Monday Briefs | 20 February 2012 | Issue 365
A weekly update on regulatory changes, events and information relevant to the legal profession

MONDAY BRIEFS

THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

This week: Enduring Guardianship and the Private Guardian Support; Family Violence and Commonwealth Laws update.

Click for the online version

Previous issues

Workplace wellbeing

A positive workplace culture is pivotal to the success of any legal practice; providing support to achieve this is an ongoing priority for the Law Society of New South Wales.

The Law Society offers a number of programs to help you manage the day-to-day pressures of practice. Our Wellbeing seminar series is proving to be one of the most successful, proactively engaging solicitors and encouraging the development of a healthy work/life balance.

This year's program has been broadened to give greater focus on topics introduced in the first two modules: The Lawyers Guide to Sanity Profitability & Wellbeing. Seminars include information on how to recognise mental health issues and stay well at work, develop effective strategies for challenging situations and improve communication.

These free seminars are held in co-ordination with regional law societies throughout the State. I encourage you and your colleagues to support the program and attend the series.

Practitioners needing personal assistance can access confidential support services.

Justin Dowd, President 2012

NEWS

> Enduring Guardianship and the Private Guardian Support Unit

The NSW Public Guardian, part of the NSW Attorney General's department, recently released a revised booklet on Enduring Guardianship. The updated version includes new forms for appointing, revoking or resigning an appointment of enduring guardian and information on the new provision of including NSW Trustee and Guardian (trained) staff as eligible witnesses. Further details on this update.

> Family Violence and Commonwealth Laws update

The Australian Law Reform Commission has released its second report addressing family violence, Family Violence and Commonwealth Laws - Improving Legal Frameworks (ALRC 117, 2011). Together with its first family violence report in 2010, the

Specialist Accreditation 2012/13 Reaccreditation

Current Accredited Specialists should have

two reports provide 289 recommendations for reform, amounting to a major contribution to the Australian Government's agenda to improve the safety of all who experience family violence.

> Mary Macken awarded French Knighthood
We would like to congratulate former Law Society President, Mary Macken on being awarded the French Legion d'Honneur. The decision to award this honour came from French President , Nicholas Sarkozy, in recognition of her dedication to developing amicable relations between France and Australia. The medal will be presented in March in Noumea.

> Short term staffing solutions
The Law Society has a panel of qualified locums throughout NSW who may be suited to fill a gap in staffing, cover additional workloads or work on special cases or projects. Find out more information about this Locum service.

> Legal Support Training update
The Family Law Procedures course on 21 March covers all the administrative processes involved in Divorce, Parenting Orders and other Family Law disputes. Court structures and common terminology is also covered with a strong focus on dealing with emotional clients and privacy.

The Small Firms - Customer Service course on 23 April offers an overview of the NSW legal system, common terms, dealing with difficult clients, time management and prioritising.

received a renewal form for the 2012/2013 Scheme. Forms must be returned by 1 April 2012. More information on renewing your Specialist Accreditation.

The Lawyers Guide to Sanity, Profitability and Wellbeing
These one day seminars will help practitioners improve their mental health and wellbeing, form better decisions and more positive outcomes while managing the pressures of practice. More information on these wellbeing events.

> Reminder: regional support - attracting the right graduates
The Graduate Employment and Summer Clerkship Programs administered by the Law Society include nine law schools based in regional NSW. The programs are available to all regional law firms particularly in the regions of Blue Mountains, Far North Coast, Nepean/Hawkesbury, Newcastle, North & North West, Shoalhaven, Southern Tablelands and Wollongong. To participate in either the graduate employment or summer clerkship programs click here. Contact Bridget Sordo on ph: 9926 0344 or Bridget.Sordo@lawsociety.com.au for more information.

Media Updates
February 2012

10 Australia's first Indigenous Federal Magistrate welcomed (Federal Attorney General)
10 Acknowledging the work of President Branson (Federal Attorney General)
10 Reports highlight risks of money laundering and terrorism financing (Federal Attorney General)
14 NSW bikie laws to be fixed (NSW Attorney General)

LEGAL & POLICY

Submissions - Law Council of Australia

> Proposed Amendments to the Corporations Act (2527)
> Supplementary Submission to Inquiry into Crimes Legislation Amendment (Powers and Offences) Bill 2011
> Modernising the Taxation of Trust Income: Options for Reform - Discussion Paper

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Links to:

Law Society CPD

Seminars

February

23 Practical tools for seeking judicial review of Compensation Tribunal decisions – Advanced

March

05 Rule 42 Half Day Seminar for Government Lawyers
13 Getting the best out of s34 and s34AA conferences in the Land and Environment Court – Advanced
23 Rule 42 Half Day Seminar: Launch of the Small Practice Portal

Young Lawyers CLE

Seminars

February

21 Recent developments in strata title and expert evidence
22 Private international law problems in succession
25 Annual One Day CLE Seminar – Criminal Law
29 Basic costs principles and solicitors' obligations

March

01 Reading plans 101: analysing surveys, shadow diagrams and architectural plans
03 Annual One Day CLE Seminar – Employment & Industrial Relations Law
06 Case studies on ethics

College of Law

Seminars

February

21 The ABC of Will Drafting
21 Developments in Motor Vehicle Accident Law
22 How to Handle Intense Emotional Situations and Clients
23 The Allens Arthur Robinson Competition Law Fest
23 The Nuts and Bolts of Family Law
23 Regulation 176: Legal Profession Regulation 2005 (webconference)
24 The Art of Letter Writing and Advices
27 Drafting Effective Pleadings

Full range of available Rule 42 and Reg 176 seminars

Centre for Best Practice: Unrestricted Practising Certificate - Sole Practitioners Course – 9, 10 and 17 Mar.

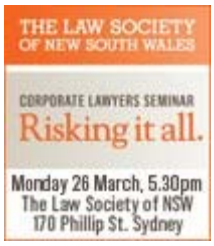
EVENTS

Law Society events

Risking it All seminar

26 March

Due to high demand, the Corporate Lawyers Committee is hosting a second ethics seminar for members, Risking it All. This free seminar includes an exclusive film followed by a panel discussion focussing on crisis situations and decision making at key moments.



Regional law societies

New listings:
> Parramatta & District Law Society: CLE Dinner, 27 Mar, 5:30pm, Lighthouse Restaurant

Reminders:
> City of Sydney Law Society, :The Personal Property & Security Act – background, principles & examples, 22 Feb, 5:30pm. Sydney
> Eastern Suburbs Law Society: Reg'n 176 Dinner Seminar, 22 Feb, 6pm, Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club
> Far North Coast Law Society: Annual February CLE, 24 & 25 Feb, Mantra on Salt Beach, Kingscliff

See the Law Society's online CLE & Events Calendar for all current regional events.

Rural, regional and remote vacancies: Family Law Solicitor, Darwin based.

The legal community

2011 Family Law amendments and family violence: has parliament finally got it right?
22 February, Sydney Law School (Camperdown). Part of the Distinguished Speakers Program.

Immigration Lawyers Association of Australasia conference, Law Council of Australia, 9 - 10 March, Sydney,

Understanding kinship: Indigenous people and law, 13 March, Sydney Law School. See why Aboriginal people face particular problems when interacting with the Australian legal system.

The Mahla Pearlman Oration, Environment and Planning Law Association (NSW), 29 March, State Library of NSW. This inaugural event honours the career, contribution and memory of Mahla Pearlman.

The CLA Regional Law Conference, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, 19 - 22 April 2012, Sydney. The Changing Role of the Legal Profession: Emerging Democracies & Globalisation.

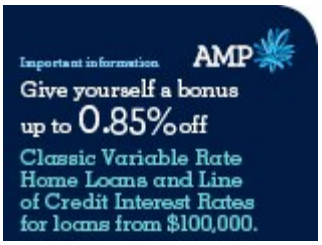
12th Annual Dispute Resolution Board Foundation Conference, 3-5 May, Sydney. Hosted for the first time in Australia. Law Society members can attend the conference and workshop (both attracting CPD points) at discounted DRBF member prices.

Also see the Law Society website for current events previously listed in Monday Briefs.

SERVICES & SUPPORT

Special member offer from AMP Bank

The Law Society of NSW and AMP Bank gives members benefits* on banking products including:



Up to 0.85% pa off Classic Variable Rate Home Loans and Line of Credit Interest Rates for loans from $100,000.

- No Establishment Fee, no Annual Fees.

Call AMP Bank on 1300 360 525 Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm, (Sydney time) or visit www.amp.com.au/lawsocietyhomeloan

*Terms and conditions

Enjoy Free Fridays at Fitness First in February^

Are your New Year's resolutions still on track? It's not too late to make it happen. Get moving with a free workout every Friday during February and enjoy 15% off your membership fee. Take advantage of the great facilities like cosmic cycle studio, cardio theatre, exercise entertainment, weight training areas and group exercise classes.

Access your free guest pass. Offer ends 29 February 2012.

^Terms and conditions apply

Law Society Counselling Services for solicitors

The Law Society promotes access to confidential, free counselling services:

> The Lawyers Assistance Program (LAP) is available to any solicitor experiencing practice or personal issues. Call 1800 777 662 or visit www.lap.com.au.

> The Members Assistance Program (MAP) is a service for Law Society members and their families. Call 1300 360 364 or visit www.davcorp.com.au.

Quick links | Young Lawyers | Seek Legal Jobs | Precedents | Member Connexions

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THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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