



2026 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW CONFERENCE PROGRAM FOR FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2026

Supported by the Federation Press & the Australian Association of Constitutional Law

We invite you to register for the 2026 Constitutional Law Conference, to be held in a hybrid format on Friday 6 February 2026 and organised by the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law at the Faculty of Law and Justice, UNSW, with the support of the Australian Association of Constitutional Law and Federation Press.

The conference will feature discussions of important developments in the High Court, Federal Court and state courts and provide an overview of the key public law debates in 2025. The conference will include papers on the acquisition of property, native title, representative government, and the application of international law in domestic courts, among other topics.

The conference will be held in hybrid format, with attendees able to register in person (100 pax capacity) or online via Zoom. The in-person element of the conference will be held at the offices of Gilbert + Tobin in Barangaroo, Sydney. There will be multiple opportunities for informal interaction throughout the day. Drinks will be hosted after the conference for those attending in person at Gilbert + Tobin. Zoom details will be forwarded to online attendees closer to the date.



*Professor Janina Boughey
Director, Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law*

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| 8.30am | ARRIVAL / ZOOM LINK OPEN | |
| 8.45am | WELCOME & WELCOME TO COUNTRY | |
| 9.00am | SESSION ONE The High Court on Constitutional Law in the 2025 Term | Associate Professor Rebecca Ananian-Welsh, University of Queensland Commentator: Dr Brendan Lim SC, NSW Bar Chair: Chief Justice Andrew Bell, Supreme Court of NSW |
| 10.15am | MORNING TEA BREAK | |
| 10.45am | SESSION TWO The State and Federal Courts on Constitutional Law in the 2025 Term | Justice Stephen McDonald, Federal Court of Australia Chair: Professor Janina Boughey, UNSW |
| 11.45pm | SESSION THREE Acquisition of Property and Territories Power | Associate Professor Sean Brennan, UNSW – <i>Commonwealth v Yunupingu</i> Edwina Smith, Victorian Bar – <i>Russia v Commonwealth</i> Chair: Dr Ashleigh Barnes, UNSW |
| 12.45pm | LUNCH BREAK | |
| 1.30pm | SESSION FOUR Representative Government | Joanna Davidson SC, NSW Bar – <i>Babet v Commonwealth</i> Professor Emerita Anne Twomey, University of Sydney – <i>Ward v Hoening</i> and <i>Cullen v President of the Legislative Council of NSW</i> Dr Jacinta Dharmananda, UWA and Dr Julian Murphy, Victorian Bar – <i>Ravbar v Commonwealth</i> Chair: Associate Professor Paul Kildea, UNSW |

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| 3.00pm | AFTERNOON TEA BREAK & HIGH COURT TRIVIA | |
| 3.30pm | SESSION FIVE Limits of State Power and Judicial Power | Justice Geoffrey Kennett, Federal Court of Australia – <i>G Global v Commissioner of State Revenue; Stott v Commonwealth</i> Hannah Ryan, NSW Bar – <i>NSW v Wojciechowska</i> Chair: Dr Elisabeth Perham, UNSW |
| 4.30pm | SESSION SIX International Law in Domestic Courts | Robyn Briese, Senior General Counsel, AGS Associate Professor Jonathan Bonnitcha, UNSW Dr Fiona Roughley SC, NSW Bar Chair: Dr Zsafia Korosy, UNSW |
| 5.30pm | CONFERENCE CLOSE | |
| 5.30pm – 6.30pm | CONFERENCE DRINKS | |

COST AND REGISTRATION

IN-PERSON - Full conference: \$285 (100-person capacity; first come, first served)
ONLINE - Full conference: \$220 | Individual sessions: \$55 each | Organisation ticket: \$1140
Academics will receive a 50% discount when using code ACADEMIC50 at checkout.
If you are experiencing financial hardship and are unable to purchase a ticket please contact gtcentre@unsw.edu.au

MORE INFORMATION

For more information head to the registration page:
<https://conlawconference2026.eventbrite.com.au>
Alternatively, check out the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law website:
<http://www.gtcentre.unsw.edu.au>