

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, and to the Queensland Bar in 2012. 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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