

Episode 46: Guest bios

Episode name: Behind Closed Doors: The Insidious Challenge of Financial Abuse

Guest(s): Laura Bianchi and Julian Charters

LAURA BIANCHI Team Leader of Redfern Legal Centre's Financial Abuse Service NSW

Laura started her career at the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, and was later a Senior Lawyer at the National Justice Project in Sydney. Her passion for human rights and social justice led her to Redfern Legal Centre where in 2019 she established the Financial Abuse Service NSW and the NSW chapter of the Economic Abuse Reference Group. The Financial Abuse Service NSW assists victim survivors of financial abuse in intimate partner relationships to remedy coerced debt and achieve financial independence. Through the legal service, systemic issues are identified and used to inform policy and law reform initiatives to improve government and industry responses to this widespread but under-reported form of domestic abuse. Laura has provided an economic abuse perspective in a number of forums and public inquiries, including the recent Senate Inquiry into National Consumer Credit Protection.

JULIAN CHARTERS Senior Counsel & Vice-President at American Express Australia

Julian works in a busy global in-house practice at American Express focussing on emerging payments, financial technology, consumer credit and privacy. A passionate consumer advocate, Julian has been involved with the Redfern Legal Centre for many years, initially as a volunteer solicitor in the Debit, Credit & Consumer service but more recently supporting RLC with the creation of the Financial Abuse Legal Service, of which American Express is a Foundation Sponsor. Julian is passionate about Diversity & Inclusion in the workplace and is currently the Executive Sponsor of the American Express Harmony Network.

DAVID TURNER Host

David Turner has a gift for teasing out people's stories, so it's no wonder he is Hearsay's host. With a double Bachelor of Arts and Laws from Macquarie University, he is also an MBA candidate at UNSW's Australian Graduate School of Management.

When he isn't interviewing people on Hearsay, David is a lawyer at Assured Legal Solutions, a boutique financial services law firm located in Sydney's CBD. Prior to joining Assured, he was called to the NSW Bar, and is a former President of NSW Young Lawyers and a former Councillor of the Law Society of NSW.

David spends the little downtime that he has left reading historical fiction and tinkering on home improvement projects.

You can access David's bio on the Assured Legal Solutions website [here](#).