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provan

**family and
fertility lawyers**

Our passion: helping you on your journey to parenthood

We have the honour and privilege of helping our clients achieve their dream of becoming parents.

How we can help

To become a parent, you may need an egg donor, a sperm donor or a surrogate, or maybe all three. The very complex law in this area is not handled by most family lawyers. There is a lot of inaccurate information on the internet. If not done correctly, you may not have a child. You may not be recognised as a parent. You may fight it out in the Family Court. You may end up committing several criminal offences. We work with our clients and with experts here and overseas to ensure that our clients can become parents as quickly, cheaply and hassle free as possible. This includes looking at alternative solutions to solve the problem or problems – solutions often not thought of by our clients or by others.

Our team

Our team is led by Director Stephen Page.

Stephen has been named by the media as one of Australia's leading surrogacy lawyers. Stephen is one of three international representatives on the ART committee of the American Bar Association, a member of the Parentage/Surrogacy and LGBT Committees of the International Academy of Family Lawyers, a Fellow of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys, a member of the Fertility Society of Australia as well as being a member of various family law associations. Stephen has presented extensively at local, national and international conferences (and written widely) about surrogacy and fertility law. His first surrogacy case was in 1988. Career highlights include presenting at the world's first international surrogacy conference in Las Vegas in 2011, and obtaining a *world first precedent* in 2012 as to what constituted "conception". He was the convenor of Queenslanders for Equality which successfully lobbied to stop the Queensland government enacting discriminatory changes to Queensland's surrogacy laws.



Stephen Page

Curriculum Vitae

Stephen graduated with Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 1985 from the then Queensland Institute of Technology (now QUT).

In 1987 Stephen was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland. In 1989 Stephen was admitted as a solicitor of the High Court of Australia. In 2013 Stephen was admitted as a Barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of South Australia.

Stephen is a legal practitioner director of Page Provan, family and fertility lawyers, Brisbane.

In 1988, Stephen made a decision to specialize in family law. Since that time, his practice has consisted solely or predominantly of family law, and increasingly over time the sub-specialty of fertility law. Stephen has represented clients and fertility law matters from throughout Australia and at last count 32 countries overseas.

In 1996, the Queensland Law Society introduced a scheme of Queensland Law Society Accredited Family Law Specialists. Stephen became accredited in 1996. He has remained accredited ever since. Since 2017 Stephen has lectured at the University of New South Wales in *Ethics and the Law in Reproductive Medicine*.

Stephen has practised in all areas of family law. Stephen has three sub-specialties in family law:

- surrogacy/assisted reproductive technology
- domestic violence
- acting for LGBTI people

- ✓ Chaired the South Brisbane Immigration Community Legal Centre (now RAILS)
- ✓ Chaired the management committee of a domestic violence refuge for some years
- ✓ Co-founded a domestic violence service (WAVSS)
- ✓ Been the chairperson or secretary of the Mt Gravatt committee of Relationships Australia Queensland from 1996 to 2003
- ✓ Been a board member of Relationships Australia Queensland 2000-2003
- ✓ Been a committee member of a court based domestic violence service (Beenleigh DVAP) 1999-2013
- ✓ Been a member of the City Fertility Centre, National Surrogacy and Donor Committee from 2015 to 2020
- ✓ Been the Honorary Solicitor for the Gay and Lesbian Welfare Association and the Brisbane Gay and Lesbian Business Network.
- ✓ Acted as the pro bono solicitor for the Queensland AIDS Council (2017)
- ✓ Spoken at the launch of Diversity in Gender and Sexuality in 2014.
- ✓ Lobbied the Queensland Government in 2011, 2012, 2015, 2017 to legislate to remove gay panic defence and to add hate crime legislation
- ✓ Attended at Queensland Government roundtables about domestic violence in LGBTI relationships (2015); and LGBTI issues (2016)
- ✓ Lobbied the NSW and Victorian Attorneys-General in 2013 to alter practices to allow Victorian birth records to be altered for children the subject of NSW parentage orders.

Presented papers and spoken at numerous conferences and presentations including:

Year	Place	Conference	Subject
1999	Gold Coast	State Conference on Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence
2001	Gold Coast	National Conference on Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence
	Brisbane	State Men's Conference	Family Law
2002	Townsville	Far North Queensland and North Queensland Law Association	Domestic Violence
	Brisbane	Financial Counsellors Conference	Property Settlement
2003	Gold Coast	International Conference on Domestic and Sexual Abuse	Family Court and Sexual Abuse
	Brisbane	Queensland Magistrates Conference	Domestic Violence
	Brisbane	Family Law Practitioners Association	Domestic Violence
	Gold Coast	Gold Coast Practitioners	Domestic Violence
	Brisbane	Queensland Law Society	Domestic Violence
2004	Brisbane	Family Law Masterclass	Property Settlement
2005	Brisbane	Queensland Law Society	Domestic Violence
2006	Brisbane	Queensland Law Society	Domestic Violence
2007	Denver	National Conference on Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence and Immigration
	Brisbane	Australia's CEO Challenge	Domestic Violence
	Brisbane	5th National Health in Difference Conference	Gay Marriage; Same Sex Domestic Violence; LGBTI Property and Estate Issues
	Brisbane	National PFLAG Conference	LGBTI family law issues
	Brisbane	Australia's CEO Challenge	Family Court and Child Abuse
2008	Brisbane	LexisNexis	Property Settlement
	Brisbane	Multicultural Family Law Workers' Forum	Family Law, especially how it impacts on NESB people

2009	Brisbane	Australia's CEO Challenge	Property Settlement
2010	Brisbane	Australia's CEO Challenge	Domestic Violence; Same Sex Domestic Violence
	Brisbane	LexisNexis	Chaired, Family Law
	Caboolture	Family support network	Training about file notes
	Brisbane	Multicultural Family Law Workers Forum, Multicultural Development Association	Family law/domestic violence
	Brisbane	Legalwise	Chair, Family Law Session
	Sydney	Surrogacy Forum	Surrogacy
2011	Sydney	Surrogacy Forum	Surrogacy
	Gold Coast	City Fertility Centre national training	Surrogacy
	Gold Coast	Fertility Nurses of Australasia conference	Surrogacy
	Brisbane	LexisNexis	Surrogacy
	Brisbane	Legalwise	Surrogacy
	Brisbane	Life Fertility	Surrogacy
	Gold Coast	Qld Law Society/Family Law Practitioners Association Family Law Residential	Surrogacy
	Sydney	Westmead Foundation Fertility Symposium	Surrogacy
	Las Vegas	American Bar Association Family Law Section ART conference	Surrogacy
	Melbourne	World Congress on Reproductive Medicine	Surrogacy
2012	Brisbane	Legalwise	Domestic Violence
	Brisbane	City Fertility Centre	Surrogacy
	Brisbane	Australia's CEO Challenge	Domestic Violence
	Brisbane	Australia's CEO Challenge	Family Law Act Amendments
	Brisbane	Queensland Family Law Pathways Network	Domestic Violence
	Melbourne	Surrogacy Australia conference	Surrogacy

	Brisbane	LexisNexis	Surrogacy
	Brisbane	Family Law Practitioners Association	Domestic Violence
	Boston	International Commission on Couple and Family Relations	Family Law Collaboration Between the Professions
	Glendale, AZ	Arizona State University	Guest lecturer to law students about domestic violence
	Brisbane	Caxton Legal Centre	Domestic Violence
	Brisbane	Life Fertility Clinic	Surrogacy
	Sydney	NSW ANZICA meeting	Surrogacy
	Brisbane	Queensland Domestic Violence Conference	Domestic Violence and Immigration
	Port Stephens	Hunter Valley Family Law Conference	Surrogacy
	Kingaroy	South Burnett Child Protection network	Domestic Violence
	Sydney	Presentation to NSW MP's	Surrogacy
	Sydney	Surrogacy Forum	Surrogacy
2013	Brisbane	Legalwise	Surrogacy
	Melbourne	Australian Psychological Society Family Law and Psychology Interest Group	LGBTI Family Law
	Melbourne	Surrogacy Forum	Surrogacy
	Melbourne	Surrogacy Australia	Moderating legal panel
	Sydney	Surrogacy Forum	Surrogacy
	Brisbane	Surrogacy Forum	Surrogacy
	Anchorage	American Bar Association Family Law Section Spring Training	Surrogacy
	Townsville	North Qld Law Association	Domestic Violence
	Brisbane	Presentation to Save the Children Fund	Keeping file notes
	San Francisco	LGBT Family Law Institute	Credentialed attendee
	Brisbane	Life Fertility Clinic	Surrogacy/ART issues

	Sydney	Fertility Society of Australia	Ethical and moral dilemmas of surrogacy
	Brisbane	Australian Association of Social Workers Professional Practice Group meeting	Keeping file notes
	Charleston, South Carolina	American Academy of Assisted Reproduction Technology Attorneys	The dirty dozen rules in international ART
2014	Brisbane	Queensland Counsellors Association	Keeping file notes
	Brisbane	Television Education	Presentation on behalf of Adam Cooper as to addbacks in property settlement
	Brisbane	Merck Sorono satellite conference to Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction Congress (ASPIRE) conference	US surrogacy law and practice
	Brisbane	So you want to make a baby forum, in conjunction with the LGBTI Legal Service	Surrogacy, egg and sperm donation
	Melbourne	Surrogacy Australia conference	Hague, NSW, WA and NHMRC surrogacy reviews; panelist as to State surrogacy laws
	Mooloolaba	Fertility Nurses of Australasia conference	Ownership of eggs, sperm and embryos after donation
	Brisbane	LGBTIQ families planning day	Egg and sperm donation, family formation, surrogacy
	Brisbane	Qld Program to Assist Survivors of Torture and Trauma	Keeping file notes
	Melbourne	Association of Family and Conciliation Courts inaugural Australian chapter conference	LGBTIQ people and the Family Law Courts
	Brisbane	Scientists in Reproductive Technology conference	Import and export of gametes and embryos
	Brisbane	College of Law	Lecture to graduate students about surrogacy
	Brisbane	College of Law	Lecture to graduate students about family formation

	Brisbane	Legalwise	Chair of Managing Financial Issues after Family Breakdown
	Queensland webinar	University of Southern Queensland, School of Psychology, Counselling and Community	Keeping file notes-avoiding the Rottweiler's bite
	Stowe, Vermont	Presentation to American Bar Association Family Law Section council	Concerning co-authored paper concerning proposed Hague Convention on private international law concerning children
	Brisbane	Domestic and Family Violence Summit	Attendee/participant at invitation of Dame Quentin Bryce
	Adelaide	Law Society of South Australia	Presentation about surrogacy in South Australia
	Brisbane	Community seminar on ethical surrogacy	
	Melbourne	Community seminar on ethical surrogacy	
	Sydney	Community seminar on ethical surrogacy	
2015	Canberra	Canberra Fertility Centre	Facilitated discussion concerning surrogacy and fertility issues
	Brisbane	Donor seminar	Presentation about implications of egg, sperm and embryo donation
	Brisbane	Legalwise	Children across borders
	Sydney	NSW ANZICA meeting	Surrogacy/fertility update
	Sydney	Canadian surrogacy seminar	
	Queensland	QAILS webinar	Surrogacy
	Brisbane	College of Law	Guest lecturer- surrogacy and fertility
	Brisbane	Australian Association of Women Judges-inaugural lecture: Whose rights are they anyway?-with Chief Justice Bryant	Panellist-surrogacy

	Carlsbad, California	American Bar Association family law section/ART stream	Ownership of eggs, sperm and gametes
	London	LGBT Family Law Institute	Session moderator
	London	International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers surrogacy symposium	Surrogacy law in Australia
	Gold Coast	Television Education Network 9th Annual family Law Conference	Who is a parent
	Dunsborough, Western Australia	Family Law Practitioners Association of Western Australia	Surrogacy panel discussion with Chief Justice Bryant and Justice Crisford
	Canberra	Fertility Society of Australia	Post-Baby Gammy Surrogacy Regulation
	Queensland	Queensland Family Law Pathways Network	Webinar on ART and Family Law
	San Francisco	Bar Association of San Francisco surrogacy seminar	International surrogacy
	Chicago	American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys (AAARTA) conference	Australian surrogacy update
	Brisbane	Families Through Surrogacy seminar	Queensland and Australian surrogacy
	Brisbane	Australian Community Workers Association	The courage to effect change
2016	Online	Television Education Network audio interview	Who's a parent
	Melbourne	Television Education Network	Who's a parent; chaired afternoon session
	Brisbane	Legalwise family law conference	Dirty dozen rules of international family law
	Brisbane	LGBT Family Law Institute	Host-and moderator for sessions on surrogacy, and what's next
	Cape Town	University of Western Cape law school	Guest lecture as to surrogacy
	Cape Town	Miller du Toit Cloete Inc and University of Western Cape 19th family law conference	Keynote speaker as to surrogacy
	Sydney	Marbury Chambers (my paper was delivered in my absence by Natalie Moffatt)	Qld and NSW surrogacy

Online	Circle Surrogacy webinar	Surrogacy/egg donation
Denver	American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys annual meeting	Moderating panel of international surrogacy lawyers
Nassau, Bahamas	American Bar Association Family Law Section/ART stream	Australian surrogacy overview
Australia-webinar	Family Court of Australia	The ART of family law
Brisbane	Out for Australia-legal panel	How the law relates to parenting and relationship recognition for LGBTI people
Brisbane	US surrogacy seminar	
Brisbane	Australian Surrogacy Conference	Moderated panel on role of lawyers, moderated panel discussion on role of surrogacy agencies
Canada	Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society webinar	Australians behaving badly-Australian surrogacy
Gold Coast	Television Education Network LGBTI family law seminar	Understanding the de facto relationships rules in the context of LGBTI relationships
Melbourne	City Fertility Centre	Inhouse training on surrogacy and donor issues
Brisbane	Launch of Rainbow Fertility	Speech/question and answer session on surrogacy and fertility issues for LGBTIQ people
Brisbane	City Fertility Centre national conference	A six point guide to surrogacy
Brisbane	Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Australian Chapter conference	Panellist on Family Violence in Interim Hearings in the Federal Circuit Court
Melbourne	Television Education Network	TV taping of Who is a parent
Brisbane	Legalwise family law seminar	Makin' and breakin': LGBTIQ people and family law

	Brisbane	College of Law	Workshop on advanced family law
	Brisbane	LGBTI Legal Service	Presentation about families–civil partnerships, adoption, sperm donation, surrogacy
	Sydney	Rainbow Fertility	Speech/question and answer session on surrogacy and fertility issues for LGBTIQ people
	Lismore	Rainbow Fertility	Speech/question and answer session on surrogacy and fertility issues for LGBTIQ people
2017	Gold Coast	Rainbow Fertility	Speech/question and answer session on surrogacy and fertility issues for LGBTIQ people
	Brisbane	Legalwise Family Law Forum	Third party property matters
	Brisbane	Out for Australia mentoring discussion	Panellist on how to mentor
	Sydney	Television Education network live webinar	De facto relationships in the context of LGBTI relationships
	Brisbane	LGBTIQ parents to be information night	Panellist
	Australia	Circle Surrogacy: Surrogacy in the US–for Aussies–webinar	Presenter
	Hong Kong	Hong Kong University, Department of Social Work and Social Administration	Guest lecture on international ART, surrogacy and egg donation
	Hong Kong	Inaugural Asia–Pacific Rainbow Families Forum	Three presentations about international surrogacy,egg donation, ART issues
	Brisbane	Queensland Law Society seminar	Learning from the leaders–pursuing diversity in the legal profession–panellist

	Melbourne	Television Education Network-1st LGBTI Legal and Regulatory Conference	Access to IVF, ART and stored genetic materials
	International	American Bar Association: Commonwealth babies: international ART update	Webinar as to aspects of Australian surrogacy law especially as to Re Halvard and Re Grosvenor
	Brisbane	Queensland Law Society Essentials Conference	How to build a courageous career
	Gold Coast	Queensland Law Society/Family Law Practitioners Association Family Law Residential	Who's ya Daddy?- parentage presumptions
	Australia	Canadian Fertility Consulting webinar	Surrogacy in Canada for Aussies-when, not if you're parents
	Brisbane	University of Queensland Pride Alliance-function as to domestic violence	Keynote speaker/panellist
	Australian webinar	San Diego Fertility Center-US surrogacy for Australian intended parents	Speaker
	Sydney	LGBT Family Law Institute Australia	Director and moderator
	Sydney	International Bar Association conference	Presenter on surrogacy
	Brisbane	Pride in Law launch, Banco Court	Speech at launch
	Australia	US surrogacy for Australians webinar	Presenter
	Phnom Penh	Asia-Pacific Rainbow Families Forum	Presenter
2018	Melbourne	The Equality Project, Better Together conference	Presenter: The ten barriers to becoming parents through surrogacy; panellist: Queer Families; panellist: Queer Families and the Law
	Brisbane	Iris Education	Presenter: Transgender legal issues
	Queensland webinar	Queensland Law Society	Presenter: The impact of the Marriage Act amendments in family law issues

Sydney, webinar	Television Education Network	Presenter: Defining best interests of children in family law parenting matters
Cape Town	Miller du Toit Cloete Inc and University of Western Cape 21st family law conference	Presenter: Australian and world developments in ART law
Brisbane	Queensland Law Society Symposium	Chairing of two family law sessions
Brisbane	Legalwise	Presenter: Lifting the corporate veil in family law: Revisiting Salome
Brisbane	Queensland Law Society Careers Expo	Panellist: "Oh the places you'll go!" as to career issues
Nashville	American Bar Association ART Conference	Presenter, co-author *ART* The Long Road Home: Overcoming Legal, Cultural, and Practical Challenges to International Surrogacy in the Pacific Region
Sydney	College of Law conference	Presenter: Who's ya Daddy?
Brisbane	Legal Aid Queensland training	Presenter: Marriage Act amendments and recent fertility law cases
Gold Coast	Fertility Nurses of Australasia conference	My dance card is full-surrogacy
Brisbane	Queensland Law Society	Family law 101-parenting
Adelaide	Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Australian Conference –Pre-Conference Institute	Presenter: Workshop leader with Dr Philip Stahl –Domestic Violence and Alienation
Queensland	Queensland Law Society Live Cast	Re Cresswell –death and reproductive technology–panellist
Brisbane	Pride in Law	Pride and Prejudice–making the legal profession truly inclusive–panellist
Sydney	Monash IVF	Training as to surrogacy and fertility law issues

	Brisbane	LGBT Family Law Institute Australia meeting	Chaired all sessions, co-moderated session on family formation including surrogacy
	Brisbane	Greater Brisbane Family Law Pathways seminar	Who is a parent?
	Adelaide	City Fertility Centre	Update on surrogacy and assisted reproductive treatment law
	Brisbane	Australian Human Resources Institute, Diversity and Inclusion Section	How workplaces can tackle domestic violence
2019	Sydney	Better Together conference	Surrogacy 101
	USA	American Bar Association webinar	Where there's a will, there's a way: minimising the risk of international surrogacy arrangements
	Melbourne	LGBT Family Law Institute Australia meeting	Chair of the meeting, co-facilitator on session on surrogacy/family formation
	Sydney	Independent Parents Advisory Network	Presentation about surrogacy options for intended parents
	Melbourne	Surrogacy presentation	Presentation about legal issues for intended parents
	Sydney	Surrogacy presentation	Presentation about legal issues for intended parents
	Brisbane	Surrogacy presentation	Presentation about legal issues for intended parents
	Brisbane	Qld Law Society Symposium	Facilitator, Achieving respectful and inclusive workplaces
	Gold Coast	Scientists in Reproductive Technology conference	Presentation about surrogacy and post-humous use of gametes; panellist as to future ethical and legal trends
	Brisbane	Queensland Law Society, Family Law Fundamentals	Presentation about parenting matters

	Gold Coast	Simonidis Steel 2019 CPD conference	Presentation about surrogacy
	San Francisco	International Academy of Family Lawyers, Introduction to International Family Law	Presenter-International parenting agreements
	San Francisco	International Academy of Family Lawyers, USA and Canadian Chapters meeting	Panellist about assisted reproductive treatment law
	San Francisco	National Family Law Advisory Committee, National Center for Lesbian Rights	Facilitated discussion about surrogacy issues
	Brisbane	Rainbow Families Queensland-Making Rainbow Babies	Surrogacy, egg and sperm donation issues for LGBTIQ intended parents and donors
	Sydney	Legalwise seminar, LGBTI people and the law	Who's ya daddy-parentage presumptions
	Brisbane	Life Fertility	Presentation with Karen Gough about surrogacy and donor issues
	Brisbane	Greater Brisbane Family Law Pathways Network	Panellist in a seminar on warrants and subpoenas for counsellors and family lawyers
	Brisbane	Pride Brisbane Network	Presentation about donor and surrogacy issues
	Brisbane	Queensland Fertility Group egg and sperm donor seminar	Presentation about legal issues with egg, sperm and embryo donation
	Sydney	Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Australian Chapter 6th conference	Presentation-Ethical issues in surrogacy: contradiction or conundrum
	Sydney	LGBT Family Law Institute 5th meeting	Chaired the meeting, co-facilitator of session on surrogacy and family formation
	Hobart	Fertility Society of Australia conference	Presentation-Surrogacy snapshot

	Seoul	International Bar Association conference	Panel member: From East to West: developments and issues in the advancement and protection of the rights of transgender and non-binary people
	Melbourne	Guest lecture to Monash University post-graduate embryology students	Ethics and law in embryology in context
	Brisbane	Presentation to Monash IVF Group Queensland doctors, nurses and technicians	Current donor and surrogacy issues
	Brisbane	Workshop for Encircle counsellors	Avoiding the rottweiler's bite: keeping good file notes
	Brisbane	Growing Families seminar	Current surrogacy and donor issues
	Brisbane	Queensland Fertility Group	Time for a cold shower after Masson v Parsons
	Brisbane	Greater Brisbane Family Law Pathways Network -moderator	The future of family law - after the ALRC report
	Brisbane	Legalwise	Legal issues related to supporting students who are transgender and gender diverse or who have transgender and gender diverse parents
	Brisbane	IPAN	Current surrogacy issues
	Sydney	Legalwise	Who is a parent? What are the implications of Masson v Parsons?
2020	Cape Town	University of the Western Cape/Miller du Toit Cloete family law conference	Surrogacy issues
	Monash University	Guest lecturer to embryology students	Surrogacy and ethics issues
	Queensland	Webinar for Fertility Solutions	Egg, sperm and embryo donor issues
	Webinar	Canadian Fertility Consulting	Surrogacy issues for Australians going to Canada, being impacted by Covid-19
	Australian webinar	Television Education Network	First return dates in family law

	Queensland webinar	Queensland Law Society	Family law fundamentals- parenting matters
	Melbourne- via webinar	City Fertility Centre	Victorian ART and surrogacy issues
	Australian webinar	Legalwise	Interim parenting hearings
	Australian webinar	Fertility Society of Australia	Simplifying and summarising surrogacy: how to keep your patients safe and your clinical practice legal and ethical
	Australian webinar	Corrs Chambers Westgarth	Demystifying surrogacy in Australia
2020	Australian webinar	National Mental Health Resilience Summit	Panellist in four sessions
2021	International webinar	International Academy of Family Lawyers	Panellist: When children and adults transition: challenges for the families and the law
	Australian webinar	Television Education Network	First return dates in family law
	Webinar	Greater Brisbane Family Law Pathways Network	Clayton v Bant (host)
	Brisbane	Legalwise Advanced Family Law	Presented paper on behalf of Guy Waterman about recent property settlement cases, including addbacks
	Webinar	Page Provan/San Diego Fertility Center	Surrogacy in the US for Australian intended parents
	Webinar	Australian Jewish Fertility Network	Egg, sperm, embryo donation and surrogacy
	Webinar	Page Provan	Surrogacy in Canada for Australian intended parents
	Webinar	University of Southern Queensland Law Association	Presentation about my career
	Webinar	Miller du Toit Cloete Inc/University of Western Cape virtual family law conference	Sperm donation

Evidence to Parliamentary/Government inquiries

Year	Inquiry	Form of evidence	Subject
2011	Tasmanian Legislative Council, Government Administration A Committee	Written, oral	Surrogacy
2014	Western Australia Surrogacy Act 2008 review	Written	Surrogacy
	Queensland Parliament	Written	As to a bill to continue advertising restrictions as to egg and sperm donors
2014-2015	New South Wales Surrogacy Act 2010 review	Written	Surrogacy
2015	Queensland Parliament, Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	Written, oral	Civil partnerships
	House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs	Written; oral	Surrogacy roundtable
2016	South Australian Law Reform Institute	Written; participation in roundtable	LGBTI discrimination, especially as to surrogacy and ART
	House of Representatives, Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs	Written	Surrogacy
	Queensland Adoption Act 2009 review	Written	Adoption
2017	Senate inquiry as to proposed Marriage Act amendments	Written	Marriage
	Queensland Parliament, Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	Written, oral	Amendments to Criminal Code to abolish gay panic defence
	Queensland Parliament, Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	Written, oral	A Bill for the expungement of homosexual acts convictions.
2018	Queensland Parliament, Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	Written	A Bill to amend Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act so that trans people no longer need to divorce to change their gender marker

	Australian Law Reform Commission, family law review	Oral	Family law review- submissions made in conjunction with LGBTI Legal Service
	Western Australian surrogacy review	Written, oral	Submissions about surrogacy and ART regulation in Western Australia
	South Australian surrogacy review	Written, oral	Submissions about surrogacy regulation in South Australia
2018-2019	Victorian assisted reproductive treatment review	Written, oral	Submissions about ART regulation in Victoria, including regulation of surrogacy
2020	Victorian government, following the assisted reproductive treatment review	Written	Submissions concerning further changes proposed arising out of the ART review
2021	Northern Territory Government Surrogacy Joint Working Group	Member	
	ACT Government Equality Australia	Panelist	Workshop as to intersex law reforms

Stephen currently is a member of:

- ✓ Queensland Law Society, including as a member of the Equity and Diversity Committee (member 1987-)
- ✓ Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia (1994-)
- ✓ Family Law Practitioners Association of Queensland Ltd (1994-)
- ✓ Fertility Society of Australia (2012-)
- ✓ International Academy of Family Lawyers, including as a member of the Forced Marriage Committee, the LGBT Committee and the Parentage Project Committee (as a Fellow, 2014-)
- ✓ American Bar Association, (associate), and one of three international representatives on the Assisted Reproductive Technologies Committee (2012-)
- ✓ Fellow, Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys (2014-)
- ✓ Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, including the Australian Chapter (founding member) (2008-)

- ✓ Chair, Greater Brisbane Family Law Pathways Network (2018-)
- ✓ Founder, LGBT Family Law Institute Australia (2016-)
- ✓ the Legal Aid Queensland panel for Independent Children's Lawyers (2007-)
- ✓ Asia-Pacific Rainbow Families Forum (2017-)
- ✓ Queensland Alliance for Kids (legal advisor and member) (2018-)

Authored works:

These include:

Year	Work	Periodical/Organisation
2009	Changes to Stamp Duty for Family Lawyers	Proctor/Queensland Law Society
	Update –child protection chapter	Queensland Practice Manual/ Thomson Reuters
2011	Co-author and principal researcher-State by State surrogacy guide-with Alexandra Harland	Family Law Review
2012	Trends as to International Surrogacy	Family Law Review
2013-2016	Co-author with Bruce Hale and principal advocate-Resolution 112B: Position paper as to proposed Hague surrogacy convention-adopted by House of Delegates, American Bar Association, February 2016	Artificial Reproductive Technologies Committee/ American Bar Association
2015	The right to be a parent-regulating surrogacy in Australia	Rightnow
	Principal author-Think Local-Act Global, 10 must-knows about International Surrogacy-with Brian Esser	Family Advocate/ American Bar Association, Family Law Section
	Avoiding Another Baby Gammy	Australian Family Lawyer/Family Law Section, Law Council of Australia
	Surrogacy Down Under	American Society for Reproductive Medicine Newsletter
	The patchwork quilt: the surrogacy landscape in Australia	Family Law News, Special Edition on International Surrogacy,International Bar Association
	Review of Surrogacy, the Law and Human Rights	Alternative Law Journal

2016	Surrogacy in Australia-a missed opportunity	BioNews
	Is surrogacy legal in Australia?	O & G Magazine (magazine of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists)
	Whose rights are they, anyway? (with Bruce Hale)	The SciTech Lawyer, American Bar Association, Science and Technology Section
	Family Court requires wife to refund over AUD\$200,000 in spousal maintenance to husband	Family Law Update, International Bar Association
	Queensland allows LGBTI couples, singles to adopt	Alternative Law Journal (2016) 41(4) AltLJ 287
2017	Family Court recognizes parents under US surrogacy order	Proctor, Queensland Law Society
	Family Court tells Australian couple they are not the parents	Family Law Update, International Bar Association
2018	Australian Family Law in a State of Flux	Family Law Update, International Bar Association
	Zoe Durand, Inside Family Law: Conversations from the Coalface”, Longueville Media-interview “Stephen Page: family lawyer with expertise in surrogacy”	
2019	Snapshot of domestic violence in Queensland	Social work focus, Australian Association of Social Workers
	For the love of...gametes	Proctor, Queensland Law Society
	International Comparison of LGBT Laws (co-author)	International Academy of Family Lawyers
	Masson v Parsons the practicalities: but for their acted on intention the child would not exist	Australian Family Lawyer, Family Law Section, Law Council of Australia
	Who is a parent is not esoteric rocket science	Ex Curia, Family Law Practitioners Association of Western Australia
2020	The impact of Covid-19 on family law in Australia	Family Law Update, International Bar Association
2021	Special ART edition of Family Court Review- guest co-editor with Gary Debele, and author Decoding the Jargon: Article on Terminology, and International Law Concerning ART	Family Court Review, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
	The Australian surrogacy landscape- what have the last 10 years taught us?	International Family Law Journal

Stephen is author of the Australian Divorce Blog, the Australian Gay and Lesbian Law Blog and the Australian Surrogacy and Adoption Blog. He tweets about family law issues as *stephenpagelaw*.

Media

Stephen has spoken extensively in the media about family law, domestic violence and surrogacy issues including to:

TV

International

- ✓ XinhuaTV (China)
- ✓ Deutsche Welle (Germany)
- ✓ Fuji TV (Japan)
- ✓ Russia Today

Network Seven

- ✓ Sunrise
- ✓ The Morning Show
- ✓ 7 News

Nine Network

- ✓ National Nine News
- ✓ Today
- ✓ A Current Affair
- ✓ 60 Minutes

Network Ten

- ✓ The Project

- ✓ Wake Up (pilot episode)

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

- ✓ ABC News
- ✓ The 7.30 Report
- ✓ ABC 24

SBS

- ✓ SBS News
- ✓ Insight: "Baby Business" (2011), "Surrogacy" (2014)

Sky News

- ✓ Paul Murray Live
- ✓ The Kenny Report

Newspapers/Websites/Magazines

International

- ✓ The New York Times
- ✓ The Wall Street Journal
- ✓ The Guardian
- ✓ Reuters
- ✓ The Daily MirrorAustralia
- ✓ The Daily Beast
- ✓ Abovethelaw.com
- ✓ Phnom Penh Post
- ✓ The Cambodia Daily
- ✓ Stuff.co.nz
- ✓ The Australian
- ✓ News.com.au
- ✓ The Herald Sun
- ✓ The Daily Telegraph
- ✓ Huffington Post Australia
- ✓ The Courier-Mail
- ✓ The Western Australian
- ✓ Lawyers Weekly

Australia/New Zealand

- ✓ The Age
- ✓ Sydney Morning Herald
- ✓ The Sun Herald
- ✓ Brisbane Times
- ✓ Crikey.com.au
- ✓ Brisbane Lawyer
- ✓ ABC Online
- ✓ Cosmopolitan
- ✓ Australia.creditcards.com

Radio

International

Radio NZ

- ✓ Afternoon drive
- ✓ Checkpoint (current affairs show)
- ✓ Nine to noon

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC)

- ✓ News Radio
- ✓ PM
- ✓ The Law Report

- ✓ The World Today
- ✓ Radio National's Life Matters
- ✓ Radio National's Background Briefing
- ✓ Triple J'sHack
- ✓ ABC Toowoomba
- ✓ ABC NSW
- ✓ ABC Gold Coast
- ✓ BC Brisbane
- ✓ ABC Mt Isa

- ✓ ABC Perth
- ✓ ABC Darwin

Sydney radio

- ✓ 2GB
- ✓ Hope FM *Open House*
- ✓ 2SM

Brisbane radio

- ✓ 4BC
- ✓ B105
- ✓ 101FM

- ✓ 99.7FM

Melbourne radio

- ✓ 3AW
- ✓ MMM
- ✓ Mix101.1

Adelaide radio

- ✓ Radio Adelaide

Perth radio

- ✓ 6PR

LGBTI media

- ✓ 4ZZZ Queer Radio
- ✓ JoyFM
- ✓ Samesame.com.au
- ✓ Qld Pride
- ✓ Star Observer
- ✓ QTV
- ✓ Qnews and before that Brother/Sister (for which Stephen contributed a column from 2000 to 2015)

Podcasts

- ✓ Inside Family Law
- ✓ I Want to Put a Baby in You
- ✓ Let's Talk IVF
- ✓ Politics of Everything

Media recognition

Stephen has been recognized by the media for his expertise:

“One of Brisbane’s most respected gay and lesbian friendly lawyers.”	Brisbane Lawyer	April, 2008
“Stephen Page is one of Australia’s leading surrogacy lawyers.”	National Nine News	9 April, 2013
“Stephen Page, a leading Australian surrogacy lawyer”	Daily Telegraph	4 April, 2014
“Stephen Page, one of Australia’s leading surrogacy lawyers”	Sydney Morning Herald	1 August 2014
“Prominent Australian surrogacy lawyer Stephen Page”	Sydney Morning Herald	3 August 2014
“Stephen Page, one of Australia’s most eminent surrogacy lawyers”	Sun Herald	10 August, 2014
“Stephen Page, one of Australia’s leading surrogacy lawyers”	Mix 101.1 FM	11 August, 2014
“Stephen Page, a leading Australian surrogacy lawyer”	The Age	11 August, 2014
Leading Australian surrogacy lawyer Stephen Page”	The Guardian	15 August, 2014
“Leading surrogacy lawyer Stephen Page”	The Courier-Mail	7 September, 2014
“Brisbane-based lawyer, Stephen Page, a family law expert”	Star Observer	June, 2015
“An internationally regarded expert on family law”	Brisbane Times	17 July, 2016
“A leading Australian surrogacy lawyer, Stephen Page”	The Guardian	11 September, 2016
“Seasoned practitioner...family law expert”	Lawyers Weekly	16 September, 2016
“Leading family law expert”	60 Minutes	18 September, 2016
“Australia’s foremost expert in surrogacy laws”	Radio National, Background Briefing	12 February, 2017
“leading Australian surrogacy lawyer Stephen Page”	Essential Baby	6 April 2017
“Australia’s most prominent surrogacy attorney Stephen Page”	The Public Discourse, Witherspoon Institute	19 April, 2017

“Stephen Page, an Australian lawyer specializing in surrogacy”	The Cambodia Daily	4 August, 2017
“prominent Australian fertility attorney Stephen Page”	Abovethelaw.com	9 August, 2017
“Australian surrogacy attorney Stephen Page”	Abovethelaw.com	16 August 2017
“family lawyer Stephen Page, who is an expert on surrogacy”	The Australian	21 September, 2017
“Stephen Page, a prominent Australian family law attorney”	Abovethelaw.com	8 November, 2017
“family law expert Stephen Page”	The Australian	11 November 2017
“surrogacy lawyer Stephen Page”	ABC Perth	15 January 2018
“Stephen Page, who is an internationally recognised family lawyer based in Australia..”	H.Hendrix, Desperately Seeking Semen, 2018	2018
“family lawyer Stephen Page”	The Australian	28 July 2018
“this column’s favorite assisted reproductive technology-specialized Aussie solicitor, Stephen Page”	Abovethelaw.com	8 August 2018
“family partner Stephen Page”	The Australian	4 January 2019
“Lawyer Stephen Page is one of Australia’s leading legal voices on donor conception.”	60 Minutes Australia: “Babies at first sight”	17 February 2019
“Stephen Page leading surrogacy lawyer”	ABC24	9 July 2019
“As one of Australia’s main surrogacy lawyers, Mr Page...”	ABC online	29 July 2019
“renowned surrogacy advocate Stephen Page”	The Australian	7 December 2019

Peer recognition

Stephen has been endorsed as the leading surrogacy lawyer in Australia by:

When	Who	Role
April, 2014	Mr Steve Snyder, Minneapolis	Then Chair, Artificial Reproductive Technologies Committee, American Bar Association
April, 2014	Mr John Weltman, Boston	Founder and President, Weltman Law Group and Circle Surrogacy, one of the world's oldest and largest surrogacy agencies
December, 2014	Dr Kim Bergman, Los Angeles	Psychologist, co-founder and co-owner, Growing Generations, one of the world's oldest and largest surrogacy agencies
January, 2015	Mr Rich Vaughn, Los Angeles	Chair, Artificial Reproductive Technologies Committee, American Bar Association
May, 2015	Hon John Dawkins MLC	"South Australian Legislative Council: "A lawyer who has extraordinary expertise in surrogacy legislation".
June, 2015	John Gardner MP	"South Australian Legislative Assembly: "An expert surrogacy lawyer from Queensland."
May, 2017	Scott Buckley, Weltman Law Group	"world renowned attorney in Australia"
July, 2017	Rodney Chiang-Cruise, convenor, Gay Dads Australia	"Stephen Page is one of Australia's and the world's most respected and knowledgeable lawyers when it comes to Surrogacy."
August, 2017	Andy Vorzimer, Vorzimer/Masserman	"Stephen is universally regarded as the preeminent legal expert in Australia when it comes to surrogacy"
September, 2017	Sara Cohen, Fertility Law Canada	"Stephen is the leading lawyer in Australia working with parents through surrogacy."
October 2017	South Australian Law Reform Institute Surrogacy: a legislative framework	"an experienced Queensland lawyer who practises in this area" and "a leading lawyer in this field"
August, 2019	Dr David Molloy, medical director, Queensland Fertility Group; Chair, IVF Directors Group, Fertility Society of Australia	"Australia's leading assisted reproduction lawyer"
November 2019	Judge Dearden, in the application for a parentage order made by Stephen and his husband	"A widely acknowledged expert in the field" of surrogacy "documents were, as usual, meticulous"

November, 2020	Proctor, Queensland Law Society magazine	Headline: “Surrogacy law leader named inaugural Pride in Law Award recipient”. Opening statement: “Leading Queensland and internationally renowned surrogacy solicitor Stephen Page has been named winner of the inaugural Pride in Law award in recognition of stellar contribution of LGBTIQ+ practitioners in the profession.”
December, 2020	Roundtable, Family Law Practitioners Association of Queensland magazine	“He is internationally regarded as one of the leading surrogacy lawyers in Australia and one of Brisbane’s most respected LGBTIQ+ friendly lawyers.”
May, 2021	Kathleen DeLisle, Nichols, DeLisle and Lightholder, Boston	“Attorney Page is everyone’s go-to person for all matters in Australia.”

Doyle’s Guide

Year/s	Ranking	Category
2018, 2019	Recommended	Leading Parenting and Children’s Matters Lawyers- Queensland
2020, 2021	Leading	Leading Parenting and Children’s Matters Lawyers- Brisbane
2018, 2020, 2021	Recommended	Leading Family and Divorce Lawyers- Brisbane

White Ribbon activities

Stephen has been a White Ribbon Ambassador since 2008. His activities include speaking extensively to community groups about domestic violence. He has been a partner of Australia’s CEO Challenge from 2003, and a director and deputy chair from 2008 to 2013.

Awards

2001	Certificate of appreciation, Gold Coast Sexual Assault Support Service
2005	Co-recipient, Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships, State and Territory Business Award
2010	Certificate of appreciation from the Queensland Program of Assistance for Survivors of Torture and Trauma
2011	Finalist, White Ribbon Ambassador of the Year
	Winner, Professional Services, Quest Business Awards
2015	LGBTIQ Activist of the Year, Brisbane Queen's Birthday Ball, Brisbane Pride Awards
	Rainbow Key Award by LGBTI Legal Service, for five years volunteering service
2016	Queensland Law Society, Equity and Diversity Awards to Harrington Family Lawyers for Small Firm Practice Initiative
2019	Post-Graduate Teaching Award 2019, School of Women's and Children's Health, University of New South Wales
2020	Certificate of appreciation, World Bank, Women, Business and the Law
	Inaugural recipient, Pride in Law Award
2021	Certificate of appreciation, World Bank, Women, Business and the Law

Queensland Law Society representative as to domestic violence matters

Stephen has represented the Queensland Law Society in relation to the following domestic violence issues:

2011	Queensland Law Society representative and White Ribbon Ambassador representative to two day intensive as to community consultation as to draft domestic violence laws
2014	Queensland Law Society representative on a panel as to proposed Domestic and Family Violence Protection Rules
	Queensland Law Society representative as to research undertaken by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General concerning private protection order applications

Career highlights

These have included:

1985	Helping keep clients and their children safe
1994	Co-founding a domestic violence service
1998	Obtaining protection in a domestic violence trial, having been the subject of stalking
2002	Successfully lobbying singlehandedly to change domestic violence laws to protect children
1999-2002	Assisted Queensland Association of Gay and Lesbian Rights in drafting proposed laws to remove discrimination. The efforts culminated in the repeal of most discriminatory laws in Queensland in 2002.
2011	Giving evidence at Tasmanian Parliament inquiry as to its Surrogacy Bill. The evidence resulted in changes to the bill.
2011	Speaking at the world's first international surrogacy legal conference (in Las Vegas)
2012	Being the lawyer for the surrogate in the world precedent case as to what constituted "conception": <i>LWV v. LMH</i> [2012] QChC 26
2012-2013	Convening Queenslanders for Equality, and stopping proposed discriminatory surrogacy laws
2012	Being appointed as one of two international representatives on the Executive Council, American Bar Association, Family Law Section, Artificial Reproductive Technologies Committee.
2014	Becoming a Fellow of International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers [now International Academy of Family Lawyers], and first international Fellow of the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive treatment Attorneys [now American Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys]
	In one week appearing in surrogacy cases in courts in three States: Victoria, Queensland and South Australia
Nov 2014- Jan 2015	In three months I obtained parentage orders in four States: Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia
May 2015	I attended two history making conferences back to back in London: the first meeting of the LGBT Family Law Institute outside the US (including moderating a session), and the first surrogacy symposium of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (including speaking at)
September, 2015	Speaking at the Brisbane Pride Rally, and then being one of the leaders in the Brisbane Pride March

February, 2016	The ruling body of the American Bar Association, the House of Delegates, unanimously endorsed resolution 112B, as to a proposed Hague convention about private international law, including surrogacy, in accordance with a position paper of which I was co-author and principal advocate. Subsequently the working group of The Hague conference adopted the same philosophical position.
May, 2016	I gave expert evidence on Australian surrogacy law in <i>In the matter of Z (A Child) (No 2)</i> [2016] EWHC 1191—which ruled that UK law that prohibited singles from obtaining surrogacy orders was incompatible with human rights law.
August, 2016	I spoke at the announcement by the Queensland Government to amend the Adoption Act 2009 to allow same sex couples, singles and those undergoing IVF to be able to adopt.
August, 2016	The Hon. Michael Kirby and I were the speakers at the 6th anniversary of the LGBTI Legal Service, held in the Banco Court of the Supreme Court of Queensland
May, 2017	Acting for the parents in <i>Re Grosvenor</i> [2017]—the first registration in Australia of a US surrogacy order when there was commercial surrogacy
October, 2017	Organising Lawyers Marching for Equality—the first time lawyers marched as a group in Brisbane Pride March
November, 2017	Speaking at the launch of Pride in Law, Australia’s first LGBTIQ lawyers networking association
May, 2018–June, 2019	A member of the organising committee, International Surrogacy Forum, held at the University of Cambridge (UK), June, 2019.
November 2019	Obtained a parentage order for him and his husband.

Volunteering

Stephen has volunteered providing advice at community legal centres:

1988–1990	South Brisbane Community Immigration Legal Centre
2005–2010	Caxton Legal Centre
2010–2015	LGBTI Legal Service

Other

Stephen has trained counsellors on many occasions about keeping file notes and risk management with file notes.

For several years Stephen was a guest lecturer at Griffith University to post-graduate law students about domestic violence issues. Stephen has previously lectured counselling students at the Ash by Allan Institute about counselling and ethics.

Stephen was for some years the chair of the QUT Law Alumni Group.

Current as of 20 May 2021



Stephen Page

I am a Principal of Page Provan family and fertility Lawyers in Brisbane. I have been an accredited family law specialist since 1996. My first surrogacy case was in 1988. I have appeared in courts in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia on surrogacy matters—the only lawyer to have done so. I have suffered infertility and have become a dad through surrogacy. I have advised in about 1600 surrogacy journeys.

My admissions

- ✓ Queensland (1987)
- ✓ High Court of Australia (1989)
- ✓ South Australia (2013)

My current memberships

- ✓ International representative, ART Committee, American Bar Association, Family Law Section
- ✓ Fellow and member of the Parentage/Surrogacy Committee and the LGBT Committee, International Academy of Family Lawyers
- ✓ Fellow-Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys
- ✓ Fertility Society of Australia
- ✓ Australian Chapter, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
- ✓ Family Law Section, Law Council of Australia
- ✓ Committee member, Equity and Diversity Committee, Queensland Law Society
- ✓ Family Law Practitioners Association of Queensland
- ✓ Lecturer in law and ethics in reproductive medicine, University of New South Wales

Where have my assisted reproductive treatment clients come from?

I advise clients throughout Australia about ART issues: all eight States and Territories of Australia, plus at last count 31 countries overseas. I have advised about domestic and international surrogacy, egg, sperm and embryo donation and related issues, including compliance regimes.

For whom have I written published articles?

These include:

- ✓ International Bar Association
- ✓ American Bar Association
- ✓ American Society for Reproductive Medicine
- ✓ Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- ✓ Family Law Section, Law Council of Australia
- ✓ Queensland Law Society

Where have I presented at conferences?

Since 2010, I have presented at between 12-26 events a year, ranging from small local events to international conferences.

Places include:

- ✓ Adelaide
- ✓ Gold Coast
- ✓ Anchorage, Alaska
- ✓ Hobart
- ✓ Brisbane
- ✓ Las Vegas
- ✓ Boston
- ✓ London
- ✓ Canberra
- ✓ Margaret River
- ✓ Cape Town
- ✓ Melbourne
- ✓ Carlsbad, California
- ✓ Nassau, Bahamas
- ✓ Charleston
- ✓ Chicago
- ✓ San Francisco
- ✓ Seoul
- ✓ Denver
- ✓ Sydney

Career highlights

- ✓ Co-founding a domestic violence service (1994)
- ✓ Helping remove LGBTI legal discrimination (1999-2000)
- ✓ Co-recipient Prime Minister's State and Territory Business Award in community business partnerships (2005)
- ✓ White Ribbon Ambassador (2008-)
- ✓ Obtaining a world first precedent as to what constitutes conception (2012)
- ✓ Convenor of Queenslanders for Equality (2012-2013) - successfully opposing discrimination in fertility law
- ✓ During the Baby Gammy saga, being interviewed by the world's media, including the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal (2014)
- ✓ Being awarded LGBTIQ Activist of the Year (2015)
- ✓ My firm receiving Queensland Law Society Equity and Diversity Award for Small Practice Initiative (2016)
- ✓ Being the principal advocate and co-author of a policy adopted by the 400,000 member American Bar Association as to a proposed Hague surrogacy convention (2012-2016)
- ✓ Pioneering the registration of US surrogacy orders in Australia (2015-2017)
- ✓ Speaking at the launch of Pride in Law, the first Australian LGBT lawyers networking association.

How to contact me

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www.facebook.com/Stephen.Page.Lawyer.Brisbane

<http://surrogacyandadoption.blogspot.com.au>

Current as of 20 May 2021



RUSSELL SHAKESPEARE

Stephen and Mitch Page with daughter Elizabeth at home in Brisbane

Surrogacy law settled at just six months old

EXCLUSIVE

STEVE JACKSON
NSW EDITOR

It's natural for parents to want their children to follow in their footsteps — but for one of the nation's leading surrogacy lawyers, his newborn has already achieved that.

At just six months old, Elizabeth, the daughter of renowned surrogacy advocate Stephen Page, has helped set a legal precedent and closed a loophole that could have allowed up to four people to

be recognised as the parents of a child born via a surrogate.

The achievement came after Mr Page and his husband Mitch Page welcomed their baby girl with the help of a surrogate in July before applying to have the parental rights for their daughter transferred to them in November.

"It was the most nerve-racking experience to appear in court (with my own family)," the 56-year-old lawyer said.

"I have been an advocate for over 30 years and the only experience which has been more terrifying was the first one in 1985 when I was an articled law clerk."

The court action involved clarifying who Elizabeth's parents were in the eyes of the law.

Prior to the action, the surrogate and her partner, as well as Mr Page and the genetic father, which in this case was Mitch, could be deemed a parent.

Mr Page's application narrowed who Elizabeth's parents were down to just the surrogate and her partner. This left the way clear for a clean transfer of parentage to Mr Page and Mitch.

"There was an uncertain point of law and we happened to be next and needed clarity for our daughter, Elizabeth, before there could

be an order transferring parentage," Mr Page said. "For that to happen, there had to be a finding in who was the parent before the order was made."

Mr Page said his case distinguished a previous ruling in the High Court in June that suggested each surrogacy case could be judged on its own merits, leaving it open for the surrogate, her partner, the genetic father and his partner to be deemed parents.

He said this could prove contentious if the surrogacy arrangement broke down.

"The High Court in *Masson v Parsons* made plain that every

case is decided on its own facts and that there might be more than two parents," Mr Page said.

"We wanted certainty for our daughter. For those in Queensland, (our precedent) makes it plain that before an order is made, a single surrogate is the only parent."

"The case shows that before a parentage order is made, the only parents are the surrogate — and if she has a partner, her partner — not the genetic dad."

He said the case also made it clear that federal laws on who a parent was did not apply to state proceedings.

Where our fertility law clients have come from

Australia		13	UK
1	Australian Capital Territory	14	Luxembourg
2	New South Wales	15	Poland
3	Northern Territory	Middle East	
4	Queensland	16	Iran
5	South Australia	17	Israel
6	Tasmania	18	UAE
7	Victoria	Asia	
8	Western Australia	19	China
Overseas		20	Hong Kong
America		21	India
1	Brazil	22	Indonesia
2	Canada	23	Japan
3	USA	24	Malaysia
Europe		25	Philippines
4	Belgium	26	Singapore
5	Denmark	27	South Korea
6	France	26	Thailand
7	Germany	Oceania	
8	Ireland	28	New Caledonia
9	Italy	29	New Zealand
10	Netherlands	30	Papua New Guinea
11	Russia	31	Solomon Islands
12	Switzerland		

Accurate as at 20 May 2021

CREDIT CARD AUTHORITY

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Please note you have the option to either telephone the office 07 3221 9751 and give your credit card details.

OR complete the below and return to PO Box 12135 QLD 4003

Email address: accounts@pageprovan.com.au

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