenters*



**Steve Keall**

**Barrister and Legal Tech Founder**

Steve is the founder of The Legal Drive, a legal tech development company behind popular apps such as [Two Bees](#), a civil court costs calculator and [lawdbl](#), an experimental AI-powered lawyer-finder for the New Zealand public. Steve is a civil barrister with FortyEight Shortland. He maintains a general civil practice which includes insurance and professional discipline as practice areas.

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**John Land**

**Barrister, Bankside Chambers**

John Land is a senior barrister at Bankside Chambers in Auckland. He was formerly a partner at national New Zealand law firm Kensington Swan (now Dentons) for 20 years.

John is a commercial litigator with in-depth specialist competition law expertise and experience having acted as counsel in a number of major New Zealand competition law cases. John also teaches the undergraduate company law course at Auckland University.

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**Edwin Lim**

**Partner, Hudson Gavin Martin**

Edwin Lim is a partner at Hudson Gavin Martin, a specialist technology, media and IP law firm. Ed's main areas of practice are technology and IP development, commercialisation, protection and procurement.

Ed has worked with businesses across various industry sectors (both customers and vendors) and has numerous clients offering technology solutions. In addition to his law degree, he has a degree majoring in Information Systems, so understands the technical, business and legal issues involved in technology projects. Ed is also the CIO at Hudson Gavin Martin where he is responsible for the firm's technology infrastructure, strategy, and roadmap.

Passionate about giving back to the industry, Ed is on the executive committees of the Law Association Technology Law group, KiwiSaaS, NZ IoT Alliance, and NZ Middle East Business Council. Ed is also a judge for the NZ Hi-Tech awards.

# Our *Presenters*



**Chantal McNaught**

**Owner, The Fully Automated Luxury Lawyer Newsletter**

Chantal McNaught is a PhD Candidate in Law, researching how lawyers can navigate the conflicts between law as a profession and law as a business. Law has been Chantal's passion for almost 15 years now, having practiced as a lawyer on the Gold Coast and working in legal technology (LegalTech) across both Australia and New Zealand. Chantal brings her passions for emerging technology and disruption to legal practice as well as her practice and LegalTech experience to the TLANZ Technology and Law Committee.

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**Joanne Ward**

**Senior Legal Counsel and Privacy Officer, The Warehouse Group**

Joanne has been practising as a solicitor, specialising in property law since 2001. After working in private practice in Auckland and London, Joanne moved in-house and is currently at The Warehouse Group where she looks after a wide variety of legal matters, including the leasing work of the Group's brands, The Warehouse, Warehouse Stationery and Noel Leeming. Joanne is also the Convenor of the TLANZ CPD Committee.

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**Hannah Wilson**

**Partner, Russell McVeagh**

Hannah is a highly experienced corporate lawyer that clients look to when structuring and negotiating their most complex commercial transaction. Hannah advises on a wide range of transactions, including large-scale procurement projects, complex commercial contracting, domestic and cross-border M&A, joint venture and shareholder arrangements. Clients value Hannah's combined strengths in M&A and commercial transactions as she knows how to negotiate successful outcomes while understanding the need to build relationships that will last after the deal is done.

Before joining the Russell McVeagh partnership, Hannah spent an extended period at global law firm Hogan Lovells, where she gained particular experience working on strategic transactions for clients in the life sciences and automotive industries.





**Lawyers by nature thrive on doing their best work. Our aim is to help them achieve excellence through the solutions, tools, skills and connections we deliver every day. And by bringing a voice, an identity, and a sense of belonging to our community, we support the collective advancement of legal practices and laws. We're right here enabling New Zealand's lawyers to take their work, their career, and our profession, to the next level.**

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