



MEDIA RELEASE

THOUGHT LEADER OF THE YEAR

Recently honoured as “Thought Leader of the Year” at the 4th Annual Lawyer’s Weekly’s Women in Law Awards, Clarissa Rayward, Director of Brisbane Family Law Centre is humbled to receive such recognition from her peers.

Representing high achievers from the legal sector, the Women in Law Awards is an exciting program that identifies leading dealmakers and influential thought leaders, giving industry-wide recognition to female legal professionals who highlight a passion for the law and dedication for personal advancement.

Clarissa’s award recognises the innovative way she has chosen to assist families achieve a positive outcomes during separation and divorce.

As a result of her experience as a specialist family lawyer over the last 15 years, having helped over 2,000 Australian families through their divorce, Clarissa recognises that traditional legal processes do little to help families through this difficult time.

She established Brisbane Family Law Centre in 2008 as a multidisciplinary practice where lawyers work alongside counsellors and financial planners to ensure that her clients receive the holistic support they need.

“Every 30 minutes an Australian child experiences the breakdown of their family. Research consistently shows us that these children are at significant risk of harm. You see it is not divorce that causes harm, it is the conflict that can go on and on for many years afterward that ensures that these children will never reach their true potential in life. It is this that makes me determined to change the way Australian Families experience separation and divorce,” says Clarissa.

As the “Happy Family Lawyer”, Clarissa reaches out to families through her blogs and regular columns in online and print publications. Her book “Splitville-How to separate, stay out of Court and stay friends” also offers separating couples options to make decisions for them and their

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family and give them the best chance to move into the next stage of their lives without unnecessary angst.

“I believe that through my knowledge and skill, I can change the experience of divorce for Australian families. I have worked in this industry for 15 years now- I am an Accredited Specialist in Family Law, a mediator and collaborative lawyer. I regularly work as an Independent Children’s Lawyer representing vulnerable children before Courts. I have had the benefit of great mentors and all of this has enabled me to grow my knowledge widely. And so, now it is my turn to give this back- to my team in my firm, my colleagues and the families seeking different ways of experiencing divorce.”

Clarissa is also keen to share her vision with her peers, particularly through her training programs in Collaborative Law and as President of the Family Law Practitioners Association of Queensland.

It seems that Lawyers Weekly agree that Clarissa’s innovations are worthy of recognition and it is hoped that through this award, she will have many more opportunities to share her knowledge and assist separating couples who are focussed on ensuring a positive divorce for them and their family, outside of the Court process.

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For further information, please contact:

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About BFLC

Brisbane Family Law Centre is a boutique family law firm specialising in family law matters, with offices located at 10 Albion Road, Albion. The firm focuses on collaborative law, mediation and out of Court dispute resolution.

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