

School of Law and Justice

Academic Research Seminar presented by
Professor Mary Keyes (Griffith University)

Jurisdiction Agreements in International Family Litigation

Abstract

Until recently, the law in most common law countries including Australia has been cautious about, if not opposed to, enforcing agreements between family members, in both domestic and international disputes. That attitude has changed in recent years, with agreements given a much more prominent role at least domestically, particularly in the case of family property agreements, called 'binding financial agreements' in Australia. In contrast, the effect of agreements about jurisdiction in international family litigation remains far less certain. This presentation will consider the way agreements about jurisdiction are treated in international family litigation and compare that with the treatment of jurisdictional agreements in commercial cases.

About the speaker



Mary Keyes is a professor of law at Griffith University in Queensland. She teaches and researches in private international law, with specific interests in jurisdiction, international family law and the use of agreements. She was elected as the inaugural president of the Australasian Association of Private International Law in 2024. She is a member of the Australian delegation to the Working Group on Jurisdiction at the Hague Conference on Private International Law and was a member of the Experts' Group on Family Agreements Involving Children. She is the review articles editor of the Journal of Private International Law, and is co-author, with Professors Reid Mortensen and Richard Garnett, of Private International Law in Australia.

Date and Time:

Wednesday 26 November 2025, 12:30pm to 1:30pm (AEST)

Location:

Wonderley & Hall Moot Court (TWB) and Online via Zoom

Zoom:

Zoom ID: **837 8355 0254**

RSVP:

Please register through [Microsoft Forms](#) by Tuesday 25 November 2025, 5pm for housekeeping purposes