



Speaker Biographies



Greg Cain, Partner, Kensington Swan

Greg Cain is an experienced employment and health and safety lawyer. He has acted on many serious harm investigations, and for his sins he spent most of the summer in Greymouth working on Pike River Coal's internal investigation, and the joint Police and Department of Labour investigations. He assists companies with a wide range of health and safety matters, from policy reviews and training to prosecutions. He also advises employers on employment law issues, including personal grievances, disciplinary matters, restructurings, and collective issues.



Alan Cooper –Practice Leader - Health and Safety Practice Development, Workplace Services, Department of Labour

Alan is a Practice Leader- Health and Safety Practice Development working from the Department of Labour, National Office in Wellington. In this role he works closely with Practice Leaders and Managers in the Department's four operational regions, providing advice and guidance to support the consistency and quality of the health and safety service delivery. Alan also has a lead role in the Department's internal development programme for health and safety inspection work. This development programme supports the Department's progress toward modern regulatory practices.

Alan's previous roles with the Department of Labour have been as an Inspector and more recently as a Service Manager in the Wellington office. Outside of the Department he has experience as a safety manager in the museum sector and implementing health and safety systems for a records management business. He spent eighteen years as a member of the New Zealand Police, during which time he developed his interest in regulatory practice.



Mike Cosman, Managing Director, Impac Services

Mike has over 30 years of occupational health and safety knowledge and experience from his work in the UK, New Zealand and internationally. He has a BSc in Management and a Postgraduate Diploma in Occupational Safety and Health. He is a Chartered Member of IOSH

Mike has been a health and safety specialist for his entire career and has gained extensive experience working as a regulator at firm, industry, sector and national level, in a variety of industries including manufacturing, public services, construction and utilities before becoming a consultant in 2007.

Mike was one of the youngest prosecutors for the HSE (where inspectors took their own cases) and achieved a 100% conviction rate. He now appears as an expert witness and conducts legal in confidence reviews for a range of clients to help them assess their legal liabilities.



Peter Lee-Cooper, Health & Safety Co-ordinator, Victoria Park Alliance

Peter spent 18 years on the tools in the construction industry during which time he witnessed several serious workplace accidents. Observing the impact of these accidents on his workmates lives led Peter to change his career path by successfully completing a degree in Safety, Health and Environmental Management.

Since qualifying he has worked within local government, residential construction and the civil engineering sector. For the last three years Peter has been employed by Fletcher Civil Engineering and is based on the Victoria Park Tunnel Project where subcontractor management is integral to his role.



Lee Polychronopoulos, Managing Director, BSS New Zealand Ltd

Lee has been providing inspiration and wellness education to industrial and corporate groups for over a decade. She has grown and developed a number of health organisations in Australia as well as in New Zealand, after her move here in 2007. She now has two companies providing fitness for work education programs, stress management, manual handling and other 'wellness' focussed courses.

Lee's vision is to help people understand how health and wellness can be incorporated into their lives. The Fatigue Management Education programs facilitated by Lee provide a practical approach to the objective of ensuring your workforce has the knowledge and skills to be 'fit for work'. She is also passionate about working with the prevention of injuries, which is assisted by her position on the Department of Labour's Musculoskeletal Panel.





Sarah-Lee Stead, Senior Associate, Kensington Swan

Sarah-Lee is an associate in the Advocacy group, specialising in health and safety and commercial litigation.

She is a member of Kensington Swan's specialist national workplace health and safety unit which provides advice on compliance and workplace management and gives support through incident investigations and prosecutions.

Sarah-Lee is currently advising a construction industry client with the investigation by the Police and Department of Labour into the deaths of 29 miners at the Pike River Coal Mine in Greymouth and will appear at the Royal Commission.

She is a regular presenter on health and safety issues to clients and industry groups throughout New Zealand. She acts for one of New Zealand's largest manufacturing companies, providing regular training on topical health and safety issues.

In addition to her health and safety practice, Sarah-Lee is involved in a wide range of civil and commercial litigation issues, including debt recovery, property disputes, breach of contract and negligence cases.

Sarah-Lee has appeared in the District and High Courts and the Court of Appeal on a range of commercial cases. She recently appeared as co-counsel with a leading Queen's Counsel in a High Court case arising from a property dispute.



Samantha Turner, Partner, Simpson Grierson

Samantha is regularly involved in a wide range of employment law matters, from litigation to strategic advice. She assists clients with managing and resolving employment relationship problems (particularly stress and bullying claims), union-related issues, grievances and disputes. She reviews and drafts employment agreements, independent contractor agreements, and more general communications between employers and employees. Samantha also advises on matters concerning human rights, privacy, the Holidays Act and other relevant legislation and she provides strategic advice on restructuring and acquisitions.

In terms of health and safety, Samantha works with clients in many diverse sectors, including high-risk areas such as construction, infrastructure, and manufacturing, to provide strategic advice for the boardroom, defending prosecutions in the court, and reviewing operational health and safety processes for businesses in the private and public sectors.

