



# INSTITUTE OF TRIBUNAL PRACTICE

(ABN 58 468 021 957)

Affiliated with the Catholic Institute of Sydney  
Governed by the Canon Law Society of Australia & New Zealand

8 May 2025

## MEDIA RELEASE

On Friday, 9 May 2025, fourteen students – cleric and lay – from Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Singapore and Guam will complete Stage II of the Institute of Tribunal Practice. The students have spent two weeks in classes – usually five each day – learning the practical ministry of being Auditors, Assessors, Advocates and Defenders of the Bond in Tribunals dealing with marriage nullity and dissolution cases.

The Institute of Tribunal Practice was established in 1978 to educate people about the ministry of the Catholic Church, primarily as it pertains to the Church's laws and procedures that pertain to the annulment of marriage through the judicial processes, as well as the non-judicial processes regarding the dissolution of marriage.

The Institute is a two-year program for those who work in Catholic Tribunals. Over the decades, students have attended from Australia, New Zealand, Oceania and Asia. The Institute is now affiliated with the Catholic Institute of Sydney, and governed by the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Students are required to attend a two-week live-in session in both Stages I and II – currently held at St Joseph's Spirituality Centre, Baulkham Hills – followed up by practical assignments in the praxis of the ministry of Tribunals. Upon successful completion of the two-year program, students are awarded the *Certificate of Achievement*, and work in their local Tribunal Offices. Some continue with further studies in Canon Law at ecclesiastical universities such as St Paul University, Ottawa, Canada.

Pope Francis desired to make the Church's ministry of mercy and justice as accessible to people as possible, and the more people who are formally trained in this ministry, the more his desire is put into practice.

This year, nine students attended in person, and five students via Zoom. On Friday, 9 May 2025, after completing classes and the assessment, students will head back to their dioceses to put their knowledge into practical application.

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Director of the Institute  
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Photos on page 2 can be provided in higher quality if required.

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