

STEP AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE 2019

Trusts and Estates – Preparing for the Next Decade

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Richard Williams, Barrister, Brisbane

Richard Williams is a Barrister at the Queensland Bar. He has a specialist practice in wills, estates, trusts and superannuation, and is an accredited mediator. Since 2015, he has been listed in *Doyle's Guide* as a leading barrister for wills and estates litigation. He studied Law at Cambridge University, and was first called to the Bar in England in 1993. He has appeared in a number of recent significant cases, including:

- *Neuendorf v The Public Trustee of Queensland* (principles for award of compensation, where a benefit is lost through dealing by an attorney)
- *Lindsay v McGrath* (the first Queensland appeal concerning an informal will)
- *GAU v GAV* (one of only two appeal cases in Australia concerning statutory will applications)
- *Munro v Munro* (whether an incorrectly completed binding death benefit nomination form could be a valid nomination)
- *Estate of Rummer* (rectification based on probable intention of the testator, under the Wills Act in the ACT)
- *Re Nichol* (whether an unsent text message was a valid will)
- *Re Narumon Pty Ltd* (whether an attorney may make or confirm a binding death benefit nomination, and other difficulties arising from incomplete or incorrectly completed documentation)

He has a particular interest in statutory wills, and is co-author of the textbook '*Statutory Will Applications: A Practical Guide*'. He has appeared in many recent statutory will cases, both in Queensland and interstate.

He is the current updating author for the 'Testate Succession' part of *Halsbury's Laws of Australia*.

In 2017, Richard received a STEP Founder's Award, for exceptional and outstanding long term contribution to the Society.

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