



**International
Access to Justice
Forum 2026**
Evidence and Action

International

Access to Justice

Forum 2026

Sponsorship Prospectus

An event by

**Victoria Law
Foundation**

In partnership with



**MONASH
University**



01

Acknowledgement of Country

We are proud to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and recognise their abiding connection to this land, waterways, and community, acknowledging the lands were never ceded.

The office of Victoria Law Foundation is on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. It is our privilege to pay respects to their Elders, and to all the generations of Wurundjeri people who have nurtured this land for over 50,000 years and continue to do so today.

We believe that acknowledging the past is an essential step in building a better, more equitable future. We recognise the impact of colonisation, its legacy of injustice, and the marginalisation of the Wurundjeri and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

As the 2026 International Access to Justice Forum welcomes participants from across Australia and around the world, we also recognise the diverse First Nations and Indigenous Peoples represented among our global community. We honour the deep knowledge, cultural strength, and enduring contribution that First Peoples uphold in their homelands everywhere.



02

Leadership Message



Professor Steven Vaughan
Dean, Monash University Faculty of Law

Universities have a responsibility to contribute to justice systems that are fair, transparent and responsive. Partnering with the Victoria Law Foundation on the 2026 Forum reflects Monash Law's belief that good research must lead to good outcomes. The challenges facing our justice systems are too complex for any one sector to solve alone. This Forum brings together the evidence, innovation and collective leadership needed to make meaningful progress. We are excited to welcome partners who share our commitment to advancing justice in real and measurable ways.



For nearly 60 years, Victoria Law Foundation has worked to support better justice for the people of Victoria. In that time, we have become a trusted partner across the justice ecosystem, listening carefully, identifying and responding to need, and focusing on work that is useful and impactful.

In October 2026, we will bring this commitment to a global audience as VLF, in partnership with Monash University's Faculty of Law, hosts the International Access to Justice Forum in Melbourne/Naarm. At a time when commitment to democracy and the rule of law is under pressure, access to justice is a critical dimension of social cohesion and community trust.

Across our work, we see a clear pattern: people want evidence they can use, insight which improves service design, strengthens capability, and delivers outcomes that matter. And we know the big challenges are shared across borders. No one has it all figured out, but everyone has something valuable to contribute. This Forum brings those contributions together.

It is a space to ask big questions, explore global trends, share learning openly, and connect rigorous research with practical experience. It reflects a global approach to access to justice, grounded in the belief that shared challenges can lead to stronger solutions.

We are committed to strengthening connections across the Asia-Pacific, while welcoming participation and leadership from around the world. The program encourages new friends and colleagues to expand thinking, deeper collaboration, and explore options we can all learn from.

For sponsors, the Forum offers a distinctive opportunity to:

- achieve global visibility among justice leaders and decision makers
- associate with leading edge, evidence driven thinking
- connect with a diverse, high impact audiences across research, policy, courts, community justice, and technology.

Your support ensures the conversations in Melbourne/Naarm resonate well beyond the Forum: shaping policy, informing service design, inspiring innovation, and strengthening justice systems globally. We look forward to welcoming you as a partner in this important work.

Lynne Haultain
Executive Director
Victoria Law Foundation



03

History of the International Access to Justice Forum

A growing global forum

[Online 2022](#) – hosted by VLF: the inaugural forum was online to respond to travel constraints post-pandemic and structured to suit international time zones

[Toronto 2024](#) – hosted by Osgoode Hall Law School, York University: global trends and local insight, including Victoria's work on legal need and capability through the Public Understanding of the Law Survey (PULS) project.

MELBOURNE/
NAARM
2026

[Irvine 2023](#) – jointly hosted by UCI Law and the VLF: innovation across legal technology, climate justice, regulatory reform, and legal education.

[New York 2025](#) – hosted by NYU and Fordham Law Schools: 35+ panels, plenaries, and breakout sessions on AI and justice, democratic governance, legal empowerment, and system reform.

The Forum has built a reputation as a global meeting place for dialogue and practical insight, bringing together diverse voices to explore ideas for effective justice, what works to deliver it and why.

04

About the 2026

Melbourne Forum

Date: 28-30 October 2026

Venue: Monash College, 750 Collins Street Campus, Docklands, Melbourne, Victoria

Theme: Evidence and Action

At a time of growing complexity and pressure on justice systems, the Forum will focus on the dynamic relationship between research and action. Distinguished by its empirical and outcomes focused orientation, it examines what works, why it works, and how evidence can be translated into real world impact across different legal and social contexts.

The Forum creates a shared space where quantitative and qualitative research, evaluation, data and lived experience sit alongside frontline practice and innovation. This approach supports thoughtful exchange across disciplines and sectors, with a focus on learning that is rigorous, grounded, and applicable.

The program will be shaped around a broad range of access to civil justice issues, including:

- measuring and understanding legal need and people centred justice
- legal technology and access to justice, including AI, legal need and algorithmic justice
- justice institutions, including courts, tribunals and dispute resolution pathways
- community justice and legal empowerment
- law, education and legal capability, including First Nations communities, young people, underserved communities and clinical education programs
- integrated and multidisciplinary practice
- young people's access to justice and legal need
- First Nations civil legal needs and access to justice
- natural disaster, climate change and legal need
- regulation, deregulation and access to justice
- broader civil justice research, policy and practice.

A guiding principle of the Melbourne Forum is that action itself generates evidence. Learning from implementation, experimentation and practice based insight is central to building smarter systems, improving outcomes and avoiding reforms that are well intentioned but ineffective.

By bringing diverse voices together, the 2026 Forum contributes to a vibrant, globally connected community committed to access to justice that is informed, collaborative and capable of delivering lasting impact.



05

Venue:

Monash College

**Monash University, 750 Collins Street Campus,
Docklands, Melbourne, Victoria**

The Forum will take place in Melbourne/Naarm, in a modern, flexible space well-equipped for plenaries, breakout sessions, workshops, and small group conversations. Centrally located with excellent public transport and nearby accommodation, the venue is convenient for local and international delegates and designed to encourage open and collaborative dialogue.



06

Introducing the Steering Committee

The 2026 Forum is guided by a Steering Committee of respected leaders from justice research, policy, practice and innovation. Their diverse expertise helps shape a program that is rigorous, relevant, and globally minded.



**Associate Professor
Genevieve Grant**
Australian Centre for Justice
Innovation at Monash University



Professor Nigel Balmer
Research Director, Victorian
Legal Services Board +
Commissioner



Matthew Burnett
Research Director,
American Bar Foundation



Simon Goodrich
Co founder and Director,
Portable



Professor Lola Akin Ojelabi
School of Law, RMIT University
Melbourne



Louisa Gibbs
Chief Executive Officer,
Federation of Community
Legal Centres Victoria



Olivia Nguy
Director, Law and Justice
Foundation of New South Wales.



Dr Hugh McDonald
Research Director
Victoria Law Foundation



07

Why sponsor the Forum

By sponsoring the 2026 International Access to Justice Forum, your organisation is at the centre of a significant global gathering. You will help to bring together senior decision makers, judicial officers, academics, policymakers, and practitioners whose work shapes the future of access to justice in Australia, the Asia-Pacific, and beyond. Sponsorship demonstrates your support for evidence and action, for rigour and response to the fundamental tenet of access to justice. We invite you to consider sponsorship supporting the conversations and connections that will shape future justice.

08

Program snapshot

The program is focused on international collaboration and participants can expect:

- Sessions with leaders in law, policy, academia, and community justice from across the world
- Panels on research, digitisation, legal technology, and person-centred justice, including intersections with climate, inequality, and democratic integrity.
- Cross-sector and international connections that support collaboration between researchers, legal assistance providers, community leaders, and justice innovators.

09

Our audience

- Legal and sociolegal academics and researchers
- Community and public interest lawyers
- Members of judiciary
- Justice technology innovators and service designers
- Policymakers, government and civil society advocates
- Educators and students across law and allied disciplines

10

Sponsorship opportunities

Our sponsorship opportunities offer meaningful ways for organisations of all sizes to support the 2026 International Access to Justice Forum and engage with its global community. Each option helps strengthen the Forum's accessibility, reach and impact.

Sponsorship Tier Comparison

Tier	Major Sponsor	Sponsor	Access & Inclusion Sponsor
	Recognised across the Forum & post event communications		Supports diverse attendance registration costs
Investment	\$20,000 AUD	\$10,000 AUD	\$5,000-\$10,000 AUD

Principal Sponsor

Victorian Legal Services
BOARD + COMMISSIONER

We acknowledge the outstanding support of the VLSB+C for the Forum and all our work.

Sponsorship opportunities

What's included:

Branding & Visibility

Benefit	Major Sponsor	Sponsor	Access & Inclusion Sponsor
Logo + hyperlink on Forum website	✓	✓	✓
Logo in digital program	✓	✓	✓
Logo in printed program	✓	✓	—
Inclusion on plenary holding slides	✓	✓	✓
Logo on selected venue signage	✓	—	—
Dedicated social media post	✓	—	—
Group social media acknowledgement	✓	✓	✓

Participation & Engagement

Benefit	Major Sponsor	Sponsor	Access & Inclusion Sponsor
Complimentary registrations	4	2	Discounted ticket rate
Invitation to conference opening drinks and dinner	✓	✓	✓
Speaking opportunity (keynote/session intro)	✓ (subject to approval)	—	—

Onsite Presence

Benefit	Major Sponsor	Sponsor	Access & Inclusion Sponsor
Display organisational banner	✓ (one location)	—	—
Delegate pack collateral	✓	—	—

Acknowledgement

Benefit	Major Sponsor	Sponsor	Access & Inclusion Sponsor
Verbal acknowledgement - Opening Plenary	✓	✓	✓
Mentions across Forum	✓	—	—
Welcome event acknowledgement	✓	✓	✓

Sponsorship opportunities

What's included:

Brand Use

Benefit	Major Sponsor	Sponsor	Access & Inclusion Sponsor
Sponsor Marketing Pack (including tiles, assets, imagery)	✓	✓	✓
Permission to use Forum branding (for a time limited period)	✓	✓	✓

Post-Event Benefits

Benefit	Major Sponsor	Sponsor	Access & Inclusion Sponsor
Inclusion in post-event highlights	✓	✓	✓
Event photography access	✓ (extended set)	✓ (limited set)	✓ (limited set)
Sponsor Impact Summary	✓	—	—

11

How to get involved

Help us shape a future where evidence drives action and justice works better for everyone.

For sponsorship enquiries, please contact:

VictoriaLaw
Foundation

Level 13, 140 William Street, Melbourne 3000, Australia

Phone: 03 9604 8100

Email: Rebecca Hicks rhicks@victorialawfoundation.org.au

Web: www.victorialawfoundation.org.au

Testimonials



The forum provided an excellent platform to learn from the diverse experiences of participants working in different contexts.



The exchange of ideas was truly enriching and underscored the importance of collaboration in addressing common challenges.



I gained valuable insights into several innovative strategies being implemented in the field, particularly in areas such as community engagement, access to justice, and grassroots legal empowerment. Additionally, the forum facilitated meaningful networking opportunities, both formal and informal, which I believe will lead to future collaboration and mutual support among participants and organizations.



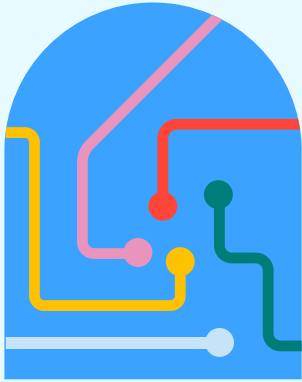
Access to justice is essential for protecting vulnerable people, and it was inspiring to see strong scholars' community engagement in driving reforms to remove deeply rooted barriers within legal systems and ensure fair, effective access for all in various contexts.



It was very important to my work in strategic litigation and AI for justice to meet like-minded people and compare notes and potentially collaborate.



The Forum underscored a strong push for cross-sector collaboration and evidence-driven, people-centered justice, especially around court reform and community empowerment.



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