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BUSINESS OF LAW SUMMIT 26

SEPTEMBER 9-11 | GEELONG, VICTORIA

REWIND TO RECHARGE: ACCELERATE INTO THE FUTURE

SUMMIT CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

YOUR INVITATION TO PRESENT AT AUSTRALASIA'S
LEADING LEGAL PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
+ LEGALTECH CONFERENCE

AUSTRALASIA'S LEADING LEGAL PRACTICE
MANAGEMENT + LEGALTECH CONFERENCE

www.alpma.com.au



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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



Important Dates

Abstract Submissions are due by
Friday, 27 February 2026

Presenters will be advised of the outcome of their submission by
Friday, 24 April 2026

Preliminary Program Launch
Monday, 11 May 2026

Full Program Launch
Wednesday, 10 June 2026

Final PowerPoints are due by
Thursday, 3 September 2026

Summit Dates
Wednesday, 9 to Friday, 11 September 2026

Further Information

For further information regarding the Summit, please contact:

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For further information regarding the content of the Summit, please contact:

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**REWIND TO RECHARGE:
ACCELERATE INTO THE FUTURE**

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The Australasian Legal Practice Management Association (ALPMA) and Australasian Legal Technology Alliance (ALTA) Program Committee invite thoughtful voices to help shape the conversation at the 2026 ALPMA Summit + ALTACON Business of Law Summit. Join in Geelong from 9-11 September 2026.

REWIND TO RECHARGE: ACCELERATE INTO THE FUTURE

After years of racing toward digital transformation and AI adoption, the legal profession is experiencing transformation fatigue. Firms have invested time and money in technology, but many are discovering that technology alone doesn't solve the fundamental challenges of running sustainable, profitable, people-centered practices.

The 2026 ALPMA Summit takes a different approach: we're traveling back to reclaim the wisdom, skills and principles that built great law firms—then using those foundations to power forward with renewed clarity and purpose.

This isn't about rejecting innovation. It's about recognising that the most successful firms of tomorrow will be those that pair cutting-edge tools and technology with timeless fundamentals: strategic business thinking, trusted client relationships, effective people management, ethical leadership and the irreplaceable power of human judgment.

2026 BUSINESS OF LAW SUMMIT

The 2026 ALPMA + ALTACON Business of Law Summit brings together law firm leaders and managers from across Australia and New Zealand for three days focused on the essential capabilities that create successful, sustainable practices.

ATTENDEES

Connect with law firm leaders, decision-makers and influencers including:

- Managing Partners and Partners of law firms
- CEOs, COOs, CFOs, CIOs and other C-Suite
- General Managers, Practice Managers, Office and Administration Managers
- Legal Technology Directors, Project Managers, IT teams
- HR & People Culture Leaders
- Support services leaders and other specialist senior roles in law firms
- Marketing & BD Professionals
- In-house Counsel

Our audience work in varying sized law firms from sole practitioners through to large international firms, however the majority drive business success within small to medium sized law firms (10-200 employees).

If you have content, case studies and educational takeaways that would benefit our audience, we invite you to submit an Abstract.

[Want to Submit for ALTACON?](#)
[Click here for the ALTACON Call for Abstracts.](#)

PROGRAM CONTENT

The 2026 ALPMA + ALTACON Business of Law Summit is seeking speakers who can help law firm leaders and managers reconnect with timeless wisdom, recharge their energy and focus and gain the clarity to accelerate their firm's future.

We're looking for practical, insightful presentations grounded in real experience that address the foundational capabilities every successful firm needs—regardless of what technology emerges next.

What We're Looking For

We're seeking sessions that:

- Provide actionable frameworks and practical tools attendees can implement immediately
- Draw on proven approaches and real experience, not theory alone
- Address current challenges facing Australian and New Zealand law firms
- Balance concepts with implementation guidance
- Offer fresh perspectives on timeless principles
- Energise and inspire while remaining grounded and practical
- Help attendees work smarter, not just harder
- Build confidence and clarity

We welcome submissions from:

- Law firm leaders and managers with proven track records
- Professional advisors who work closely with law firms (consultants, coaches, business advisors and other industry specialists)
- Academic researchers with practical applications
- Industry experts who understand the business of professional services
- Practitioners who have successfully implemented foundational improvements

SESSION FORMATS

Presentation (50 minutes) - Single speaker or panel presenting on a specific topic with time for Q&A. Best for sharing frameworks, case studies, or research findings.

Workshop (1 - 3 hours) - Interactive, hands-on session with practical exercises and tools participants can apply immediately. Best for skill-building and tool development.

Case Study (30 minutes) - Real-world example of how a firm addressed a specific challenge, including context, approach, lessons learned, and practical takeaways. Best for demonstrating proven approaches.

Panel Discussion (60 minutes) - Multiple perspectives on a key issue, with moderated discussion and audience interaction. Best for exploring complex topics or debating approaches.



SUMMIT CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

PROGRAM STREAMS

1. BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS

The disciplines that ensure sustainability and profitability.

We're interested in (but not limited to) submissions that focus on financial management, strategic planning, business acumen and commerciality, law firm business models, business development, pricing and profitability, operations, governance, resource management, or other core business disciplines that create sound, sustainable practices.

For example:

- How do law firms rebuild or refresh the foundations that may have been impacted by the disruption that has occurred over the past 3 – 5 years? For example, business strategic thinking, financial management, operational efficiencies and workflow mapping, business process operations, business acumen and business models to support the future sustainability of law firms.
- How to identify business structures and strategies best placed for embracing a new way of working that supports continuing change (without the fatigue) and different ways of working.
- Are current business models of law firms adequate to face continued disruption as the pace of change continually increases?

2: PEOPLE & LEADERSHIP

The human skills that create thriving cultures.

We're interested in (but not limited to) submissions on leadership development, people management, culture building, wellbeing, talent development, professional development, succession planning or other capabilities that create engaged teams and sustainable cultures i.e. human-centred fundamentals.

For example:

- How do firms build sustainable, human-centred cultures – focusing on the people rather than technology?
- What work needs to be done now to reshape career pathways and development, what needs to change with junior lawyer skills development to ensure talent pipeline in the age of AI?
- How to rebuild organic career development – How to encourage mentoring and collaboration to upskill people for the future, collaborating across multidisciplinary teams
- What skills are needed to enable multidisciplinary teams—lawyers and allied legal professionals—to integrate legal expertise, business acumen and digital literacy for client service?
- What leadership, management and performance appraisal practices should firms be building to support how people will work in the future?

PROGRAM STREAMS

3: THE HUMAN ELEMENT

Critical thinking in an AI age and the standards and judgment that define quality.

We're interested in (but not limited to) submissions that focus on preserving and developing professional judgment, decision-making frameworks, ethics, quality control or maintaining the human skills that technology can't replicate.

For example:

- How do we ensure our people maintain core human skills of critical thinking, judgment, ethics and professional identity?
- What are the key human skills needed for a future of continued disruption, realising the human element is key to technology adoption and innovation?
- How to rebuild risk and governance frameworks and ethical approaches that support technology changes and ways of working in the future?

4: CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS & SERVICE

The trust and understanding that define great firms and how firms define their unique value proposition to clients.

We're interested in (but not limited to) submissions on client development, relationship management, service delivery, being a trusted advisor, building business acumen in lawyers to support changing client needs or creating exceptional client experiences.

For example:

- How do firms identify and reconnect with what clients truly value?
- How do firms redefine value to maintain future business sustainability?
- What do legal services look like in the future – what should firms be looking at to redefine service offering, pricing sustainability and the future role of law firms?
- Changes in client delivery – collaborative approach between lawyers and allied legal professionals to deliver quality outcomes for clients



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SMALL FIRM LEADERS PROGRAM

Supporting the unique operating environment of smaller firms

Running a small firm means doing more with less - limited resources, tight budgets and wearing multiple hats while trying to maintain profitability and deliver excellent client service. This dedicated program recognises that small firms face distinct challenges that require tailored solutions, not scaled-down versions of large firm strategies.

We're looking for practical, actionable submissions that address the day to day realities of small-firm leadership across our four core content streams - business fundamentals, people & leadership, the human element and client relationships and service.

We're looking for (but not limited to) submissions that address the following small firm challenges:

1. BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS

Small firms need robust financial disciplines and efficient systems to remain profitable. We're seeking content on cash flow management, essential financial documents and reporting, improving time recording and billing practices, debt collection processes and strategic banking approaches. We're also interested in how small firms can build integrated tech stacks that deliver efficiency gains without budget constraints - including maximising practice management systems, leveraging AI tools practically and managing business compliance without extensive resources.

3. THE HUMAN ELEMENT

We're interested in how small firms maintain professional judgment, quality standards and critical thinking when resources are stretched thin. This includes decision-making frameworks for resource allocation, maintaining service quality with limited staff and how small firm practitioners can continue developing their professional expertise alongside operational demands.

2. PEOPLE & LEADERSHIP

With no dedicated HR function, small firm leaders must efficiently manage compliance while building positive cultures. We're looking for practical approaches to modern award compliance, work health and safety obligations and people management strategies that work when everyone wears multiple hats.

4. CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS & SERVICE

We're seeking content on how smaller practices define and communicate their unique value proposition, build deep client trust with limited resources and leverage their agility and accessibility as competitive advantages in client service delivery.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- ✓ **Relevance:** Does it address real challenges facing law firm leaders and managers?
- ✓ **Practicality:** Will attendees gain actionable tools and frameworks they can implement immediately?
- ✓ **Quality:** Is the content well-developed and grounded in experience or evidence?
- ✓ **Wisdom:** Does it draw on proven approaches and principles?
- ✓ **Fit:** Does it align with the Summit's focus?
- ✓ **Credibility:** Does the speaker have relevant expertise and a proven track record?
- ✓ **Clarity:** Is the value proposition clear and compelling?

What we're not looking for:

To maintain the Summit's focus, we're not seeking:

- ✗ Heavy technology or AI-focused sessions (these will be addressed in the ALTACON program). You can access the ALTACON call for abstract portal [here](#).
- ✗ Purely theoretical presentations without practical implementation.
- ✗ Product or service pitches disguised as educational content.
- ✗ Sessions that duplicate widely available content without adding new value or insight.
- ✗ Content that increases complexity or fatigue rather than providing clarity.
- ✗ Vendor presentations focused on selling solutions.

At the discretion of the committee, presenters may be provided with the following:

- A complimentary day or full Summit delegate pass
- A contribution towards accommodation may be provided for some interstate and international presenters at an approved ALPMA hotel
- A contribution towards travel may be provided for some interstate and international presenters



SUMMIT CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

ESSENTIAL DETAILS

The following guidelines apply to the submission of all abstracts:

- All abstracts must be submitted via the online Portal available from the Summit website – www.alpmasummit.com.au.
- Submissions on any topic related to the program content areas will be considered.
- Submissions must include a biography of the presenter of up to 200 words and a headshot image. Submissions not including a biography of the presenter will not be considered.
- Submissions to include a show reel or video of past presentations (if available).

The following information is required to submit your abstract:

Session Title:	(max 12 words) – clear, compelling and descriptive. What will grab attention while accurately describing your content?
Session Format:	Presentation, workshop, case study, or panel discussion.
Stream:	Select the program stream your session best fits into.
Presenter Affiliations:	The organisation/practice with which the presenter/s are affiliated, their suburb, state and country.
Presenter Titles:	Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss, Mx, Dr, Prof, or choose your own.
Presenters:	Preferred Given Name and Surname of all presenters.
Organisation:	The primary organisation/practice with which the presenter/s are affiliated.
Position:	Official job title of all presenter/s e.g. Partner, Business Advisor etc.
Contact Details:	Phone and email details must be provided for presenter/s.
Presenter Biographies:	(max 200 words). Biographies will be displayed on the website and in the Attendee App. Key points will be taken for presenter introductions.

Presenter headshots:	Headshots will be displayed along side biographies.
Abstract / Session Description:	(200 – 500 words) - include what will be covered, why it matters to law firm leaders and managers and what makes this approach valuable or unique?
Session Summary:	(max 75 words). Your 1 – 2 paragraph session outline for inclusion in the published program.
Supporting Document:	A supporting document or additional resource can be uploaded if desired.
Key takeaways:	3 – 5 bullet points. What will attendees be able to DO or UNDERSTAND after your session? Be specific and action oriented.
Target Firm Size:	Specify what size firm your session would be applicable for e.g. small, medium or large.
Target Audience:	Describe who will benefit most from attending this session.
Showreel/Video URL:	Provide a link to a show reel or video of past presentation, or a 2-3 minute video giving an overview of your presentation (if available).
Presenter Profile:	Select the option that best describes your professional role or affiliation. This helps us ensure appropriate session balance and audience relevance.
ALPMA L & D Webinar Program:	Indicate if interested in participating as a presenter in ALPMA's Learning and Development Program conducted throughout the year.
AV Requirements	Tick the relevant boxes to indicate your anticipated AV requirements.



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INFORMATION FOR PRESENTERS

Please note the following important information prior to submitting your abstract:

1. Purpose

- This policy governs the review and acceptance of abstracts submitted for inclusion in the ALPMA Summit and ALTACON programs. It aims to ensure that all selected presentations reflect high professional and academic standards, promote informed discussion, and contribute meaningfully to contemporary legal practice.

2. Authority

- The ALPMA Program Committee holds exclusive authority to determine the acceptance or rejection of abstracts submitted for the Summit.

3. Submission Requirements

- Abstracts must be submitted electronically through the official platform by the specified deadline.
- Each submission must adhere to the prescribed format, word limit, and citation style.
- Abstracts should present original analysis, research findings, or practical insights relevant to the conference theme or to broader legal discourse.
- All presenters will retain the intellectual property of their presentation.

- Each presenter must make their PowerPoint available prior to their presentation and agree for it (or an amended version) to be uploaded to the ALPMA Website following the Summit.
- Presenter(s) grant GEMS Event Management Australia and ALPMA the right to use any images or recordings taken at the Summit for the purposes of future publications conducted on behalf of ALPMA. This includes, but is not limited to, publication on websites, electronic and print journals, and trade and non-trade publications. GEMS/ALPMA claim copyright of any image and may 'alter' any image for the lawful purpose of GEMS/ALPMA and the presenter/s release GEMS/ALPMA from all claims and liability relating to any images taken or used.
- Self-promotion and Commercial promotion in presentations is unacceptable.
- All presenters are required to register for the Summit.

INFORMATION FOR PRESENTERS CONTINUED

4. Review Process

- All abstracts will be subject to review by members of the ALPMA Program Committee or appointed reviewers with appropriate subject-matter expertise.
- Evaluation will be based on the criteria as listed in the call for abstracts document, and alignment with the Summit theme.
- Reviewers must declare any potential conflicts of interest prior to evaluating submissions.

5. Decision and Notification

- The ALPMA Program Committee shall make all final determinations regarding the acceptance, conditional acceptance, or rejection of abstracts and extend or shorten presentation duration.
- Presenters will be notified of the outcome in writing by the published notification date.
- The Summit Organisers and/or Committee will communicate only with the 'primary presenter' of a presentation. In the case of co-presenters, it will be the responsibility of the 'primary presenter' to pass on communication from the editors.

- Accepted abstracts will be scheduled for presentation and included in the official Summit program and proceedings, subject to timely registration by the presenter.
- ALPMA reserve the right to allocate abstracts to a stream of their choosing to ensure that the Summit delivers a cohesive program.

6. Ethical and Professional Standards

- Submissions must uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and professional ethics.
- Plagiarism, misrepresentation, or any form of academic misconduct will result in immediate rejection and may lead to further action by the Committee.

7. Finality of Decisions

- All decisions made by the ALPMA Committee are final and not subject to appeal.

DESTINATION INFORMATION - GEELONG



Geelong is less than an hour's drive or train ride from Melbourne's CBD and Tullamarine Airport (transfers will be available), and just 20 minutes from Avalon. Perfectly placed on the waterfront with views across Corio Bay, it also offers immediate access to the world-famous Great Ocean Road and the charming wine country of the Bellarine Peninsula—so be sure to extend your stay and experience all that the region has to offer.



This year's Summit + ALTACON will be held at the newly opening Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Located on the waterfront of Wadawurrung Country, within a vibrant precinct offering a variety of dining and accommodation options, attendees will experience state of the art conference facilities and beautiful Geelong all within walking distance.



With so much to see and do, Geelong offers an unforgettable backdrop, combining convenience, culture, and coastal charm.

Highlights include:

- Little Malop Street – a lively laneway precinct filled with cafes, bars, and street art
- Baywalk Bollards – a unique outdoor art trail along Geelong's waterfront
- Thirteenth Beach Golf Course
- Nearly 40 cellar doors across the Bellarine and surrounding wine regions
- The Great Ocean Road – one of the world's most scenic coastal drives

Check out the [destination video](#) showcasing some of the fantastic things Geelong and the Bellarine has to offer.