



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

Call for Submissions: Symposium on evidence-based law and practice

**SAVE THE DATE: 22 MAY 2017,
NEWCASTLE NSW**

The University of Newcastle Law School invites abstract submissions for a Symposium on Evidence-based Law and Practice.

The Symposium will open with a keynote address, *Continuous Improvement in Justice Systems*, delivered by international expert, Justice Rebecca Love Kourlis, Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS). Justice Kourlis will discuss IAALS' robust approaches to original empirical and legal research, innovative models for working with stakeholders, and strategies for measuring outcomes and impacts.

The Symposium will provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and policy-makers to discuss, advance and critique the concept of evidence-based law and practice from theoretical, applied, methodological and curricular perspectives.

Being evidence-based means that law- and policy-making, and professional practices, are grounded in rigorous evidence of what is effective in achieving desired outcomes. The evidence-based movement in law is concerned with improving research and evaluation in all legal sectors, including legal education, legal practice, law-making and judging.

Papers are sought that critically explore the concept of evidence-based law and practice: what does it mean; how do we do it; why should we do it? Case studies of evidence-based approaches in specific areas of law and practice are welcome, including civil and criminal contexts.



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Papers may explore questions such as:

- What lessons from the evidence-based movement in other fields can be applied to legal research and practice?
- How can evidence-based approaches help create better law and practices?
- How could government funding change with more evidence about justice? How would justice delivery change?
- What are methodological considerations and challenges and how can they be overcome?
- Is the law school curriculum evidence-based?
- Do law students gain knowledge and skills to be practitioners who know how to produce and apply reliable evidence?
- What role do values and politics play in evidence-based lawmaking?
- Does an evidence-based movement privilege some forms of inquiry over others?
- How does evidence-based law and practice relate to contemporary concerns about the purposes, methods and impacts of legal scholarship?

Abstracts

Abstracts of *no more than 250 words* should include:

- concise, descriptive title
- statement of the central issue/point of the paper
- brief overview of background/context
- summary of approach/methods, results
- key conclusions and significance of the paper
- name, affiliation and contact details of author(s)

Please submit abstracts to Briony Johnston, Research Assistant, Newcastle Law School, briony.johnston@newcastle.edu.au.

Important Dates:

- abstract submission deadline: 17 February 2017
- notification of outcome: 10 March 2017
- speaker registration deadline: 31 March 2017
- full paper deadline: 5 May 2017

Special Journal Collection featuring Symposium Papers

The organisers are seeking an opportunity to publish a special collection of Symposium papers in a well-ranked law journal. Selection of papers will be based on a number of factors, including quality of research, originality, style and the requirements of the host journal.

Symposium Details

The Symposium will be hosted in Newcastle CBD on 22 May 2017, followed by a conference dinner with Justice Kourlis. Discounted hotel rates will be available to Symposium participants.

Symposium registration: \$150

Symposium dinner: \$70 (estimate)