

Legal Research Foundation

Trust Law Masterclass with Professor Matthew Conaglen, Professor of Equity and Trusts, University of Sydney Law School

Date: Wednesday 29th July 2026

Time: 5:30pm start concluding at 7pm

Venue: Chapman Tripp, PwC Tower, Level 34, 15 Customs Street West, Auckland

To register: [Click on link](#)

Registration fees: (Bookings essential; space is limited)

Members	\$100 incl. GST
Non members	\$120 incl. GST

Enquires: julia@legalresearch.org.nz

Professor Matthew Conaglen is a graduate of the University of Auckland Law School (where he was senior scholar), and the Universities of Michigan and of Cambridge. After teaching at the Faculty of Law of the University of Cambridge for more than a decade, he took up the Chair in Equity and Trusts Law at the University of Sydney in 2012. He has been a co-author of Snell's Equity for over 20 years and is an Academic Member of the Chancery Bar Association in England.

Categorisation and construction in trusts

Professor Conaglen will discuss the importance of categorisation and construction and the interaction between the two, referring to recent decisions of the Supreme Court (*Cooper v Pinney* [2024] NZSC 181, *Legler v Formannoj* [2024] NZSC 173, *Nikora v Kruger* [2024] NZSC 130 and *A, B and C v D and E Limited* [2024] NZSC 161) and of overseas apex courts, to answer question such as:

- Are the rights or powers of the parties under a discretionary trust to be considered property when a relationship breaks down?
- Is the arrangement even properly considered to be a trust?
- Is a relationship between two parties fiduciary in nature? Or are certain rights or powers held in a fiduciary capacity?

Trustee indemnity rights

Professor Conaglen will focus on the Privy Council's decision in *Equity Trust v Halabi* [2022] UKPC 36 and the decision of the High Court of Australia in *Naaman v Jaken* [2025] HCA 1 (which considers *Halabi*) concerning the nature of a trustee's right to be indemnified from the trust assets in situations involving competition between multiple and consecutive trustees.

Professor Matthew Conaglen

Matthew Conaglen is Professor of Equity and Trusts at the University of Sydney Law School. He took up his Chair at Sydney in 2012, moving from the Faculty of Law in the University of Cambridge, where he had taught for more than 10 years. He is a graduate of the University of Auckland, the University of Michigan and the University of Cambridge. Professor Conaglen teaches and researches in the fields of equity, trusts, property and obligations. He has published extensively – in leading journals and book chapters – on those fields, in England, Australia and New Zealand. He has been a co-author of Snell's Equity for over 20 years and is the author of the award-winning monograph Fiduciary Loyalty (2010). In recognition of his expertise in the fields of teaching and research in the Chancery sphere, he was made an Academic Member of the Chancery Bar Association in England.

His writing has been cited by the Supreme Court of New Zealand, the High Court of Australia, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, the Privy Council, and the Singaporean Court of Appeal, as well as numerous lower courts in those jurisdictions. He was a commercial litigator with a leading firm in Auckland before he moved to academia. He is currently practising, alongside his academic role, as an Academic Barrister in New South Wales, and as a Barrister and Solicitor in New Zealand.

