

THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES **youngLAWYERS**

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE'S WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR WEEK BEGINNING TUESDAY 21 July 2009

WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that we formally commence our role as Co-Secretaries of the NSWYL Human Rights Committee. We feel tremendously privileged to be given this opportunity and are looking forward to working closely with Claire and Carolina and engaging with each of the Human Rights Committee members and Working Groups over the coming months.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Secretary, Viviane, for her encouragement and support over the past weeks and for all that she has contributed to the Human Rights Committee during her time as Secretary. Viviane has set a tremendous precedent and left us with some very big shoes to fill!

As mentioned in last week's Bulletin, we can be contacted on the same email address:
hrc.secretary@younglawyers.com.au .

Please feel free to contact us at anytime with any enquiries, or if you wish to make a contribution to the weekly Bulletin.

Kind regards,

Ruth Hudson and Alison Ewart

MESSAGES

A Message from our Chair

Dear Members,

It is with much excitement this week that the Human Rights Committee welcomes on board our two new secretaries, Ruth Hudson and Alison Ewart, who amongst other activities will take on Vivien's previous task of compiling and editing our weekly bulletin. It is also with much pleasure this week that I direct everyone to the Human Rights Committee's new website at:

<http://www.lawsociety.com.au/about/YoungLawyers/Committees/HumanRights/index.htm>.

Our new website is part of a wider overhaul by NSW Young Lawyers of its website and the websites of its various committees to implement a greater degree of uniformity and an overall more professional look. I encourage everyone to have a look at our new website and provide your feedback to me. What do you like about the new website? What do you think could be improved? Are there any additional features you would like to see incorporated? Your comments are highly valued.

In other news, the Human Rights Committee will next month jointly host a Game Show Trivia Night at the Menzies Hotel with the Employment & Industrial Law Committee and International Law Committee. Please have a read of the details of this event below in the bulletin. All proceeds from the event will go to ACON, the Aids Council of New South Wales, who is the Law Society's 2009 President Charity. Thank you to Heidi Fairhall and Aaron Allegretto of the Employment & Industrial Law Committee for inviting the Human Rights Committee to take part in this event. If you would like to join one of the Human Rights Committee trivia teams, please email me. We are also looking for a couple of volunteers to assist on the evening and are in the process of seeking sponsorship and/or prizes for the event. If you are able to assist with any of these tasks, please email me at: hrc.chair@younglawyers.com.au. As always, your help is very much appreciated!

Kind regards,

Claire Hammerton

Take action – Call to Premier Rees and Minister Burn to act on Inquiry recommendations

In last week's Bulletin the Human Rights Committee welcomed the release of the final report of the NSW Parliament Law and Justice Committee regarding 'Adoption by same-sex couples'. The final report can be accessed at:

[http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/c81be8593a9fec64ca2575ed000e043f/\\$FILE/090703%20Final%20Compiled%20-%20Adoption%20report.pdf](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parliament/committee.nsf/0/c81be8593a9fec64ca2575ed000e043f/$FILE/090703%20Final%20Compiled%20-%20Adoption%20report.pdf)

In summary, the core recommendations to arise from this report were:

- 1) Same sex-couples be allowed equal access to apply for adoption as a couple;
- 2) Same sex-couples be given equal access to step-parent adoption provisions that already exist;
and
- 3) The introduction of a second-parent adoption mechanism that will allow same-sex couples to have their parent-child relationship legally recognised.

The NSWYL Human Rights Committee has been particularly active with regard to this issue and we encourage all members to contact Premier Nathan Rees and the Minister for Community Services, Linda Burney, to urge them to take up the recommendations.

Committee members can take action on this issue via the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby (GLRL) website at: <http://glrl.org.au/index.php/Take-Action/Current-Campaigns/>

UPCOMING EVENTS & CLE (NSWYL)

Young Lawyers CLE Seminars in July

NSW Young Lawyers will be presenting a number of seminars throughout the remainder of July. In particular, the third seminar listed below may be of particular interest to HRC members:

▪ Defamation through the Back Door – Unconventional ways of seeking Compensation for Defamation and the Plaintiff's case – Online Defamation

When: Wednesday 22 July 2009
Time: 5.30 - 7.30pm
Where: Level 9, Phillip Street, Sydney
Who: Sophie Dawson (Partner, Blake Dawson) & Felicity Dougherty (Lawyer, Blake Dawson)

▪ **The Evolution of Breach of confidence and implications for the Media and UK and EU Privacy Developments: Should the (TABLOID) Media in Australia be worried?**

When: Wednesday 29 July 2009
Time: 5.30 - 7.30pm
Where: Level 9, Phillip Street, Sydney
Who: Ian McGill (Partner – Allens Arthur Robinson) and Anne Flahvin (Senior Associate, Baker & McKenzie)

▪ **The Constitutional Licence for Laws of Control: Terrorists and Bikies**

When: Tuesday 28 July 2009
Time: 1.00pm-2.00pm
Where: Level 9, Phillip Street, Sydney
Who: Ian McGill (Partner – Allens Arthur Robinson) and Anne Flahvin (Senior Associate, Baker & McKenzie)

HRC members can **register for YL CLE Seminars online** at:
<http://eshop.lawsociety.com.au/index.php/events/seminars.html>

NSWYL Trivia Night

In August, the Human Rights Committee, in collaboration with the Employment & Industrial Law Committee and International Law Committee will host a Game Show Trivia Night (see also attached brochure):

Where: Menzies Hotel: Sporters Bar,
14 Carrington Street, Sydney (near Wynyard Station)
When: 6pm (sharp), *Thursday, 13 August 2009*
Theme: Game Show Trivia Night
Cost: \$15pp or \$10 (students) - includes entry, drink on entry and nibbles - bargain!
Charity: All Proceeds from this event will go to ACON (<http://www.acon.org.au>)
Teams: 4-5 people (However no teams are necessary)

If you would like join one of the Human Rights Committee trivia teams, please email Claire Hammerton at hrc.chair@younglawyers.com.au to be included.

Otherwise, please RSVP by **7 August 2009** to aaron.allegretto@lgsa.org.au (with subject line – TRIVIA)

REMINDERS FROM PREVIOUS BULLETINS (NSWYL events and messages)

FREE SEMINAR: Recognising Indigenous Fishing Rights

Have you ever wondered about? What Indigenous fishing rights are? Why these rights are culturally and economically vital to Indigenous people? What problems and barriers Indigenous people face in accessing fisheries, and why the courts are so reluctant to recognise an Indigenous right to commercial fishing? Whether you have or haven't, the seminar is targeted at anyone interested in finding out more!

When: 29 July 09, 6pm to 7.30pm
Where: DLA Phillips Fox (level 38)
RSVP: **Wednesday 22 July** to tbabu@lawsocnsw.asn.au .

SUBMISSIONS

Ongoing call for contributions - Inquiry into homelessness legislation

In recent weeks we have reported that the House of Representatives Family Committee has agreed to an inquiry into the principles and service standards for new homelessness legislation.

The Human Rights Committee's Submissions Working group has been calling for volunteers to assist with the following TORs:

1. The principles that should underpin the provision of services to Australians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
2. The scope of any legislation with respect to related government initiatives in the areas of social inclusion and rights;
3. The role of legislation in improving the quality of services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
4. The effectiveness of existing legislation and regulations governing homelessness services in Australia and overseas; and
5. The applicability of existing legislative and regulatory models used in other community service systems, such as disability services, aged care and child care, to the homelessness sector.

If you are interested in contributing to this submission, please contact the Submissions Working Group at: submissions.hrc@younglawyers.com.au. All contributions are due to the Submissions Working Group by **Friday 31 July 2009**.

UPCOMING EVENTS (non-NSWYL)

2009 Open Forum "Is Australia Giving Refugees a Fair Go?"

All NSWYL HRC members are warmly invited to attend the 2009 Open Forum "*Is Australia Giving Refugees a Fair Go?*"

The forum guest speakers **Denis O'Brien**, Principal Member, Migration & Refugee Review Tribunals and **Jacqueline Everitt**, author of the book "The Bitter Shore", will address the issue of the effects of the government's policy of mandatory detention on children.

When: The Forum will be held on **Wednesday 12 August**

Where: Building EZ, Female Orphan School, Parramatta campus

Time: Arriving at 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start.

This forum is a continuation of the series which started in 2008 and will continue to deal with topical and contemporary social issues and aim to bring academia and the Greater Western Sydney Community together. To download the Forum brochure visit:

http://corpapps.uws.edu.au/media/eupdate/displayfile.php?attach_id=2170

National Indigenous Conference

NUS, University of Sydney SRC and University of Sydney Koori Centre will be holding a **National Indigenous Conference** in Sydney:

When: Thursday 23rd of July to Saturday 25th of July.
Where: University of Sydney, Koori Centre

All Committee members are welcome to attend so please feel free to come along. John Browne from NIPAAC will be attending this event.

For information about the conference or to register, visit the [NUS website](#).

Or for further information please contact the National Indigenous Student Officer, Carla McGrath at: indigenous@nus.asn.au

Women for Justice Event

Women for Justice invite you to a special event to remember the suffering of Tamil women in Sri Lanka. In July 1983, 3000 civilians were killed in racially motivated programs and, this year alone, over 20 000 civilians were killed in war, many of which were women. Today, 300 000 civilians are forcibly detained in military controlled internment camps behind barbed wire. The most vulnerable are women with several cases of rape, torture and abduction reported by independent media.

As part of this event an art exhibition will take you through the agony of internment. Inspiring women will share their experiences and discuss ideas on how to help women at risk. Dinner will also be provided.

When: Thursday, 30 July 2009
Where: Balmain Town Hall, ground floor,
370 Darling Street, Balmain
Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Cost: Gold coin donation
RSVP: by 25 July 2009

To RSVP to this event please email womenforjustice@live.com or call Lavinya - 0422 343 897 - or Geetha - 0433 452 981. Please provide your name, contact information and number of people attending.

2009 NSW Women Lawyers Achievement Awards

The Women Lawyers Association of NSW (Inc) is very proud to host the **NSW Women Lawyers Achievement Awards** for 2009. This year, nominations will be sought for the following award categories:

- **Woman Lawyer of the year in Private Practice;**
- **“In House” Woman Lawyer of the Year;**
- **Women Lawyer of the Year in a Community Organisation;**
- **Woman Lawyer advocate of the Year;**
- **Upcoming Woman Lawyer of the Year.**

The Awards celebrate the success and achievements of women in law, are supported by the Attorney-General's Department of NSW, the NSW Bar Association, the Law Society of New South Wales, the Australian Corporate Lawyers Association, and the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency.

Please click here to access the [Nomination Form](#) . Nominations are due by **31 July**.

Human Rights events – Interstate (Melbourne)

For those Committee members who may be in Melbourne this month, the Human Rights Law Resource Centre is hosting 2 major events in July:

Monday 27 July – Seminar: 'Advancing Women's Rights and Gender Equality'
Wednesday 31 July – 2009 Human Rights Dinner

For more information on these events visit: <http://www.hrlrc.org.au/events/upcoming/>:

REMINDERS FROM PREVIOUS BULLETINS (non-NSWYL events and messages)

Australian Human Rights Centre Seminar TONIGHT!

A reminder to those who have RSVP'd to this event, Justice Yvonne Mokgoro of the South African Constitutional Court will tonight be speaking on: '*The Role of Legislation and Courts in Promoting Socio-Economic Rights: the South African Experience*'.

When: Tuesday 21 July, 6.30 – 8pm
Where: Seminar Room, level 2 Law Faculty UNSW

Justice Yvonne Mokgoro of the South African Constitutional Court will be speaking on the Role of Legislation and Courts in Promoting Socio-Economic Rights: the South African Experience

2009 Australian Human Rights Medal and Awards

President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Cathy Branson QC, has officially opened Australia's premier event in honour of individuals and organisations who have made outstanding efforts to protect human rights in Australia. Nominations are now being sought for the Young People's Human Rights Medal and seven award categories:

1. Law;
2. Community (Organisation);
3. Community (Individual);
4. Literature (non-fiction);
5. Print Media;
6. Television; and
7. Radio.

Information about the 2009 Human Rights Medals and Awards, including Award categories, entry/nomination forms, judging criteria and previous winners can be accessed via the Australian Human Rights Commission website at: www.humanrights.gov.au/hr_awards

For further information you can also contact the Public Affairs Unit on **(02) 9284 9618** or email hrawards@humanrights.gov.au .

Nominations for the 2009 Awards and Medals close at **COB Friday, 2 October 2009**. All 2009 Medal and Awards will be presented to the recipients at a gala luncheon ceremony to be held on Human Rights Day, **Thursday 10 December 2009** at the Sheraton on the Park in Sydney.

Tickets to the award ceremony are now available at a cost of \$70, or \$45 concession. Tickets include a two-course luncheon, drinks and entertainment. To purchase a ticket to the award ceremony call 02 9284 9618 or email hrawards@humanrights.gov.au .

2009 Protecting Human Rights Conference

In October, the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies, the Gilbert+Tobin Centre for Public Law and RegNet host the *2009 Protecting Human Rights Conference*.

When: Friday, **2 October 2009**
Where: Domain Theatre Art Gallery of NSW

The conference will consider the National Human Rights Consultation, and provide an update of developments in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, the ACT Human Rights Act and in NSW human rights law. Leading Australian and international speakers will consider the National Consultation process, and what reforms it might lead to in Australia.

Registration for the conference closes **30 September 2009**.

Information regarding the conference schedule and speakers can be accessed at:
<http://cccs.law.unimelb.edu.au/download.cfm?DownloadFile=5B4EE045-C0A0-B2C8-233BD07810A220D8>

HDY Trial Advocacy Competition 2009

A reminder that the preliminary rounds of the UNSW/HDY Trial Advocacy competition will be taking place throughout July and August. If you are interested in adjudicating the preliminary rounds please contact Mary Jang or Han Yong on witness@unswlawsoc.org or mary.jang@unswlawsoc.org as soon as practicable. You will then receive a HDY Trial Advocacy guidebook and confirmation of receipt of your email.

Preliminary rounds are normally held during weekdays from 6.10 - 7.45pm (this includes the 90minute trial) and have been scheduled for the following dates:

- **First preliminary round - 27th July to 7th August**
- **Second preliminary round - 17th August to 28th August**

Newtown Spirituality in the Pub

Human Rights Lawyer, teacher and activist, Mr Chris Sidoti will speak on the topic: "*Is Human Rights a Hopeless Cause?*"

When: Tuesday **8 September, 7.30pm to 9pm**
Where: The Bald Faced Stag Hotel,
345 Parramatta Road, Leichhardt.

All are welcome. For more information call 9230 7631 or email aclevana@mooball.com

Distinguished Speakers Program 2009

- Topic:** *Does the WTO Really Settle International Trade Disputes? Reflections of a WTO Judge, International Arbitrator & Civil Procedure Professor*
- When:** 6.30-7.45pm, Thursday 30 July - *Registration and refreshments from 6.00pm*
- Where:** Sydney Law School, New Law School Building,
Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney (Camperdown Campus)
- Speaker:** Professor Yasuhei Taniguchi - Former Chair of the WTO Appellate Body,
Geneva

For more information regarding this event visit:

http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/news/distinguished_speakers.shtml