

## PARTNERS



**Peter Heinz, LL.B., B.COMM.**  
**Partner**  
**Head of Family Law Department**  
**Accredited Family Law Specialist**

Peter Heinz is an accredited Family Law Specialist and the partner responsible for the family law and probate services at Heinz & Partners. He joined the practice in 1979 and became a Partner shortly after. Peter has experienced first-hand the expansion in family law as a discipline. A notable legal development that Heinz & Partners has embraced is the establishment of court-appointed Independent Children's Lawyer, who advocate for the interests of a child in a legal dispute. Peter enjoys the challenges of his role and assisting clients from all walks of life. In his spare time, he keeps fit playing tennis, walking and going to the gym. He also enjoys spectating at the races and following the Geelong Football Club.



**Graham Hills, LL.B., B.COMM.**  
**Managing Partner**  
**Head of Litigation Department**  
**Accredited Personal Injury Law and Mediation Specialist**

Graham is our Managing Partner and also the Partner in charge of our litigation department. Graham is also an Accredited Specialist in the fields of personal injury law and mediation. Graham's professional achievements include winning the Law Institute of Victoria's prestigious Solicitor's Prize and Graham is a former member of the Council of the Law Institute of Victoria. Graham enjoys helping solve client problems, interacting with judges and lawyers and providing strategic advice to long term clients. Two of his most satisfying career achievements include successfully defending a claim for several million dollars brought against a major client and settling a personal injury claim for a young woman for a sum in excess of \$1,000,000. In both cases the litigation was hard fought and won. In his spare time Graham is kept busy following the activities of his 6 children and is a die-hard Carlton supporter.



**Luke Dunne, B.A., LL.B., FTIA**  
**Partner - Business Law Department**  
**Accredited Business Law Specialist**

Luke Dunne is an Accredited Business Law Specialist and a Fellow of the Taxation Institute. Luke has experience in a broad range of business transactions and industries, providing timely and outcome-focussed advice on structuring, contractual, and transactional matters. His clients range from family businesses to national brands, from the retail, hospitality, construction, manufacturing, health, education, business services, community services and many other sectors. He regularly advises both businesses, and the owners of businesses, assisting them through the challenges of business sales, generational change, and complex estate planning. Luke enjoys the friendly and easy-going nature of Heinz & Partners, and the strong work ethic of the staff. Luke is a fellow of Leadership Ballarat & Western Region, was appointed as a Governor of Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute in 2011, and in 2012 was awarded a Paul Harris Fellow for his services to Rotary. Away from work, Luke has three school-aged children, and he enjoys trying to keep fit, and has recently joined the throng of middle-aged male cyclists (weather permitting!).



**Andrew Faull, B.Ec., LL.B (Hons)**  
**Partner**  
**Business Law Department**

Andrew Faull returned to Ballarat in 2008 joining Heinz & Partners' business law department and was appointed a Partner of the firm in 2011. He manages and works across broad practice areas advising clients on business and property law matters and providing general commercial advice. Andrew strives to achieve positive outcomes for his clients in a timely, practical and down-to-earth manner. Outside work Andrew enjoys spending time with his growing family, travelling, gardening and keeping fit by running as often as possible. Andrew is also the Chairman of the Ballarat Health Services Board, a very rewarding role which keeps him in constant contact with the wider Ballarat community.



**Pauline M. Gleeson, B.A (Hons); Dip. Ed.; LL.B (Hons)**  
**Partner - Family Law Department**  
**Accredited Family Law Specialist**

Pauline is an Accredited Specialist in Family Law, with qualifications in law and education. Since joining Heinz & Partners in 2005, Pauline has built a strong reputation. Her work currently involves family law, such as property and parenting, intervention orders as well as Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal applications and Children's Court matters. Pauline has been appointed to act as Independent Children's Lawyer in family law matters from time to time. Pauline comes from a farming background and has a special interest in farming cases. She particularly enjoys court work and the challenge of a lively debate. She also values the collegiate atmosphere at Heinz & Partners. Pauline comes from a family of six children, is a mother of four, and loves to walk, swim, chat and read.

## SENIOR ASSOCIATE



**Rob Gray, B.A., LL.B**  
**Senior Associate - Family Law Department**  
**Accredited Family Law Specialist**

Rob has been with Heinz & Partners since 2007 and has over 10 years' family law experience. He was accredited as a Family Law Specialist by the LIV in 2009. Rob specialises in all aspects of family law including divorce, parenting, property and child support issues. He enjoys helping clients find conciliatory and efficient ways to resolve disputes where possible. He has extensive litigation experience where matters are unable to be resolved through negotiation. In 2011, Rob co-authored a paper on legal obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at a State and Federal level which was presented to professional conferences nationally and in Italy. Rob is married with 3 children who keep him busy. He is actively involved in the Ballarat community, holding executive positions with the Ballarat Law Association, Voice FM Community Radio and the Faith Hope and Love Children's Foundation.

*Our accredited specialist practitioners have substantial expertise and experience in their particular field, supported by ongoing professional development as stipulated by the Law Institute of Victoria.*

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**BUSINESS LAW | LITIGATION | FAMILY LAW | PROPERTY | WILLS & PROBATE**



## SENIOR ASSOCIATE



**Karelia Darracott,**  
*LL.B., LL.M., Grad Dip Legal Practice*  
**Associate - Business Law Department**

Karelia joined the Business Law department of Heinz & Partners in 2012, having previously worked in compliance roles with State Government, on Human Rights cases in London and at the International Criminal Court. Karelia advises on a broad range of business law matters including commercial and retail leasing, business sales and purchases and intellectual property protection. Karelia enjoys advising clients on complex issues and applying her skills to provide clear advice to clients. Karelia works closely with the partners in the Business Law department to deliver efficient results. Outside work Karelia enjoys competing in track and field with the Eureka Athletic Club and is an avid New York Yankees fan.

## ASSOCIATE



**Sonya McDonald,**  
*B.A., LL.B (Hons), Master of Laws, Dip. Practice Legal Training*  
**Associate - Family Law Department**

Sonya McDonald joined the Heinz & Partners family law team in 2011, having worked previously within numerous government departments in roles including judge's associate at the County Court and senior prosecutor at the Department of Sustainability and Environment. From this experience, Sonya has learned first-hand the inner workings of the court system and been exposed to high quality advocacy on a daily basis. Sonya enjoys helping people navigate the legal system and assisting them achieve what they are seeking through the law. She is a volunteer solicitor with the Central Highlands Community Legal Centre and holds numerous qualifications, including a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne. Sonya has two young children and enjoys travelling and gardening.

## ASSOCIATES



**Alice McKenna,**  
*B.A., LL.B., Grad Dip Legal Practice*  
**Associate - Family Law Department**

Alice joined Heinz & Partners in 2012 after completing her studies in Melbourne. Alice holds a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Melbourne with majors in psychology and political science, a Bachelor of Laws from La Trobe University and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from Leo Cussen Centre for Law. Alice enjoys working in all areas of family law including divorce, parenting arrangements, property settlement and Children's Court matters and is looking forward to a successful career in the law. Outside work Alice keeps busy playing netball for East Point, swimming, reading, socialising and playing touch football.



**Katrina Fanning, B.Sc., LL.B. (Hons)**  
**Associate - Litigation Law Department**

Katrina joined Heinz and Partners as a trainee lawyer in 2011 after completing a post-graduate law degree, which she undertook whilst working as a medical journalist. Katrina works in litigation, and enjoys meeting with clients to gain an understanding of their legal issues. Katrina strives to provide clients with practical advice about achieving their desired legal outcomes. Away from work, Katrina is the full back, goalie and wicket keeper in backyard football, soccer and cricket matches with her three young children, barracks passionately for the Geelong Football Club and, with her husband Rob, regularly hosts a young person with a disability through Pinarc Ballarat's Interchange Program.



**Xavier Ryan,**  
*LL.B(Hons), B.Com. Grad.Dip.Legal Practice*  
**Associate - Business Law Department**

Xavier joined Heinz & Partners after attending Deakin University in Geelong where he obtained a double degree in Law and Commerce (majoring in Finance and Financial Planning) and the College of Law where he gained a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice. Xavier works in the business law department where he provides clients with general commercial advice on a wide variety of business matters. Xavier enjoys the challenge of assisting clients meet their commercial goals within strict timeframes, ensuring clients are integral to the process and satisfied with the results. Xavier has recently been appointed to the YMCA Ballarat Board, a role which he really enjoys. Outside of work Xavier enjoys a wide variety of sport as both an avid participant and supporter and making the most of the relaxed Ballarat lifestyle.



**Trent Rutherford, B.A., LL.B.**  
**Associate - Property Law Department**

Trent attended Deakin University in Geelong where he obtained a double degree in Law and Arts majoring in sociology. He joined Heinz & Partners in late 2011 as a conveyancing clerk, and completed his legal traineeship 2012. Trent is part of the property law department and helps clients with residential and commercial conveyancing, Titles Office applications, commercial and residential leases and subdivision and development ventures. He enjoys meeting and interacting with a wide variety of people and helping clients with their significant investments. Trent particularly appreciates the challenge of getting the best results for his clients. Outside the office, Trent enjoys keeping fit, supporting the Sydney Swans Football Club and spending time with friends and family.

## LEGAL EXECUTIVES



**Rick Blanchfield, F.Inst.L.Ex., J.P.**  
**Legal Executive - Property Law Department**

Rick is head of Heinz & Partners' conveyancing department and is our longest serving staff member. Guided by the approach to 'put your clients' interests first', Rick manages the day-to-day conveyancing operations across commercial, agricultural and residential sectors, including Titles Office applications, subdivisions and development. Rick enjoys assisting clients with important life decisions and seeing clients obtain the best possible outcomes. Outside the office, he is involved with rowing, enjoys remote area camping and supports the East Point Football Netball Club.



**Gerard McCarty, F.Inst.L.Ex**  
**Legal Executive - Property Law Department**

Gerard is senior legal executive in the property law department. He has worked at the firm for just over twelve years and has more than thirty years' experience. Gerard counsels clients on all conveyancing matters; he acts on behalf of clients or assists clients with buying and selling properties, as well as providing advice on wills and mortgages. Gerard enjoys working with all clients and seeing their satisfaction when they have achieved a great outcome. Away from the office, Gerard is passionate about Buninyong. He is currently a committee member of the Buninyong Football Netball Club and is secretary of the Buninyong Community Complex and is a member of the Buninyong Cemetery Trust. He is also a Past President of the Buninyong Golf Club.