

Episode 7: Guest bios

Episode name: Invisible Needs – Advising Vulnerable Clients

Guest(s): Ali Mojtahedi, Joshua Strutt and Leona Bennett

ALI MOJTAHEDI

Principal Solicitor

Ali, the Principal Solicitor at the Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC), has over 13 years' experience in the immigration space. He has spent that time working at various Community Legal Centres in NSW assisting vulnerable members of the community. Ali is also a former author and editor of the Immigration Kit (which he, in collaboration with other authors, is currently updating) and Immigration News, has lectured on immigration and refugee law and his writing on family reunion has been published. Ali is a member of several committees including as the chair of the Law Society of NSW Human Rights Committee, the chair of the Bankstown Community Resource Group and a co-convenor of the NSW PII committee.

JOSHUA STRUTT

Solicitor

Josh, a Solicitor at the Immigration Advice and Rights Centre (IARC), has over 6 years' experience in providing legal advice to people experiencing vulnerability. For the majority of those 6 years, Josh has been working with refugees and asylum seekers by helping them navigate the immigration system. More recently, Josh has been working in partnership with Unions NSW to develop and run a program known as "Visa Assist", which provides free immigration advice to migrants being exploited in the workplace. Josh has represented clients in migration matters at the Department of Home Affairs, Administrative Appeals Tribunal and at the Federal Court of Australia.

LEONA BENNETT

Solicitor & Head of Family Law

Leona heads up the family law team at Southern Waters Legal. With degrees in Psychology (Honours) and Law (Honours), she is also an accredited specialist in family law and is a trained family law collaborative solicitor. Leona has practiced in the area of family law within the Sutherland Shire since 2001. Dedicated to helping her clients get through one of the toughest times in their lives, Leona believes that the right lawyer can help someone get through a separation by listening to what they need from an emotional and financial perspective and applying the ever-changing law to their individual circumstances.

You can access Leona's bio on the Southern Waters Legal website, [here](#).

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](#).