

EDITORIAL

It is with great sadness that I write this as the last co-author of the Digital Evidence and Electronic Signature Law Review [ISSN 2054-8508 (online)]. After much thought, it has been decided to close the Journal, with this being our last edition.

I wish to acknowledge the significant contribution of Stephen Mason to the Journal. Stephen was the founding editor of the Journal, and his intellectual leadership, foresight and dedication established the publication's scholarly foundations. Stephen's vision has had a lasting influence on the direction, standing, and reputation of the publication. Stephen steered the life of the Journal, having founded the e-Signature Law Journal [ISSN 1744-0882] in 2004, which was renamed the Digital Evidence Journal [ISSN 1750-7200] in 2006, before changing its name in 2014 to what it is today.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Stephen over the years, and to witness the journey digital evidence has taken, particularly over the last 20 years. It is perhaps timely that the Journal retires at this point, given the significant transformation the law is seeing from the advent of artificial intelligence applications, which will no doubt have a fundamental effect on the way in which digital evidence is created, reviewed, presented and analysed. Questions that have been considered by contributors to the Journal will continue to demand answers, albeit in possibly different ways. Questions of provenance and reliability will continue to arise as AI-generated materials proliferate. These developments will demand continued attention from courts, legal practitioners and academics alike and highlight the increasing importance of human legal analysis, which cannot ever be replaced by technological solutions. I will watch with great interest as I continue in legal practice.

I also would like to thank my co-editor Dr Peter Bernard Ladkin, my previous co-editor Dr Jessica Shurson, the Director of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Professor Carl Stychin, the IALS Digital Manager Narayana Harave, members of the editorial board all authors, peer reviewers and administrative staff whose scholarly contributions and commitment have sustained the quality and integrity of this publication over its life. The publication has benefited greatly from the rigour, insight, and collegiality of the legal academic community it has served.

Dr Allison Stanfield, December 2025