



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

GOVERNMENT LAWYER

Newsletter of The Law Society of NSW's Government Solicitors Committee
Number 43, August 2009

- A Day in the Life of...
- Practising Certificate Information for Local Government Lawyers
- Fines Project – Volunteers Sought
- Corporate Pro Bono – New Opportunities for In-house Lawyers
- Excellence in Government Legal Service Award 2009
- John Hennessy Research Scholarship
- 2009 Government Solicitors CLE Conference and Dinner – Program & Registration Form



Chair's Message

By Doug Humphreys
Chair, Government Solicitors Committee

This edition of The Government Lawyer contains significant information on a number of important events.

First, can I draw your attention to the annual Government Lawyers CLE day to be held on Tuesday 15 September. I encourage you to attend. The attached program has been designed to appeal to all government lawyers regardless of their area of practice. It will be an informative and enjoyable day.

In the evening, the annual government solicitors dinner will be held. At the dinner, we will announce the winners of the Excellence Award and the John Hennessy Scholarship. The selection criteria for the Scholarship have been widened this year enabling more projects to be eligible for the \$5000 award. I encourage you to submit nominations for both awards.

This edition contains important information and advice on how government solicitors can undertake pro-bono work. There is also an explanation of the current types of practising certificates available to government and corporate solicitors. A practicing certificate is your licence to practice law. You need to ensure you have the correct certificate for the work that you undertake. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Registry section of the Society who can provide further assistance. Having an unrestricted certificate is a mark of your capacity as a lawyer. It makes you more employable.

Finally, thank you to all those who took the time to answer the questionnaire we sent out. The response was very good. I anticipate that the results will be made public at the conference on the 15th September.

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A Day in the Life of...

Lyndsay Brooker

Manager, Legal Policy Legal Aid NSW

My main role is to give advice to Legal Aid NSW and other government agencies on legal policy, legislative and procedural reform. I manage and undertake the role of Solicitor Legal Aid NSW, i.e. in-house counsel.

Managing the Legal Aid Review Committee Secretariat is another part of my role.

There are five Legal Aid Review Committees which are made up of volunteers nominated by the Attorney General and jointly by the Law Society of NSW and the NSW Bar Association.

In addition there is a community member. The Committees are independent decision-making committees established under the Legal Aid Commission Act 1979 (NSW) to consider appeals against decisions made in respect of applications and grants for legal aid.

Morning: I'm greeted by the daily mountain of emails and phone messages, help required with this..., comments required yesterday on that..., most of them seeking an urgent response. That wouldn't be so bad but on this day the Singapore government delegation, which has provided 2 ½ pages of searching questions about Legal Aid NSW and how it provides assistance to the socially and economically disadvantaged people of New South Wales, is arriving.

My role has been to co-ordinate the responses to questions about policy and how we make grants of legal aid. The PowerPoint presentation needs finalising and the Legal Aid NSW delegates need to receive their final brief.

At the same time a law reform submission has turned up from one of the legal program areas. It needs ruthless editing before going to the Chief Executive Officer for sign off. It has arrived late and must be completed before the end of the day. Thankfully the CEO is on notice of its late arrival and will have time to consider it in the evening.

Before the Singapore delegation arrives though I have to delegate any outstanding urgent questions and

inquiries to my staff. They are extremely helpful and willing which makes my job a lot easier. I wouldn't know what I would do without them.

I need to reschedule my meeting with a postgraduate student who I supervise. I have to ensure that I have the updates from my staff for the weekly executive systems meeting which monitors the progress of the new grants management system and to which I must report on the status of three projects. Fortunately these projects I am responsible for are up to date.

The papers for the monthly Board meeting which have been prepared by the Legal Policy Branch must be finalised in the next couple of days to forward to the Director and CEO for final approval. I need to review one which has just been emailed to me.

The Legal Policy Branch is also working on a large policy project where my team is researching and considering the application of social inclusion principles to determine eligibility for legal aid. A preliminary scoping paper has been prepared. I must review this paper as soon as possible because a briefing note is required by the Chief Executive Officer.

There is lots to do and not much time to do it. I imagine this sounds familiar.

To my relief the executive systems meeting finishes on time. Meanwhile, I've picked up another project which requires coordinating several service areas to provide input into a new delegation proposal. It is, needless to say, urgent and must be finalised before the next systems meeting next week. I will organise the meeting for this later today.

The CEO is with the Singapore delegation so I have time to check the PowerPoint and brief members of staff responding to the Singapore delegation with me.

Midday: The first half of the briefing goes well and we break for lunch with the delegation. During the break I sneak off to review the law reform submission and check my emails, telephone messages and mail.

The second half of the briefing to the Singapore delegation goes over time – they have so many questions! However, it does make us look at our own work with fresh eyes!

Afternoon: The rest of my day is spent finishing the law reform submission and responding to requests for advice about a distribution agreement for an educational film produced for Legal Aid. There is also a subpoena serviced on a staff member to give evidence to deal with. Thankfully I am able to manage these requests promptly and proceed to work on the law reform submission.

Just as I think the afternoon is mine the CEO calls me for an urgent consultation. The CEO wants advice on

litigation Legal Aid is involved in. I meet with him and provide the advice he seeks.

On returning to my office I complete the law reform submission and forward to the CEO. I check emails and phone messages I review the draft board paper sent to me this morning. And finally I commence the review of the social inclusion paper. The topic is exciting and proposes ways forward to identify the people truly in need of legal aid services. A positive ending for the day.

FINES PROJECT – Volunteers Sought

Toongabbie Legal Centre Inc (TLC) is a community legal centre functioning in the Western Sydney area since October 2007. TLC is planning to produce a People's Guide to the NSW Fines Act. There have been many recent changes to the Fines Act regime which makes this project timely.

The concept of this project is to work through focus group meetings in various parts of Sydney and seek views as to what features of the Fines Regime could be better managed from the citizens' point of view. This exercise is not only to produce a People's Guide which will contain various aspects of the regime including guides to valid defence and relevant case law, but will also contribute towards policy development and possible law reform in this area.

Our interest in focusing on this area of public administration arose from several clients who expressed their frustrations with the administration

of the Fines regime, mostly because of their lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities within the framework of this regime. TLC hopes that this project will contribute towards a better awareness of this field of public administration.

TLC proposes to utilise its volunteers and a part-time worker to advance the project. TLC acknowledges the work previously done in this area by other legal centres and will contribute to this body of community knowledge.

In order to guide the project TLC has formed a Reference Group. The Group has met twice and discussed some preliminary issues. This Group will continue to guide the project.

If you are interested either to help in this project or would like to be member of a focus group, please email TLC at:

fines@tlc.asn.au or coordinator@tlc.asn.au
or contact 0417 482 682.

2009 Government Solicitors Committee

Acting-Chair: Mr Doug Humphreys, Administrative Appeals Tribunal Councillor, Law Society of NSW – doug.humphreys@aat.gov.au

Committee Members:

Connie Aloisio	Australian Communication and Media Authority – connie.aloisio@acma.gov.au
Michael Antrum	NSW Police – antr1mic@police.nsw.gov.au
Susai Benjamin	OfSce of State Revenue – susai.benjamin@osr.nsw.gov.au
Lyndsay Brooker	Legal Aid Commission of NSW – lyndsay.brooker@legalaid.nsw.gov.au
Wayne Cooper	WorkCover Authority of NSW – wayne.cooper@workcover.nsw.gov.au
Michael Donohoe	Australian Government Solicitor – michael.donohoe@ags.gov.au
Elizabeth Espinosa	Sutherland Shire Council – eespinosa@ssc.nsw.gov.au
Michelle Gardiner	Attorney General's Department – michelle.gardiner@agd.nsw.gov.au
Adam Johnston	NSW Ombudsman – adamdj1@optusnet.com.au
Blaise Lyons	Department of Health – blyon@doh.health.nsw.gov.au
Greg Ross	Shaw Reynolds Bowen & Gerathy – greg.ross@srbg.com.au
Brad Row	Crown Solicitor's OfSce, NSW – brad_row@agd.nsw.gov.au
David Thomson	Department of Public Prosecutions (Cth) – david.thomson@cdpp.gov.au
Hau Wong	Attorney General's Department – hau_wong@agd.nsw.gov.au
Executive Officer:	Sarah Sherborne-Higgins – ssh@lawsocnsw.asn.au

Practising Certificate Information for Local Government Lawyers

Law Society Registry

Solicitors employed by local Councils are issued with 'Corporate/Non-Lawyer Entity' practising certificates whereas solicitors employed by the State or Commonwealth Government are issued with 'Government' practising certificates

The differentiation in certificate types arises from the Fidelity Fund provisions in the Legal Profession Act 2004. Section 430 (7) provides that a Fidelity Fund contribution is not required to be made by solicitors employed by the Crown or a 'prescribed corporation'. State and Commonwealth government solicitors are solicitors employed by the Crown whereas local government solicitors are not. Also, local councils are not "prescribed corporations".

Local councils were previously treated as corporations but amendments to section 220 of the Local Government Act now provide that a local council is not a body corporate, but rather a "body politic":

220 Legal status of a council

(1) A council is a body politic of the State with perpetual succession and the legal capacity and powers of an individual, both in and outside the State.

- (2) A council is not a body corporate (including a corporation).
- (3) A council does not have the status, privileges and immunities of the Crown (including the State and the Government of the State).
- (4) A law of the State applies to and in respect of a council in the same way as it applies to and in respect of a body corporate (including a corporation).

Accordingly, local government solicitors are issued with 'Corporate/non-lawyer entity' practising certificates as the body politic would be a 'non-lawyer entity' for practising certificate purposes.

The practising certificate rights associated with both Corporate/Non-lawyer entity practising certificates and Government practising certificates are the same i.e both are entitled to engage in legal practice for their employer. They are not entitled to provide legal services to third parties other than in accordance with the provision of volunteer services under specific conditions. The practising certificate definitions are as follows:

"Any holder of a practising certificate granted by the Council of the Law Society of New South Wales is entitled to engage in legal practice in New South Wales as a volunteer providing pro bono legal services through a law practice or under an arrangement approved by the Council of the Law Society."

UNRESTRICTED Government

The holder is entitled to engage in legal practice as a solicitor in the course of employment by the New South Wales or Commonwealth government or a prescribed corporation.

UNRESTRICTED Corporate & Non Lawyer Entity

The holder is entitled to engage in legal practice as a solicitor in the course of employment by a corporation (other than an incorporated legal practice) or a non-lawyer entity.

RESTRICTED Government

The holder is entitled to engage in supervised legal practice as a solicitor in the course of employment by the New South Wales or Commonwealth government or a prescribed corporation.

RESTRICTED Corporate & Non Lawyer Entity

The holder is entitled to engage in supervised legal practice as a solicitor in the course of employment by a corporation (other than an incorporated legal practice) or a non-lawyer entity. "

Corporate Pro Bono: New Opportunities for In-house Lawyers

Nicolas Patrick, Pro Bono Director, DLA Phillips Fox

Nicolas Patrick is the Pro Bono Director at DLA Phillips Fox. Nicolas' other current roles include Chairman of Redfern Legal Centre, advisory board member to the Human Rights Law Resource Centre, founder and current Chair of the Pro Bono Animal Law Service, Board member of the Legal Information Access Centre and Executive Member of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights. Nicolas played a substantial role in the establishment of the National Pro Bono Professional Indemnity Scheme referred to in this article and can be contacted at nicolas.patrick@dlaphillipsfox.com.

Lawyers have a privileged position in society. We also have important responsibilities: to ensure that everyone is able to access legal advice and to contribute to the administration of justice. There is also a moral imperative for a commitment to pro bono, since lawyers have the capacity to assist people in a meaningful and life-changing way. This imperative and responsibility applies to all lawyers, including in-house and government lawyers.

While pro bono work should always be undertaken for the benefit of the client and the community, investment in pro bono may deliver business benefits to an organisation. The business case for pro bono may include: improved legal staff recruitment and retention; increased employee engagement; broader professional experience; improved reputation and profile; a tangible legal-team contribution to an organisation's broader CSR strategy; and the practical demonstration of an organisation's values.

Until recently, in most States it has not been possible for lawyers working in-house to provide pro bono services to the community. Recent changes to professional indemnity insurance and practising certificates now enable all lawyers to perform pro bono work.

Pro Bono and Professional Indemnity Insurance Issues

Before undertaking any pro bono work it is important to ensure that appropriate professional indemnity insurance is in place. If you are not covered by appropriate insurance, you will be placing your client, and yourself at risk, and you will almost certainly be operating outside the requirements of your practising certificate. For lawyers working in-house or in government, there are presently three insurance options available.

First, a lawyer may undertake pro bono work by volunteering at a Community Legal Centre (CLC). All CLCs have insurance in place. It is common to find in-house and government lawyers volunteering their time at the many CLCs around Australia. In general, whenever a lawyer volunteers at a CLC, the work is covered by the professional indemnity insurance held by the CLC.¹

Second, a lawyer may undertake pro bono work which is covered by the professional indemnity insurance held by the lawyer's employer. However, it is important to note that most lawyers working in-house or in government roles do not have professional indemnity insurance which covers advice given to clients other than their employer, or at all. ACLA has, since 2007, encouraged its members to obtain professional indemnity insurance.² The policy promoted by ACLA and insurance broker Marsh specifically includes cover for pro bono work undertaken by lawyers covered by the policy. Lawyers working in-house who have professional indemnity cover in place should check the terms of the policy to see whether pro bono work will be covered.

Corporate Pro Bono: New Opportunities for In-house Lawyers

Third, in instances where no other form of insurance cover is in place, lawyers wishing to undertake pro bono work may obtain free cover under the new National Pro Bono Professional Indemnity Insurance Scheme (the Policy) which is held by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre (NPBRC). The Policy has been designed specifically to facilitate the involvement of in-house and government lawyers in pro bono work.

A lawyer making an application for cover must hold, or must be eligible to hold an unrestricted or principal practising certificate. Only the lawyer who will be supervising the pro bono project needs to apply for cover. The names of other lawyers in the legal team can be added to a single application form. The application form will be available for download from the website of the NPBRC from 1 July 2009.

In order to obtain cover, the proposed pro bono project should meet the Law Council definition. Specifically, the work must be undertaken free of charge. The work must be for a charity or community organisation, or for a client who has no other access to the legal system, or whose matter raises a wider issue of public interest. Prior to making application, the lawyer seeking cover must have a specific proposal for the pro bono project being contemplated. Cover under the Policy will not be made available in circumstances where the proposed pro bono work does not meet the accepted definition of pro bono.

Following a successful application for cover under the policy, the names of the lawyers included in the application will be added to the Policy schedule. Work on the pro bono project should not commence until the applicant has received confirmation from the NPBRC that the cover has been approved. By accessing the policy, lawyers take on minimal reporting and disclosure obligations, including a responsibility to notify the NPBRC of any claim or potential claim.

The Policy itself is issued by LawCover Insurance Pty Limited and is held by the NPBRC. The Policy is broadly the same as that which covers all NSW solicitors in private practise³. The Policy provides cover of \$2,000,000 on any claim. Importantly, the NPBRC will pay the premium on any claim.

Practising Certificates

All lawyers undertaking pro bono work which involves the giving of legal advice or providing legal representation must hold a practising certificate.

Conditions placed on practising certificates vary from State to State. In most jurisdictions, there has historically been a restriction placed on corporate and government practising certificates, which limited the holder to providing advice only to their employer. All such restrictions are designed to ensure that no advice is given where there is no appropriate professional indemnity insurance.

In New South Wales the Law Society has recently varied the conditions with respect to all classes of practising certificates, to enable all "practising certificate holders ...to engage in legal practice as volunteers providing pro-bono legal services...covered by professional indemnity insurance..."⁴

In Victoria, lawyers holding a corporate, government or volunteer practising certificate may undertake pro bono work as a volunteer at a Community Legal Centre, and it is anticipated that in due course such lawyers will also be able to perform pro bono work by accessing the professional indemnity insurance policy held by the NPBRC.

Many lawyers working in-house and in government roles do not hold practising certificates. In some jurisdictions, volunteer practising certificates are available for such lawyers. For example, the Law Institute of Victoria offers a free volunteer practising certificate for eligible lawyers wishing to undertake pro bono work⁵. The take-up of the volunteer practising certificate includes corporate and government lawyers, as well as retired lawyers or those working in non-legal occupations. The Queensland Law Society also issues volunteer practising certificates⁶. Unfortunately, in New South Wales no volunteer practising certificate is currently available⁷.

Setting up your own pro bono project

Overseas, and particularly in the United States, many in-house legal teams have established their own successful pro bono projects.⁸ Before establishing a pro bono project it is important to consider the following:

Is there institutional support for pro bono within the legal team and within the organisation generally?

If not, it will be important to address the lack of support before establishing a pro bono project.

At a minimum you will require the support of the lawyers who will be involved in the project. From a client service delivery perspective, it is important that the lawyers participating in the delivery of pro bono services are doing so voluntarily.

What skills exist in the legal team, and can those skills be matched to an identified legal need in the community?

CASE STUDY: A multi-national IT/software company based in the Silicon Valley employs a team of immigration lawyers to move employees between the company's various bases in the United States and India. The legal team has very deep expertise in immigration law and a passion for human rights and social justice. The legal team enters into a partnership with a peak refugee advocacy group which refers unrepresented asylum seekers to the legal team for advice and representation on a pro bono basis.

CASE STUDY: A major chain of fast-food restaurants employs a legal team at its head office to deal mainly with property matters relating to its portfolio of commercial properties. A number of the legal team have previously worked in large commercial firms where they have participated in regular pro bono work through the firm's pro bono program. The lawyers draft a pro bono policy for the corporate legal team which proposes that each lawyer will be permitted to spend up to 3% of their time on pro bono matters. The policy is approved by the General Counsel. The corporate legal team join the Public Interest Law Clearing House and indicate a willingness to accept the referral of property law matters. During the first 12 months the legal team is offered 10 referrals from the clearing house. Due to capacity constraints the legal accepts 6 of the referrals. The matters referred include repossession matters where children were at risk of homeless, and lease advices for charities and not-for-profit organisations.

Is there a legal need that could be met by up-skilling the legal team in an area relevant to pro bono practise?

CASE STUDY: The General Counsel at an investment bank is a strong advocate of corporate social responsibility and wants the legal team to be a role model for the rest of the bank in making a meaningful and positive, skills-based contribution to the community. He speaks to his legal staff and confirms their willingness to participate in pro bono work. He then contacts the Director of Pro Bono Services at a law firm that provides the bank with commercial advice and discusses pro bono partnering opportunities. After consulting with his legal team about the options suggested by the firm, the bank decides to partner with the law firm on a homeless persons' legal clinic, which operates at lunchtime on Fridays from a CBD homeless shelter. As part of the project, the law firm delivers training to the bank's lawyers on various aspects of poverty law, including housing, welfare, fines and small debt matters.

CASE STUDY: A telecommunications company has a community program which focuses on supporting animal welfare. The legal team is asked by the company's CSR Director to consider ways that it could contribute to the company's community program. The lawyers believe their contribution should be through pro bono, since there is substantial unmet legal need in the community. The legal team meets with the Pro Bono Animal Law Service and indicates a willingness to accept referrals of pro bono matters. As a part of the project, the lawyers attend animal law conferences, join professional organisations, such as Lawyers for Animals, and are funded to attend animal law seminars. The legal team develop substantial skills in this emerging area of the law and become recognised as experts in this field.

How will we access pro bono clients?

As is apparent from the case studies above, many successful pro bono projects are partnerships between in-house lawyers and law firms or community based organisations working at the coal-face that have direct access to people in need of legal assistance.

Collaboration is a key ingredient to undertaking successful pro bono work.

In some States, public interest law clearing houses have been established. Most are member-based organisations, and most already have corporate legal department members. Such clearing houses can provide immediate access to pro bono referrals, established pro bono projects and expertise.

Overseas, in-house legal teams have successfully partnered with law firms on pro bono projects.⁹ Many large legal firms in Australia have well established pro bono practices and some law firms are likely to be willing to provide opportunities to involve the legal teams of their corporate clients.

What will it cost?

It is often the case that pro bono work requires a small financial investment in addition to an investment of time.

The types of expenses will include travel costs, disbursements on pro bono matters such as travel, copying costs, filing fees, etc. The costs will depend upon the nature of the project or the matters that you undertake.

Even though costs are likely to be minimal, it is important to understand the extent to which your organisation is able to provide funding to facilitate pro bono work. This may impact the types of matters that you are able to take on.

Further information

Further information regarding pro bono opportunities for in-house and government lawyers can be found at:

The National Pro Bono Resource Centre

www.nationalprobono.org.au

The DLA Phillips Fox In-House Legal Counsel Pro Bono Guide

www.dlaphillipsfox.com

Examples of in-house pro bono projects in the United States

www.corporateprobono.org

1 See for example, Legal Services Board of Victoria website <http://www.lsb.vic.gov.au/CLCs.htm>

2 See Australian Corporate Lawyers Association website <http://www.acla.com.au/WhatsNew/tabid/65/Default.aspx>

3 A copy of the Policy will be available on the website of the NPBRC from 1 July 2009.

4 Resolution of the Council of the New South Wales Law Society dated 19 February 2009.

5 Law Institute of Victoria website <http://www.liv.asn.au/regulation/practising/practising-Types.html>

6 Part 2 rule 15A Queensland Law Society Administration Rule 2005 at <http://www.qls.com.au/content/lwp/wcm/resources/file/eb7d0b1cc95fb/qsl-administration-rule-v17-Apr09.pdf>

7 Law Society of New South Wales, Practising Certificate Types and Conditions 2008/9 at http://www.lawsociety.com.au/uploads/files/1214867775810_0.8166881375152128.pdf

8 See for example CorporateProBono.org website

www.corporateprobono.org

See for example www.dlapiperprobono.com/commitment/partnering/

Excellence in Government Legal Service Award 2009

Since 1992 the Law Society of New South Wales' Government Solicitors Committee has been administering the Excellence Award in Government Legal Service which recognises the outstanding achievements of public sector solicitors. The award is given to a solicitor or legal team who has performed 'above and beyond the call of duty'.

Lawyers employed in New South Wales by Commonwealth, New South Wales or Local Governments are eligible for nomination for the 2009 Excellence in Government Legal Service Award if their legal work:

- makes a contribution to the community that is worthy of notice
- enhances the standing of the government legal service
- contributes to good government

The Award is presented at the Annual Government Solicitors' Dinner which will be held this year on Tuesday, 15 September 2009.

Nominations are now open for the 2009 Excellence Award. You can nominate your own work or that of a colleague or staff member.

Please contact Sarah Sherborne-Higgins at the Law Society of New South Wales on telephone 02-9926 0354 or email ssh@lawsocnsw.asn.au for an Excellence Award package containing a nomination form, as well as the rules and conditions for the 2009 selection criteria.

The closing date for nominations is Friday 28 August 2009.

John Hennessy Research Scholarship

The John Hennessy Research Scholarship has been established by the Government Solicitors Committee to support public sector solicitors to undertake a research project into legal systems in another jurisdiction and to make recommendations for the improvement of the legal system in NSW. The scholarship is an 'occasional scholarship' that will be offered from time to time and covers travel and other approved expenses to the value of \$5,000.

Who Can Apply?

All NSW based Government and local Government solicitors holding a current NSW practising certificate who are members of the Law Society of New South Wales.

Applications

Applications should include a Curriculum Vitae, the names and contact details of two referees, a description of the research project (including a brief estimate on costing), to be funded in full or in part by the Scholarship. All applications must be typed.

Applications should include:

- the relevance and potential benefit of the project to the legal system in NSW
- the potential for the project to produce improvements in the operation of the legal system in NSW
- the budget outline/cost feasibility and timetable for the proposal
- experience and interest in the area which is the subject of the application
- the Project Sponsor's details
- a brief statement by the sponsor on the research project which should confirm support.

Referees

The applicant must include the names, addresses, telephone and facsimile numbers of two (2) referees as well as the name and consent of the project sponsor (see below).

Project Report

The successful applicant is required to submit a final project report (of around 1000 words) to the GSC not later than six months after the grant of the scholarship with a view to publication in the Law Society Journal and/or the 'Government Lawyer' Newsletter.

The final report should make recommendations to improve the operations of the 'sponsor' Government legal department and/or the legal system in NSW.

Project Sponsor

Each applicant must have a project sponsor within the Government (including local Government) legal sector in NSW.

The role of the project sponsor is:

- to assess the usefulness of the project to the particular public sector department/s, and/or to the NSW legal system (to be attached to the application);
- to provide the applicant with assistance and support where necessary, in completing the project; and
- to document the assessment in a one page report which is to be attached to the final project report.

Lodgement of Application

Applications are to be lodged no later than close of business on Monday 31 August 2009. It is anticipated that any successful applicants will be announced in conjunction with the Government Solicitors Conference Dinner.

Please forward applications to:

Sarah Sherborne-Higgins
Government Solicitors' Committee
Law Society of New South Wales
170 Phillip Street
Sydney NSW 2000
[OR to DX 362 Sydney]

Government Solicitor's – CLE Conference & Dinner

NSW Parliament House (ground floor theatrette)

Tuesday 15 September 2009

PROGRAM

Time	Speaker	Event Seminar	
9:00am – 9:30am		Registration	
9:30am – 9:45am	Doug Humphreys Chair, Government Solicitors' Committee	Welcome	Session 1
9:45am – 10:00am	The Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC Attorney General	Open Conference and Keynote Speaker	
10:00am – 10:45am	Paul Monaghan Senior Ethics Solicitor, Law Society of NSW	Ethics for Lawyers: <i>Myth or Fact</i>	
10:45am – 11:15am	Morning Tea		
11:15am – 12:00pm	Professor Trevor Waring Chancellor, University of Newcastle	Mental Health for Lawyers	Session 2
12:00pm – 12:45pm	David Bennett AC QC Barrister, Former Commonwealth Solicitor-General	Statutory Interpretation	
12:45pm – 1:45pm	Lunch		
1:45pm – 2:45pm	Richard Funston Executive Director Planning, Policy and Grants, Legal Aid NSW Michael Antrum General Counsel, NSW Police Force	Managing your external lawyers	Session 3
2:45pm – 3:15pm	Jennifer Mason Director General, Department of Community Services	Dealing with the Minister's Office	
3:15pm – 3:45pm	The Hon. Justice Garry Downes AM QC President, Administrative Appeals Tribunal	Decision making in the public sector: Getting it right	
3:45pm – 4:15pm	Afternoon Tea		
4:15pm – 5:00pm	Chris Wheeler Deputy Ombudsman	Apologies, liability and the public sector	Session 4
5:00pm	Close		
		5.5 CLE points	

GOVERNMENT LAWYERS ANNUAL DINNER / NSW Parliament House (Strangers' Dining Room)

Time	Event	Speaker
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Pre-Dinner Drinks	
6:30pm – 7:00pm	Entree	
7:00pm – 7:20pm	Presentation of the Awards	
7:20pm - 8:30pm	Dinner	
8:30pm - 9:00pm	After Dinner Speaker	The Hon. Justice Margaret Beazley AO
9:45pm	Close	

Government Solicitor's – CLE Conference & Dinner

NSW Parliament House (ground floor theatrette)

Tuesday 15 September 2009

REGISTRATION FORM ABN 98 696 304 966 Fax (02) 9231 5809 DX362 Sydney

Name: _____ Law Society I.D.: _____
 Department: _____
 Address: (DX preferred) _____
 E-mail: _____ Tel No: _____

I wish to attend

Member CLE conference only (\$143.00) Non-Member CLE conference only (\$155.00)
 Dinner only (\$67.00) Dinner only (\$75.00)
 CLE conference & dinner (\$210.00) CLE conference & dinner (\$230.00)
 Plus Partner for dinner (+ \$67.00) Plus Partner for dinner (+ \$75.00)

Special Requirements (Dietary etc.) _____

My partner will/will not attend the dinner. His/her name is: _____

Please debit my credit card: \$ _____ AMEX MasterCard Visa Bankcard

Card number: Expiry Date: _____

Name on card: _____ Cardholder's signature: _____

OR: I enclose a cheque/s for: \$ _____ OR: Please send Tax Invoice requesting payment for: \$ _____

(Cheques to be made payable to The Law Society of New South Wales)
 All charges include GST and a Tax Invoice will be issued, to the address shown above, after the conference. If you want the tax invoice (and/or a separate tax invoice for dinner costs) sent to your home address please specify and include your private address:

For corporate seminar packages, where attendees are rotated on the one ticket with only one officer in attendance per session, please indicate the various names below against the sessions to be attended:

Time	Seminar	Attendee – please complete
9:30am – 9:45am	Welcome address: Doug Humphreys, Chair Government Solicitors Committee	Session 1
9:45am – 10:00am	Opening address and Keynote Speaker The Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC, Attorney General	
10:00am – 10:45am	Ethics for Lawyers: <i>Myth or Fact</i>	
10:45am – 11:15am	Morning Tea	
11:15am – 12:00pm	Mental Health for Lawyers	Session 2
12:00am – 12:45pm	Statutory Interpretation	
12:45pm – 1:45pm	Lunch	
1:45pm – 2:45pm	Panel: Managing your External Lawyers	Session 3
2:45pm – 3:15pm	Dealing with the Minister's Office	
3:15pm – 3:45pm	Decision making in the public sector: <i>getting it right</i>	
3:45pm – 4:15pm	Afternoon Tea	
4:15pm – 5:00pm	Apologies and the public sector	Session 4

To complete your registration online please go to <http://eshop.lawsociety.com.au/> and click on 'CLE Seminars'. Otherwise please print this form and forward to Sarah Sherborne-Higgins, Law Society, DX 362 Sydney, 170 Phillip Street Sydney 2000, facsimile (02) 9231 5809 or e-mail to ssh@lawsocnsw.asn.au. For any other queries please contact Sarah Sherborne-Higgins on (02) 9926 0354 or e-mail ssh@lawsocnsw.asn.au. If you would like to book a corporate table of up to 8 for dinner, please state this clearly and attach a list of the persons to be included at the table. N.B.: Where a cancellation is received less than 48 hours prior to the start of the CLE Conference, the full price of attendance will be due. A refund must be requested in writing, and a cancellation fee of \$10.00 may be charged or deducted from the registration fee where cancellation is advised within 7 days of the CLE Conference.



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