



# JOHN HENNESSY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

## ADMINISTERED BY THE GOVERNMENT SOLICITORS COMMITTEE

### Background

The Law Society of New South Wales Government Solicitors Committee (GSC) is proud to sponsor the John Hennessy Research Scholarship.

John Edmund Hennessy was born in 1940 and commenced work in the Crown Solicitor's Office in 1957. Admitted as a solicitor in 1965, John was appointed Assistant Crown Solicitor, Civil Law Branch, in 1980 where he worked until he was appointed as Acting Magistrate in 1996 and Magistrate in 1997. John then served on the Legal Aid Review Committee as the Attorney General's nominee for 17 years. He retired on 31 January 1999 and died on 13 February 1999.

John served the Attorney General's Department, the profession and the administration of justice in a range of roles for over 40 years and in doing so he combined the highest professional standards as a solicitor with long and dedicated service to the public. The GSC considers it most fitting that the Research Scholarship for public sector solicitors should be awarded in his name.

### Overview

The John Hennessy Research Scholarship has been established by the GSC 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 (at the Commonwealth, State or local level)
- specialist accreditation
- specialist continuing legal education, or
- further postgraduate study (maximum 12 months).

The Scholarship is an 'occasional scholarship' that will be offered from time to time and covers travel, study and other approved expenses up to a maximum value of \$10,000.

The Scholarship is open to both individuals and groups.

It is expected that the successful applicant will submit a written report to the GSC on the outcomes of the research or study, including the benefits achieved, within six months from the date of the grant of the Scholarship. This time period may be extended by the GSC where appropriate.

### Who can apply?

All NSW based Federal, State or local government solicitors holding a current NSW Practising Certificate who are members of The Law Society of New South Wales.

### How to apply

Applications should include a curriculum vitae, the names and contact details of two referees, a description of the research project or study (including a breakdown of costing) to be funded in full or in part by the Scholarship. All applications must be typed and should outline:

- the budget/cost feasibility and timetable for the proposal
- the candidate's experience and interest in the area which is the subject of the application

Applications to undertake a research project should also outline:

- the relevance and potential benefit of the project to the legal system in NSW, and
- the potential for the project to produce improvements in the operation of the legal system in NSW.

Finally, all applications must include a statement confirming that, if the applicant is successful, the final project report (see below) will be: in a form and substance not breaching any client confidentiality; able to be published in the public domain; and confirming consent to publication.



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## Referees

The applicant must include the names, addresses, telephone and email addresses of TWO referees.

## Selection criteria

Each application will be assessed on the criteria outlined above. The decision of the GSC will be final.

## 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 or such other period of time as may be agreed with the GSC.

Where a research project has been undertaken, the final report should make recommendations to improve the operations of the legal system in NSW.

The final report must be in a form and substance capable of being published in the public domain, and at the request of the GSC, may be published in the Law Society Journal and/or the Government Lawyers Newsletter. It is expected that the successful applicant will present a report at the annual Government Solicitors Conference in the year following the award of the Scholarship.

## Lodgment of applications

Applications are to be lodged no later than close of business on Monday 1 August 2016.

It is anticipated that any successful applicants will be announced at the Annual Government Solicitors Conference on 6 September 2016 at the Sheraton on the Park, 161 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Please forward applications to:

**Government Solicitors Committee**  
The Law Society of New South Wales  
170 Phillip Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
DX 362 Sydney  
Email: [governmentlawyers@lawsociety.com.au](mailto:governmentlawyers@lawsociety.com.au)

## Further information

For further assistance or information please contact:

**Policy & Practice Department**  
The Law Society of New South Wales  
Telephone: (02) 9926 0202  
Email: [governmentlawyers@lawsociety.com.au](mailto:governmentlawyers@lawsociety.com.au)