



# Academic Committee

Newsletter — May 2026

Banking and Financial Services Law Association

Dear BFSLA Academic Committee members,

As the weather starts to cool down, the activities of the BFSLA start to heat up! There are a number of events coming up, so please **save the following dates** for your diary.

## 2026 BFSLA Academic Colloquium | *Save the Date*

The **Colloquium** has been a fixture in the Academic Committee's calendar for over a decade, offering academics at all stages in their careers an opportunity to present research related to banking and financial services, insolvency, banking regulation, corporate and commercial law, and consumer law.

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday, 1 December 2026
<b>Time</b>	All day (start and finish times to be confirmed)
<b>Venue</b>	Norton Rose Fulbright, Level 5, 60 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000

### Presentations can comprise:

- Work in progress
- Case law / legislative updates
- Policy / inquiry submissions
- Full papers

### HDR Session

There will also be a dedicated HDR session — please let us know of any Masters or PhD candidates who wish to attend. Subject to space, we will extend this to appropriate Honours level students as well.

The Colloquium is **not recorded** and **Chatham House rules** apply, allowing for a free-flowing and lively discussion. Full papers presented may be selected for inclusion in a special issue of a journal, presentation at the BFSLA Academic Symposium, inclusion in the Annual Conference, or proposed BFSLA webinars.

The Colloquium will have a **hybrid format** (in-person and remote), with preference given to presenters attending in person. A **dinner** will follow the Colloquium — a great opportunity to catch up, meet new colleagues, and connect with those travelling from interstate and New Zealand.

## Funding

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The BFSLA very generously offers funding for **travel expenses and accommodation** (one or two nights depending on distance) for those presenting a paper. Depending on the number of presenters, funds may be shared pro rata. Some support may also be available for participants not presenting, subject to priority for those travelling from interstate or New Zealand. Funding confirmation will be provided by the **week of 14 October** for those who register their interest.

## Call for Papers

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The Academic Committee welcomes papers on any topic with relevance to current issues in banking and financial services law, including corporate and commercial law, consumer law, financial services regulation, insurance, insolvency, superannuation, PPSA, and private law doctrines and remedies.

We will have **two rounds** in the call for papers:

### Round 1 — Deadline: Monday, 3 August 2026

Submit an expression of interest with a draft title and short abstract (up to 250 words) to:

**Allison Silink (Chair):** [Allison.silink@uts.edu.au](mailto:Allison.silink@uts.edu.au)

**Jodi Gardner (Deputy Chair):** [jodi.gardner@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:jodi.gardner@auckland.ac.nz)

*Round 2 — Deadline: Monday, 5 October 2026 (if places remain)*

### Participate Without Presenting

You are warmly welcome to attend without presenting — the discussions and feedback at the Colloquium are as valuable as the presentations themselves. Please confirm your interest in attending as a participant by Friday, 31 October 2026 for planning and funding purposes.

Please encourage colleagues who may be interested in joining to get in touch. The Academic Committee is an inclusive forum representing a diverse range of expertise — the common factor is that some aspect of our work is relevant to the financial services sector.

## 42nd BFSLA Annual Conference | Gold Coast, 20–22 August 2026

The BFSLA Annual Conference brings together judges, practitioners and academics over two days. Registration will open soon. For Academic Committee members, the **Academic Symposium** (Thursday) and **Conference Welcome Drinks are free to attend**, and the Friday program includes a dedicated **Academic Committee Conference Session**.

<b>Dates</b>	Thursday 20 August – Saturday 22 August 2026
<b>Venue</b>	Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, Gold Coast
<b>Address</b>	71 Sea World Drive, Main Beach QLD 4217

## BFSLA Academic Symposium — Thursday 20 August 2026

Time	#	
11:45am – 12:00pm		<b>Coffee and Registration</b>
12:00pm – 12:40pm	1	<b>Justice Neil Campbell (NZ Court of Appeal)</b> <i>A Liquidator's right of recoupment for costs incurred and services performed in preserving and realising secured assets</i>
12:40pm – 1:20pm	2	<b>Professor Saule T Omarova (University of Pennsylvania)</b> <i>Financial Innovation as a Regulatory Challenge</i>
1:20pm – 1:50pm		<b>Lunch</b>
1:50pm – 2:30pm	3	<b>Professor Andrew Godwin (Melbourne Law School)</b> <i>Insolvency Law and Digital Assets – The Scorecard from Australia</i>
2:30pm – 3:10pm	4	<b>Professor Lusina Ho (University of Hong Kong)</b> <i>'Proprietary' liability of recipients of misapplied trust assets: a non-proprietary account</i>
3:10pm – 3:50pm	5	<b>Peter Watts KC (Bankside Chambers)</b> <i>The payment of commissions by banks and finance companies to car dealers for introducing borrowers – when does the law of secret commissions apply at common law?</i>
3:50pm – 4:00pm		<b>Closing Discussion then Conference Welcome Drinks</b>

## Academic Committee Conference Session — Friday 21 August 2026

***Chasing the Machine: Can Governance and Accountability Keep Up with AI in Banking and Financial Services?***

Artificial intelligence is reshaping the financial services landscape at pace, offering institutions powerful tools to streamline operations, assess risk and engage customers — but at the cost of new risks and potential liability, as noted in APRA's recent *Letter to Industry on Artificial Intelligence (30 April 2026)*.

This panel brings together three leading scholars to interrogate the governance challenges AI presents across critical domains:

**Professor Jeannie Paterson**

Examines how the foundational licensing obligation to provide financial services efficiently, honestly and fairly should frame AI oversight, probing the tension between operational efficiency and the risks of hallucination and misalignment in customer-facing contexts.

### Dr Mark Giancaspro

Analyses the growing reliance on automated decision-making in consumer risk profiling and the troubling consequences of wrongful high-risk classifications and unjust credit denials, calling for robust regulatory frameworks to secure accountability and consumer protection.

### Professor Scott Donald

Examines how trustees are navigating AI adoption, arguing that the requirement for 'real and genuine consideration' when exercising discretion poses particular challenges, mapping where AI may appropriately support decision-making and where meaningful human oversight remains legally essential.

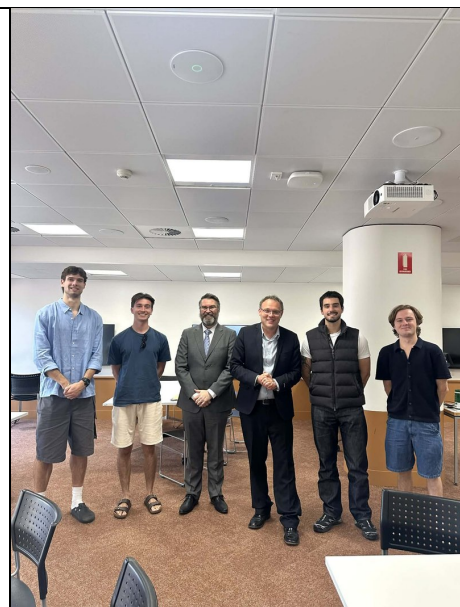
## Recent Academic Committee Events

### UWA Law Faculty — Careers in Banking and Finance Student Event

**On 14 April 2026**, Associate Professor Sagi Peari and PhD student Richard Winter organised an inaugural careers event for students of the UWA Blackstone Society (JD and Master of Legal Practice students), focusing on careers in banking and finance law.

Associate Professor Peari opened with an overview of the legal history of banking — tracing its development from ancient Egypt and Rome through to the modern banking system — and spoke about his research in the field, including work on the nature of bank accounts, secured transactions doctrine, and his OUP monograph on electronic negotiable instruments. He also highlighted key Law School units relevant to banking and finance law and the BFSLA's annual Research Essay Prize.

Richard Winter delivered an excellent presentation on the practical aspects of working in the field, drawing on his experience as a graduate, senior associate, partner, in-house lawyer, and now academic. There was strong student turnout and significant interest in the topic.



UWA Blackstone Society event, April 2026

### Student Feedback

*“Students found the presentation to be insightful and engaging, especially being able to hear from Richard, who has extensive and broad experience in the field — from working as a graduate, senior associate and partner, to working as an in-house lawyer, and now in academia. The discussion of how university studies connect with practice was particularly insightful.”*

— Sagi Peari, Associate Professor of Private and Commercial Law & Deputy Head of School (Students), UWA Faculty of Law

## 2026 Research Essay Prize

For anyone who did not receive notification, the annual **Research Essay Prize** has been announced for 2026, with a prize pool of **A\$10,000**.

### Submission Deadline

**Friday, 24 July 2026**

The full Entry Conditions are available on the BFSLA's website: [www.bfsla.org](http://www.bfsla.org)

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference or Colloquium (or both!) and feel free to share the newsletter with anyone who might be interested in joining.

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### Allison Silink & Jodi Gardner

*Chairs, BFSLA Academic Committee*

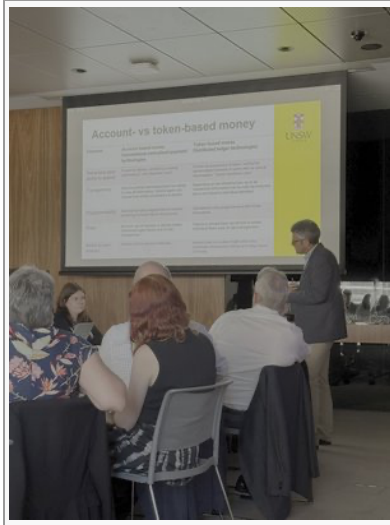
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### 2025–2026 Executive Committee

Allison Silink (Chair) · Jodi Gardner (Deputy Chair) · Steve Kourabas · Diccon Loxton · Anne Matthew · Louise Parsons · Sagi Peari · Kerryn Smith · Ann Wardrop

# A Few Photos from the 2025 Academic Colloquium







*2025 BFSLA Academic Colloquium · Sydney*