Plan your career

Explore your employment options for a career in the areas of communications, entertainment and technology law
ABOUT THIS GUIDE:

PLAN YOUR CAREER was created by members of the NSW Young Lawyers Communications, Entertainment & Technology Law Committee. The guide is intended to assist final year law students, Practical Legal Training students and young lawyers to explore their employment options for a career in the areas of communications, entertainment and technology law. These areas also cover intellectual property, media, marketing, privacy, trade practices and creative arts law.

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PLAN YOUR CAREER

Explore your employment options for a career in the areas of communications, entertainment and technology law

THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
youngLAWYERS

This guide was created by members of the NSW Young Lawyers Communications, Entertainment & Technology Law Committee
For many of us, the prospect of graduating and becoming a legal practitioner seemed a distant thought, but the imminent reality of entering the legal profession would suddenly strike...and as it dawns on you that some of life’s big decisions will soon need to be made, it becomes glaringly obvious that not only do you not know what choice you’re going to make, but you don’t even know what choices you have! Some students may have focused on intellectual property and technology law, others media and entertainment law and plenty more on Australian consumer law – it is predominantly for those people that the Communications, Entertainment and Technology Law Committee of NSW Young Lawyers (CET) has prepared this handbook.

While we can’t make your decision, we believe we can help by profiling some of the dedicated lawyers in the fields associated with the communications, entertainment and technology areas of law to present a brief snapshot of the nature of legal jobs and careers available in those areas and the way that various people have built their careers. We hope this will give you the opportunity to aspire to your dream job in the legal profession and allow you to make the best decisions to get you there.

This ‘Plan Your Career’ handbook builds on the CET Committee’s long standing interest in connecting students and industry professionals, fostering a network of like-minded individuals, providing a platform for sharing and discussing industry news and legal developments and providing ‘insider’ guidance and peer support to students and young lawyers looking to follow a legal career in the CET areas. Each professional offers top tips for industry success, recounts stories of career progression and reveals the pros and cons of working in the industry, all with the
aim of helping those aspiring to forge a successful and dynamic legal career in the CET areas of law.

Whether careers began over a summer clerkship, networking at a seminar, becoming an associate for a Judge, gaining experience in a commercial law firm, or assisting in a boutique firm, it is clear that not all successful lawyers in the industry were confined by a traditional legal route. It is about passion for the area, a willingness to learn and using your creativity to seek and gain experience.

We trust you’ll enjoy the read and we wish you all the best in your pursuits for a successful and rewarding career!
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 27

EDUCATION:
BA LLB (Macq) SJD (Syd)

BACKGROUND:
My first job was as a Legal Research Officer at the NSW Crown Solicitor’s Office attached to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. I found it very depressing but was fortunate enough to end up being offered a casual uni teaching position. I really enjoyed that and I’ve stuck at it since then.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
I had a lot of friends who were at art school in the late 80s and early 90s and they were constantly baffled and confused by copyright law and would ask me about it. A lot of them were experimenting with soundscapes, digital technology, ‘cut-ups’ - early post-modern practices. I had not had the opportunity to study IP in my undergraduate degree so I started reading a lot on the subject and ended up enrolling in a Masters degree which then became a doctorate on the history of copyright. By then, the internet had arrived and we were told “Copyright was dead. Information wants to be free”. The relationship between law, art and cultural practice has always intrigued me.
MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
Be aware of what is happening outside of the law, but don’t presume that every new technology or media practice creates a new problem for the law to resolve or regulate.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Follow what you are passionate about or intrigued with and the opportunities tend to follow sooner or later.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
I teach at the undergraduate and Juris Doctor (JD) program at UNSW and also conduct my own research and writing, mainly in copyright.

MY TYPICAL DAY:
If it is a teaching day I am at UNSW seeing students inside and outside of the classroom, or preparing material for them. I also have a number of PhD students I need to check in with regularly. If I have no meetings or classes I tend to do my research from home. I usually have a number of research projects going at the same time, at different stages.

MY AREAS OF LAW:
I am currently teaching first year JD students “Introducing Law and Justice” and undergraduate final year IP students. Occasionally, I also teach in the Masters program in a subject called ‘Law and the Culture Industries’.

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
I like the intellectual interactions with my students, helping them learn new things about areas that interest them. I also very much value the privilege I have in being free to research legal questions around law, power and creativity.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Not enough time...

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
Professor Jill McKeogh (Commissioner, ALRC/UTS)
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 20

EDUCATION:
- Bachelor of Economics (Accounting) – Sydney University
- Bachelor of Law - Sydney University
- Masters of Law – University of London

BACKGROUND:
Early in my career I was an associate to Justice Hill in the Federal Court and then became a senior associate at Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King and Wood Mallesons). I had also spent a year working in Entertainment Law at SJ Berwin & Co, London.

I have lectured in Entertainment Law at the University of New South Wales and the Australian Film Television and Radio School, and Copyright in the UTS Masters of Law.

I have had articles published in the Entertainment Law Review, the Communications Law Bulletin and Media and Arts Law Review, and was on the legal sub-committee of the Screen Producers Association of Australia.

I have also worked in Finland where I was in-house legal counsel at Nokia and GE Healthcare. My work in-house included patent licensing, telecommunications standardisation consortiums and open source licensing. I was admitted to the bar in 2001, and after my return from Finland, I was re-admitted in 2010. I have particular expertise in intellectual property, tax and probate. I am also currently lecturing in Intellectual Property in the LPAB and Design Law in the UTS Masters of Law. I also regularly present CLE seminars on similar topics.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
I was working in the tax team at Mallesons. The partner was working on a tax-effective film finance prospectus - and then went on leave to Kangaroo Island without mobile phone access and left me to finalise the deal.
ULTIMATELY, REMEMBER THAT IT’S NOT ALL OVER BECAUSE YOUR FIRST JOB IS NOT YOUR DREAM JOB – YOU CAN ALWAYS TRANSITION TO ANOTHER AREA OF LAW, AND NO EXPERIENCE IS EVER WASTED.

TIPS AND ADVICE

MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW: The best way to be a film/television lawyer is to develop your legal skills (especially contracts, tax and intellectual property) and learn to be comfortable with balance sheets. Your clients don’t want a super cool friend to hang out with, they want a lawyer.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL: Ultimately, remember that it’s not all over because your first job is not your dream job – you can always transition to another area of law, and no experience is ever wasted.

I started working on film finance and then film finance cash flow, distributor’s licence fees and producer offset. Working in production finance developed my skills in intellectual property licences, since production finance is based on securitising/discounting distribution agreements and licence fees. I then became involved with television production including international co-productions, studio-financed productions and local productions.

MY CURRENT ROLE: Barrister. I am briefed on one or two film matters a month. However, most of my work is intellectual property, tax and probate.

MY CLIENTS: Instructing solicitors acting for producers or investors.

MY AREAS OF LAW: Film matters are never typical. My film work ranges from intellectual property - confirming a clean chain of title, confirming whether a creative contributor has copyright or any other rights in a project; contract - confirming whether a project falls within the definition of “sequel” in a production agreement, advising the producer how to terminate a distribution agreement; broadcasting law - advising producers about whether their project qualifies as “Australian content”; debt recovery - for Australian production services rendered to an offshore company; and corporations law.

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB: The variety.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB: Not knowing where the next job is coming from.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE: I admire Maureen Barron and Nina Stevenson, two leading female trailblazers in entertainment law.
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 7

EDUCATION:
- Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Business (Management) at University of Western Sydney
- Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice

BACKGROUND:
I joined TressCox Lawyers as a summer clerk in 2007 and was welcomed to the Media and Entertainment team as a Graduate Lawyer in 2008. As an Associate at TressCox Lawyers, I provided legal services to clients in a range of industries including music, film, television, technology, digital and interactive entertainment. Since 2012 I have worked as Legal and Policy Counsel at the Interactive Games and Entertainment Association, first on secondment, then as a direct employee.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
Interest – I was exposed to the music business from a very young age and that has naturally fuelled my interest in the music industry. My fascination with games and the game business has also persisted into adulthood.

Initiative and Opportunity – I actively sought legal experience in the industry and managed to secure a volunteer legal internship at Sony Computer Entertainment while at University.

Good luck – Just prior to my summer clerkship, a young solicitor left TressCox Lawyers’ media and entertainment team leaving a spot open for me. I was very much in the right place at the right time.

MY CURRENT ROLE: Legal and Policy Counsel at the Interactive Games and Entertainment Association (IGEA).
TIPS AND ADVICE

MY TYPICAL DAY:
- Reviewing policy materials, including issue papers, discussion papers, submissions and draft Bills
- Collaborating with industry legal and policy representatives and drafting policy submissions
- Engaging with overseas counterparts in the USA, Canada and throughout Europe
- Presenting or reporting to the interactive entertainment industry on current legal issues
- Advising the IGEA on a number of legal matters including corporations law and contract negotiation

MY AREAS OF LAW:
- Classification
- Copyright
- Contract
- Consumer Law

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Engaging with an industry that I am passionate about.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Being surrounded by people with more interesting jobs than mine (every time I meet a game developer I want to jump the legal ship to join them on their crusade to make the game that will change the world).

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
I admire the whole Media and Entertainment team at TressCox Lawyers, particularly Mark Bamford and Peter Thompson.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Find clients you actually enjoy working with (they exist).

MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
Know how to answer the question “Why are you interested in this area of the law?” Your answer should focus on the actual work you’re excited about doing rather than the products that the industry creates.
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE:
5 pre-Admission and now in my 6th year post-Admission

EDUCATION:
Bachelor of Laws, with previous studies in medical and forensic science

BACKGROUND:
I have over 10 years’ legal experience in intellectual property and media law. I started my legal career at Banki Haddock Fiora in early 2006 where I worked for over 5 years in the copyright & media litigation teams, and also gained experience in the trade marks and corporate and commercial practice groups. I have worked on some of Australia’s most notable cases in copyright, defamation and trade marks – some of which went all the way to the High Court! Since that time I have focused on broadening my commercial experience and I am now working in-house as the Manager of IP for Airbus Group Australia Pacific, which is part of the global Airbus Group.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
My interest in music, creative arts, science and journalism is a natural fit for intellectual property and media law. I was referred to Banki Haddock Fiora by a barristers’ clerk who promised I would enjoy the challenge and excitement of the practice. He was not wrong! It was a great privilege to work with the partners at Banki Haddock Fiora who helped me develop my interest into a passion that I continue to enjoy today.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
I am the Manager of Intellectual Property for Airbus Group Australia Pacific. My role encompasses everything IP, with a very technical focus.
FIND YOUR PASSION AND MAKE CONTACTS IN THAT AREA, BOTH IN LAW AND IN THE INDUSTRY. IT TAKES HARD WORK, A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK SO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY AND YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE IT MAY TAKE YOU!

MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW: Find your passion and make contacts in that area, both in law and in the industry. It takes hard work, a positive attitude and a little bit of luck so make the most of every opportunity and you never know where it may take you!

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL: Find a mentor, pride yourself on high work ethic and learn how cases are fought and determined by our most brilliant legal minds by keeping up to date with decisions and legal developments.

MY TYPICAL DAY:
Being in-house means I am often providing advice to the engineering teams and other business units, as well as liaising with the customers and subcontractors. No two days are ever the same – some days I am negotiating new IP rights on a very large scale, and other days I am more focused on the commercial nature of IP licensing and how it applies to the day-to-day operations of the business. Airbus Group deals with a lot of European entities, so there are many late night conference calls and a fair bit of travel.

MY CLIENTS:
Australian Government organisations and private clients

MY AREAS OF LAW:
Copyright/Designs/Patents, Commercial/Contract and Competition & Consumer Law.

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Being part of a business that plays a role in Australia’s defence is certainly a wonderful feeling.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Time, short deadlines and the delay of dealing almost entirely with European subcontractors when the client is running on Australian time!

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
I am fortunate to have worked with many talented lawyers so far in my career, though I particularly admire his Honour Justice Emmett, Sandy Dawson, Kate Haddock and Adam Thatcher.

TIPS AND ADVICE
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 8

EDUCATION:
• 3 Unit Music (HSC)
• Bachelor of Creative Arts majoring in music and performance
• Juris Doctor with a focus on entertainment and intellectual property law.

BACKGROUND:
I am a big supporter of the arts and entertainment industries, dedicating much time presenting about legal issues in the industries at both industry events and legal seminars. I am involved as both a mentor (for NSW Young Lawyers) and a mentee (in the NSW Law Society’s mentoring program).

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
The focus of my studies and involvement in the industry was critical in opening the door to becoming an entertainment lawyer.

I chose an area of the law I wished to pursue and I chased it unreservedly.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
I advise clients on contracts and protection of intellectual property and contractual rights in the entertainment and creative industries. My day-to-day tasks include reviewing and negotiating contracts and deals on behalf of recording artists, songwriters, talent agents, film makers, actors and performers and other owners of intellectual property rights.
MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
If you’re looking for a job as a lawyer in the entertainment industry, then immerse yourself in the space and become familiar with both the legal and non-legal issues faced by people in the industry.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Start building and maintaining your network of peers from the outset - they will add joy, value and support in relation to all you do.

MY TYPICAL DAY:
• Phone calls with artists, managers, labels, producers and other lawyers
• Drafting contracts and drafting amendments to existing contracts
• Email advice to clients regarding their rights and explaining contracts
• Drafting emails providing reasons and explanations for changes to contracts
• Researching and drafting articles and thoughts on legal issues in the entertainment industries

MY CLIENTS:
• Performing artists and musicians
• Talent managers and agents
• Film and TV Producers
• Content Creators
• Brand Managers

MY AREAS OF LAW:
• Copyright
• Contract Law
• Trade Marks (and laws relating to branding)

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
I love being involved in an industry I’m genuinely interested in and helping others understand their rights and the industry.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Time pressures - legal issues are often the last thing on my clients’ minds, so they’re almost always left to the last minute.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
I am lucky enough to have had bosses I have great respect for...they have acted as incredible mentors to me. By being involved in the Young Lawyers I have developed an incredible network of peers ...all of whom I’m able to call on for advice and thoughts.

Peter Banki has been a great mentor for me, and he has been incredible to me.
MY TYPICAL DAY:
As a Senior Solicitor, I spend my days with a varied list of jobs including:

• Supervising junior lawyers within the organisation by reviewing advices and providing feedback
• Drafting advocacy documents to government organisations and other arts organisations in respect of the laws as they relate to artists (in the interests of artists). For example: providing feedback to the Industrial Relations Commission in relation to the Entertainment Industry Bill which is now in the Entertainment & Industry Act 2013;
• Providing legal advice to clients in respect of creative legal issues. This can be from assisting an artist who has not been paid after a performance to assisting an organisation form their rules of association
• Drafting and reviewing publications for the website
• Running educational workshops for artists

MY CLIENTS:
Individual practising artists such as painters, authors of books, filmmakers, film production companies, aboriginal art centres, dance companies and bands; as well as Arts Organisations.

MY AREAS OF LAW:
Copyright, contracts and trade practices.
MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW: Get relevant experience. If people are finding it hard, then it is important to be a bit creative with who you approach for workplace experience. For instance, you could try a boutique IP and entertainment law firm or an arts organisation that might have an in-house legal team.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL: Assess where your passions lie – is it in a particular area of law? Is it in the law at all? It’s important to be honest with yourself about where your passion lies and not feel confined to traditional legal routes.

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB: The diverse range of clients and the broad spectrum of legal issues that Arts Laws deals with on a day to day basis.

It is fantastic to assist people who are creative and fulfilling a really important role in society to better manage their legal issues so that they can build more sustainable arts practices.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE: The Executive Director of the Arts Law Centre of Australia, Robyn Ayres. She is proactive and just gets things done. She is really passionate about what she does and has taught me the importance of maintaining that passion in your work. She is a great leader of the organisation and she always leads by example. She is not afraid to get into the thick of things.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB: The constraints of a not-for-profit organisation in terms of resources. It’s hard not being able to help everyone all the time or as quickly as we would like to.
The Communications, Entertainment & Technology Law (CET) Committee is a forum for lawyers and law students to share their interest in the laws relating to the media, entertainment, intellectual property and technology sectors.

The CET Committee provides opportunities to discuss cases, legislative developments, law reform and industry news, as well as an excellent forum for professional networking and knowledge sharing.

Our membership is diverse and includes private practitioners, corporate counsel, government officers and law students. Many of the CET Committee’s long-standing active members have experience that dreams are made of, so there are plenty of opportunities to develop your skills and careers.

We have one of the largest active memberships of NSW Young Lawyers committees, with over 400 members (and counting!). In addition to monthly meetings, the CET Committee regularly organise topical seminars, guest speakers, social and networking events, submissions on policy and law reform and publish various publications.

Many of us have combined legal and industry experience. Our areas of priority include regulation of content, electronic commerce, technology for lawyers, intellectual property and communications law.

We have four Special Interest Groups that provide monthly reports at our meetings, and a summary of those updates are circulated to all members (in the ‘SIG Wrap’).

The Special Interest Groups are:

- Communications Law
- Entertainment Law
- Technology Law
- Marketing Law
The Communications, Entertainment & Technology Law Committee (CET) aims to serve the interests of lawyers, law students and other members of the community concerned with areas of law relating to:

- information and communication technology (including technology affecting legal practice)
- entertainment
- intellectual property
- the media
- advertising and consumer protection
- privacy
- confidential information

CET members achieve this through regular discussion about developments in the law (including cases, legislation, industry codes, guidelines, codes and standards of practice and law reform), networking, seminars, events, publications and policy review activities, consistent with the NSW Young Lawyers’ Constitution.

As innovation inevitably challenges custom, CET promotes forward thinking, particularly about the shape of the law and the legal profession as a whole.
**KAREN DON**

**CURRENT ORGANISATION:**
Universal Music Australia

**CURRENT JOB TITLE:**
General Manager, Legal and Business Affairs

**NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE:** 22

**EDUCATION:**
- Bachelor of Laws from Macquarie University
- Bachelor of Arts from Macquarie University

**BACKGROUND:**
After finishing high school in Townsville, I started an Arts degree at James Cook University. I picked up Law in my second year of study and transferred to Macquarie University to complete the degree.

I started as the junior lawyer at Owen Trembath and Associates. After two years at the firm, I successfully applied for an in-house lawyer role at ARIA/PPCA.

From ARIA, I took up an in-house lawyer role for the Sydney Olympic Broadcasting Organisation (part of SOCOG) and worked on broadcast, construction and supply agreements relating to the broadcast of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

A year before the Games were due to be held, I was approached to apply for my current position at Universal Music who were looking for a new in-house Director of Legal and Business Affairs. Fourteen years later, I am still here.

**HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:**
Upon completing my Law degree at Macquarie University, I knew that working for a big city law firm in tax or banking and finance was not for me. I wanted to work in an area of law that interested me - music and film - and so I approached small practices for opportunities by forwarding my CV. I was offered a role with Owen Trembath, a leading entertainment lawyer of the time, which gave me a start in the CET field.

**MY CURRENT ROLE:**
I am responsible for the management of the company’s legal matters.
MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
Be patient and don’t give up hope. Jobs in the entertainment field are hard to come by and it’s often a case of ‘who you know’. So make yourself known and persevere.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Try to work in an area that holds your interest. The hours can be long and it helps if you have an affinity with the work you are doing.

MY TYPICAL DAY:
My days are spent in conference, considering commercial opportunities and overseeing copyright disputes and litigious proceedings.

I will draft Heads of Agreement for new artist deals or review comments from artist’s lawyers on the recording or songwriter agreements we have issued. The agreements I review or issue on any given day include: sample contracts, licence agreements, producer agreements, artwork agreements - the list goes on!

MY AREAS OF LAW: Copyright/Intellectual Property, Contracts, Competition Law

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB: It is great to be involved in signing an act and then seeing them achieve chart success, break into overseas markets or win ARIA awards. And, while it’s hard work, working for a music company is fun.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB: Dealing with lawyers who know little about the highly specialised area of recording agreements can be difficult.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE: Emmanuel Candi, who was the head of ARIA when I was there and Richard Constant, the General Counsel of Universal Music Group International in London.

TIPS AND ADVICE
THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB: It is great to be involved in signing an act and then seeing them achieve chart success, break into overseas markets or win ARIA awards. And, while it’s hard work, working for a music company is fun.

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MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE: Emmanuel Candi, who was the head of ARIA when I was there and Richard Constant, the General Counsel of Universal Music Group International in London.
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 17

EDUCATION:
BSc, LLB (Hons), Dip Management

BACKGROUND:
After completing my BSc/LLB at the University of Queensland, my first job was with Freehills. I worked in commercial litigation and also got some experience in commercial advisory work. After moving to another firm, and a secondment to the Commonwealth Bank’s in-house legal team, I spent a few years away from the law, in health science. I then returned to the law, specialising in medical negligence and health law before getting my first opportunity to work in the media area about ten years ago.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
I took a short term contract in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation’s in-house team, which I was lucky enough to turn into an 8 year role.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
The main focus is on pre-publication work and handling disputes for media clients.
TIPS AND ADVICE

MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW: Have a clear understanding of the areas of law relevant to the media and persevere. As with many jobs, it can be very hard to get that first opportunity, and when you do the lawyers you work for will work out pretty quickly whether you have a real understanding of the principles of the law.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL: Have a clear understanding of the principles of law in your area, and how they work practically as well as theoretically.

MY TYPICAL DAY:
Working on media-related disputes interspersed with pre-publication advice (which usually requires a quick turn-around). While not exactly a typical day, from time to time there are urgent applications to deal with, such as injunctions or non-publication orders to be opposed, or applications for access to court documents or exhibits.

MY CLIENTS:
Media organisations

MY AREAS OF LAW:
Defamation
Contempt
Statutory reporting restrictions
Copyright

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
The work is very interesting – interesting legal issues, and the “back story” is usually interesting too. If the media is interested in a story, you expect something interesting in it. If there is a dispute about it too, there’s almost certainly a lot interesting in it!

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
It can be hard to completely switch off – the media is going 24/7!
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE:
4 years (3 years PQE)

EDUCATION:
Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Commerce (University of Sydney)

BACKGROUND: I never set out to be a lawyer. I ended up in law because it was ‘the new arts degree’ i.e. a generalist degree for indecisive people who didn’t quite know what they wanted to do.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
While at law school, I got caught up in the clerkships whirlwind and ended up clerking, and later working, at Herbert Smith Freehills. It was a great place to start my career, as I received invaluable training and made some wonderful friends. During my time as a graduate, I began to develop a huge interest in technology and social media. A stranger I met at a networking drinks night suggested I get involved in social media law, an idea that hadn’t occurred to me. It was his comment that was the catalyst for a change in direction in my career.

I immediately started exploring jobs in media law with a focus on social media, but it was another year before I saw a job advertisement for a junior role in a boutique firm specialising in media, communications, entertainment and technology law. Luckily, I got the position!

After 18 months in that role, an opportunity arose at Nova Entertainment, and I found myself in house for the first time, working in the areas of law I love.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
I am part of a 2 person legal team – I report directly to the Corporate Counsel. We deal with an incredibly broad range of legal issues that arise in the day to day running of a media...
TIPS AND ADVICE

MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
Research job opportunities and try to meet as many people as you can. Don’t be afraid to ask for help and advice - so many people are willing to answer all your questions over a coffee.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Work out the area of law you are most passionate about, and don’t be afraid to pursue it relentlessly. Life’s too short to stay in a job you don’t like!

company. This can be anything from reviewing contracts and competition terms and conditions, to managing employment law issues, to conducting advertising reviews, to advising on intellectual property, consumer law and social media matters.

MY TYPICAL DAY:
No day is ever the same! In any one day I might review a licence agreement or other commercial contract, give telephone advice about a planned on-air stunt, conduct an internal training seminar, prepare a talent agreement and review a script for an advertisement.

MY AREAS OF LAW:

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
There is never a dull moment and I can never predict what questions I might be asked next. We are often asked to review or provide advice around on-air games, stunts and content. I love hearing these segments broadcast. There are also lots of little perks, such as being invited to gigs and seeing the odd celebrity at the office!

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
You have to make lots of quick decisions!

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
I have worked with, and met, many talented lawyers, it is hard to pick just one! However, I am part of the Law Society mentoring program, and have a brilliant mentor through that program. I would highly recommend all lawyers seek mentors throughout their careers.

THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
youngLAWYERS
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: Admitted 2005

EDUCATION:
LLBBA (Hons) (UTS), GradDipLP (UTS), LLM (Industrial and Intellectual Property) (UTS), Diploma in Law and Collections Management with Distinction (Institute of Art and Law)

BACKGROUND:
I’m a lawyer and trade marks attorney with over 15 years of experience working across the private, not-for-profit and government sectors. This has included volunteering as a Brand Protection Officer at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, writing for Halbury’s Laws of Australia, and working as a lawyer.

At the NFSA I’m responsible for providing legal advice, compliance, training and policy services to the cultural agency with an international reputation for collecting, preserving and sharing Australia’s film, sound, broadcast and new media heritage, dating as far back as Australia’s earliest known surviving film Patineur Grotesque (1896) and earlier for sound recordings.

I’m also a volunteer for the Arts Law Centre of Australia in my own time and received the Art Law’s 2010 Print Commission Award.

I currently serve on the Australian Government Legal Network Board (since 2013), the Executive Council of NSW Young Lawyers (since 2009), and the Management Committee of the Copyright Society of Australia (since 2007).

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
During my studies, I chose to specialise in intellectual property law. Joining the CET Committee in 2003 was one way that I learned about the many career paths available to someone with my interests. My first role working on legal matters was as a paralegal at Blake Dawson Waldron (now Ashurst Australia). After graduating, I accepted opportunities to specialise at a patent and trade mark attorney firm and at the Australian Copyright Council.
MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
In a tight job market, think laterally and be flexible. If legal jobs are scarce, acquire relevant business experience in your industries of interest.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Never underestimate the value of your legal training and any second or combined degree you hold.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
My in-house legal role as Principal Legal Counsel at an Australian Government agency is similar to the position of General Counsel in a company. I report to the Chief Executive Officer.

MY TYPICAL DAY:
I am responsible for legal advisory, review, drafting, compliance, reporting and training activities.

MY CLIENTS:
The statutory authority and body corporate established by the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia Act 2008 (Cth) is my client.

MY AREAS OF LAW:
Commercial law (including contract and intellectual property), statutory interpretation, bailment, media law, access to information, property and leasing, IT, dispute resolution, administrative law and new and unfamiliar matters can arise at any time.

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
As an Australian Government agency with high levels of accountability and operating in the cultural sector, the NFSA has a dazzling mix of legal needs.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
The differences between the corporate, technical and creative functions of the organisation can present some challenges, but the diversity of the people and the variety of work makes my job all the more fulfilling.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
It’s difficult to choose if you include Horace Rumpole (Rumpole of the Bailey), Colonel Nathan R Jessup (A Few Good Men), Victor Sifuentes and Arnie Becker (L.A. LAW), Lawrence Hammill QC (The Castle), Martha Costello (Silk) and Cleaver Greene (Rake) and all the talented and generous lawyers I have actually worked with.
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 37

EDUCATION:
Bachelor Arts
Bachelor of Laws (University of Sydney)
Master of Laws (University of London)

BACKGROUND:
I decided to study law because I was not very good at science and teaching did not appeal to me. My first job (in law) was as an articled clerk at Abbott Tout Creer & Wilkinson, a firm which no longer exists. I was paid the minimum wage and acquired a taste for beer.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
I soon realised at Abbott Tout that common law motor vehicle cases, then debt recovery (bankruptcy and winding up) and small commercial litigation would not make for an interesting career. I decided to undertake a Master of Laws at London University to learn things not covered in my undergraduate degree (intellectual property, employment law and competition law). Soon after my return to Australia, I was asked to look after a small US company, referred to us by a firm of accountants, that wanted to establish a subsidiary. The subsidiary was a 1 man, 1 secretary operation working out of a flat in Chatswood. That was Apple. That started a 28 year relationship, including 4 years in-house.
MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
Get a very good, broad training and experience – especially in contract –
and do postgraduate study of any kind (well, not mining law).

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Try to be really good at what you do, stay inquisitive and open-minded, and keep
learning new stuff (get practice writing articles about new cases).

MY CURRENT ROLE:
Partner. I look after IP and IT commercial
matters, mainly, but also IP/IT dispute
matters where I can help. I get involved in
litigation unwillingly if there is an important
reason to do so. For example, I am presently
undertaking copyright infringement actions
for a photographer as part of a program to
raise awareness of copyright in the travel
industry (serial copyright offenders).

MY TYPICAL DAY:
Emails from start to finish, drafting
contracts, a little bit of advice work, helping
with IT/IP litigation where I have a role.

MY AREAS OF LAW:
Contracts, IP, Trade Practices
(both Part IV and ACL)

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Helping people stay out of court – resolving
disputes by compromise.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Dealing with ignorant, aggressive lawyers.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
Lawyers I admire immensely: Jim Lahore,
Bill Cornish, David Catterns, Francis Gurry,
Peter Banki
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 7

EDUCATION:
- University of Technology, Sydney - Master of Intellectual Property (continuing)
- University of New South Wales - Master of Laws, (Media, Communications and Information Technology Law) (Corporate & Commercial Law)
- University of Technology, Sydney - Bachelor of Business, Bachelor of Laws

BACKGROUND:
After starting as a law clerk, I applied for the graduate program at Norton Rose and was accepted to start in March 2008. After completing my graduate rotations I settled in the technology, media and communications group.

I started at Baker & McKenzie at the beginning of 2011 in the Media, IP, Technology, Communications and Commercial Group as a General Associate. I commenced my Master of Laws, (Media, Communications and Information Technology Law) (Corporate & Commercial Law) in 2009, finishing in 2010 and kept up my involvement with the CET Committee. In 2011, I was elected Chair of the CET Committee and continued in that role for 2 years.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
Whilst a graduate at Norton Rose, I attended a seminar on issues in social media which was held by the partner who headed the technology, media and communications group. At that point, I decided instantly that that was the area I wanted to work in.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
My work involves regulatory, advisory and transactional work in the following areas - media, e-commerce, intellectual property and copyright, licensing, privacy and spam, technology, telecommunications and general commercial matters.
JOINING THE CET COMMITTEE WAS A GREAT FIRST STEP IN GETTING TO KNOW OTHER YOUNG LAWYERS WHO WERE ALREADY WORKING IN THE FIELD.

TIPS AND ADVICE

MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
Joining the CET Committee was a great first step in getting to know other young lawyers who were already working in the field.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Cultivate your personal interest and curiosity in the area you decide to specialise in - long hours are inevitable but they will feel much shorter if you enjoy most of what you are working on.

MY TYPICAL DAY:
It is rare for me to work solely on a single matter or even for a single client for a matter of days. Some days involve face to face meetings or conference calls with clients, other days involve drafting advices and reviewing agreements.

MY CLIENTS:
International and Australia based media, news, technology, consulting, Internet, health and beauty, food and beverages, telecommunications, automobile, photography and other arts and luxury goods companies.

MY AREAS OF LAW:
- Intellectual property and copyright
- Privacy law
- Commercial contracting

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
The variety of work and clients, constant learning, the focus on excellence and improvement and direct involvement with clients.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Unpredictability of work hours.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
I have been extremely lucky to work with brilliant, practical, wry and delightful people who have encouraged and inspired me to be better in all respects.
Originally named the Information and Technology Committee, our committee has been operating since early 1996. We later changed our name to the Communications, Entertainment and Technology (CET) Committee to reflect our additional focus on communications technology.


For some time CET operated as an exclusively online committee but in November 2006 we recommenced monthly meetings at the NSW Law Society. We now have the largest active membership at our monthly meetings and our members continue to use our email list to report legal and industry news and discuss issues.

Some of our activities have included:

- CLE seminars on legal developments, topical areas of law & legislative reforms
- providing a monthly Special Interest Group Wrap publication with summaries of cases and legal updates
- preparing guides for young lawyers
- hosting special guest speakers including Rob Simpson (Director of Legal at ABC), Marianna Annas (Manager, ABC Music Publishing), Peter Kite (then Head of Legal & Business Affairs at Fremantle Media), Laurie Patton (Chief Executive of Television Sydney (TVS) and Andy Nehl (producer of The Chaser and The Lawrence Leung Show)
- preparing submissions to the Australian Law Reform Commission including on
Copyright & the Digital Economy, Invasions of Privacy and other areas of interest
- conducting the 2009 Generation Z student essay competition
- running a series of public forums on copyright reform at Arts Law Week
- publishing summaries and commentaries of legislative proposals relating to information technology reform (1996)

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Chair: Chris Chow
Co Vice Chairs: Raeshell Tang and Sarah Kelshaw
Secretary: Wai Kay Soon
CET SIG Wrap Editor: Sophie Ciufo
Communications SIG Leader: Jessica Norgard
Entertainment SIG Leader: Lauren Pelser
Marketing SIG Leader: Patricia Nonis
Technology SIG Leader: Ben Hayes
Bushweb Representative: Kenneth Ti
Co-CLE Coordinators: Kayte Lewis and Sarah Kelshaw
Debrief and Communications Officer: Richard Prangell
NSWYL Representative to LSNSW LTC: Christopher Michaelides
Publications Officer: Alison Eveleigh
Co-Social Media Officers: Brydon Wang and Jonathan Nguyen
Social Officer: Sophie Whish
Student & Careers Officer: Sarah Kelshaw
Co-Submissions Officers: James Skelton and Angela George

For enquiries about membership visit the Joining a Committee page of our website.
For other enquiries, any of the Committee Officers may be contacted via email to the Chair and Vice Chair at cet.chair@younglawyers.com.au.
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 40

EDUCATION:
• 1972 - Bachelor of Arts (ANU)
• 1974 - Bachelor of Laws (ANU)
• 1978 - Master of Laws Columbia University, New York, USA

BACKGROUND:
Since admission to the Bar in 1983, and since taking silk in 1996 I have practiced extensively in the area of libel and media law and conduct an Australia wide practice in these areas. I have conducted numerous defamation cases in the Supreme Courts of New South Wales, Western Australia, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory and South Australia.

I have substantial appellate practice, and I appear regularly in the NSW Court of Appeal and the High Court in defamation and related matters.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
I joined chambers with the then pre-eminent counsel in the area.
MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
Media law is not easy to get a start in. In my case, it was because I joined chambers with the then pre-eminent counsel in the area.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
It would be misleading to give one piece of advice to a young lawyer - it all depends on who they are, what they do or want to do. If anything, remember that the person who counts is the client.

MY TYPICAL DAY:
Appearing in court; Chambers work, including conferring with and advising clients.

MY CLIENTS:
I act on behalf of a number of major Australian media organisations, the most significant being the Nine Network, one of Australia’s major commercial television networks and ACP (Bauer Media Group), Australia’s major magazine publisher.

MY AREAS OF LAW:
Defamation, Commercial

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
The solicitors and the clients.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
The solicitors and the clients.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
I admired greatly the following counsel all of whom led me and all of whom had different strengths or elements of greatness as counsel – M H McHugh QC, AM Gleeson QC, PG Hely QC, TF Bathurst QC

IF ANYTHING, REMEMBER THAT THE PERSON WHO COUNTS IS THE CLIENT.
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 11

EDUCATION:
Bachelor of Laws (Hons I) and
Doctor of Philosophy, University of Sydney

BACKGROUND:
I completed my undergraduate law degree at the University of Sydney, then worked as a tipstaff and research assistant to a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. I had always wanted to do further study, so I decided to do it sooner rather than later. So I enrolled in my doctorate straight away after working in the courts. As happens in academia, I was then offered some teaching, which I accepted, then a position opened up in Torts and Media Law and I was strongly encouraged to apply by colleagues. I got the full-time job, which, in academia, is difficult to get, and have been here ever since.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
I had already decided that I wanted to study Arts / Law at the University of Sydney and I had already developed a substantial newspaper- and magazine-reading habit (which persists to this day). When I got to the final year of my legal studies, I did the elective on defamation law, which was then in Advanced Torts (now in Media Law). I became fascinated (and remain fascinated) by the interaction of complex legal principles with the huge volume of material (sometimes controversial, sometimes salacious) that the media publish and that pervades our lives.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
My position involves teaching and research primarily. I teach Torts as a compulsory subject to first year students and Media Law as an elective subject to final year students. My research focuses on media law, particularly defamation, privacy and breach of confidence.
**TIPS AND ADVICE**

**MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:**
Studying media law at university is a great start.

**MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:**
Do what you are passionate about and what interests you – you spend a significant proportion of your life at work and it is less painful (or sometimes not painful at all) if you are doing something you care about and that stimulates you.

**MY TYPICAL DAY:**
It varies between semester and non-semester time. During semester, two days per week are taken up with teaching and I try to keep two days devoted to research and one day devoted to administration (universities love administration). Outside of semester time, I would devote virtually all of my time to research. That is also when I get to travel to interstate and overseas conferences.

**MY CLIENTS:**
I do not have clients as such. I have students I teach and I have academic colleagues at my own institutions and other institutions with whom I interact and collaborate.

**MY AREAS OF LAW:**
Defamation law; Privacy and breach of confidence; Torts.

**THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:**
Being able to research whatever topics interest me. I am paid to think, reflect and write on things about which I am passionate. And I get to travel extensively as part of my work, to go to conferences and to go on exchange or sabbatical to overseas institutions.

**THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:**
Marking – it is a necessary but unpleasant part of the job. It is incredibly time-consuming and tedious.

**MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:**
I spend a lot of time reading cases, so the lawyers I admire tend to be judges – Sir Victor Windeyer and Sir Anthony Mason in Australia and Sir Stephen Sedley in England. They all write beautifully and very perceptive and thoughtful, Sedley LJ particularly about media law.
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 10 years PAE

EDUCATION:
Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Commerce

BACKGROUND:
I started my legal career as a commercial lawyer at Minter Ellison (Melbourne). During my 4 years there, I undertook a number of client secondments that whet my appetite for the in-house experience.

I have a strong background in media and technology fields advising on licensing agreements, intellectual property law matters, digital rights management and general commercial contracts.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREAS:
During my Minter Ellison years I spent time in the IP / Media department dealing with the usual copyright, trade mark and defamation matters.

After leaving private practice, my first in-house role was as Legal Counsel with Destra – previously Australia’s largest independent digital media, music and entertainment company.

From there I moved on to Fox Interactive Media, which operated and managed MySpace (amongst other online assets) in the Asia-Pacific region.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
I am responsible for providing legal and business affairs advice to management and staff across the entire business – being all of Shine’s TV productions (both reality and scripted), as well as to Shine’s brand licensing, consumer and live events division, Shine 360.
TIPS AND ADVICE

MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
Try to find an area that you are interested in – whether it is TV, Radio, Music, Digital – and use your contacts to network and make some enquiries about potential opportunities. And if you don’t have any contacts, make some!

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Maintain a good work-life balance, and most importantly, don’t take yourself too seriously!

MY TYPICAL DAY:
There is no such thing as a typical day at Shine! It is generally a pretty fast paced environment, particularly when dealing with multiple productions at the same time.

MY CLIENTS:
As in-house counsel, my main and only client is Shine Australia. I advise all areas of the business – including production staff working on set / location and dealing with program participants and talent, post-production teams, Shine 360 division (brand licensing, experiential events, consumer products), and general corporate affairs (e.g. property, insurance, and PR matters).

MY AREAS OF LAW:
Commercial Law / Contract Law
Intellectual Property (Copyright, Trademarks)
Entertainment Law – including music licensing, online, digital

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
The wide variety of work - this keeps things fresh and interesting - as well as the opportunity to work with some great people in an exciting time for the industry as it evolves with the new technologies and viewing habits.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Wouldn’t say the worst, but the most challenging part of the job is the constant and unpredictable nature of the work flow – and the need to react to things very quickly.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
My Dad – he’s retired from law now, but I can now better appreciate all the late nights and weekends he spent working at home when I was young.
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 17

MY TYPICAL DAY:
After checking the surf report and managing a bubbly three year old, I go to work at Simpsons Solicitors for what promises to be an exciting day full of varying experiences. Simpsons Solicitors acts for a wide range of clients across the media, arts, cultural and IP landscape. On any given day, I might be working for a:

- Commonwealth institution;
- Major record label - assisting with a copyright infringement matter prompted by an advertising agency using a song (without permission) in an ad;
- Australian or overseas book publishing companies regarding issues surrounding e-books and resolving disputes with authors;
- Not-for-profit arts organisation attracting tax deductible status;
- Software company with licensing arrangements; and
- Music publishing company regarding arrangements with their artists.

My practice includes advisory and litigious work. I maintain (and promote) a flexible work practice.
MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
Set yourself apart from other applicants. If you are interested in an area then build up your knowledge in the field, volunteer, join the relevant industry groups, make your interest known.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Recognise that it is competitive – but use this to encourage you to work harder to get into the field.

MY CLIENTS:
Australian and multi-national corporations in the publishing, music, film and games industry in need of specialist intellectual property advice. This includes assisting a variety of companies with IP needs such as large recruitment companies with trade mark portfolios and mining companies with trade mark and copyright advice.

MY AREAS OF LAW:
IP, trade practices, contract

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
The variety. The clients. The staff.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
Difficulties that arise when trying to solve problems for a client. For example, when a problem or relationship gets so expansive or intractable that litigation is the only way to solve it. This is often not ideal for a client.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
A mentor of mine is Razi Mireskandari who is a top libel lawyer in London. I was due to start practice at Slaughter and May and Razi convinced me that there were other paths and that it was possible to be a great lawyer and maintain a high quality of work outside the larger firm structure. I began work for him in a boutique firm of around ten partners and it opened my eyes to the number of paths that a person can take and still get to where you want to end up.
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE: 6

EDUCATION:
Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts (University of Western Australia), Masters of Law (IP) (UNSW)

BACKGROUND:
My first role after graduating was at the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations in Canberra. I eventually transferred into another federal government role in Sydney where I got admitted to practice and studied for a Masters of Law specialising in media and communications at UNSW. At the same time I joined the NSW Young Lawyers CET Committee which, being a Perth girl new to Sydney, was incredibly helpful for making friends and networking with IP lawyers. In fact, it was through the CET mailing list that I found my next role at the Arts Law Centre of Australia!

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
I worked at Arts Law for three and a half years. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there working with wonderful talented supervisors and a fantastic team passionate about the arts. I advised on law I was interested in and helped people in the creative media industries. I also frequently delivered lectures on copyright and spoke at public events on legal issues affecting Australian artists.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
My role at WIPO focuses on Internet policy and its interaction with IP law, with a particular focus on trade marks. At the moment I am looking at the issues surrounding the new Internet top-level domains.
**TIPS AND ADVICE**

**MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:**
Network! Getting involved with the CET committee was definitely one of the best things I did moving to Sydney looking to work in IP law. And don’t be afraid to be passionate - it makes you stand out!

**MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:**
Stay positive, plan ahead, and eventually (with hard work!) opportunities will open up. It took me three years and a move across Australia to get started in what I wanted, which has led to my current role. Keep trying!

**MY TYPICAL DAY:**
I start my day by catching up on news and developments, both within WIPO and from stakeholders, that pertain to internet policy and IP law. From there my tasks are varied: sometimes I am drafting policy documents or managing cases between international parties utilising alternative dispute mechanisms to resolve disputes (e.g., over domain names), other times I am focusing on preparing for meetings and conferences with government and industry representatives. Sometimes I may be sent on a mission overseas. I also have to take French classes!

**MY AREAS OF LAW:**
Intellectual Property  
Ecommerce  
Domain names

**THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:**
Being involved in international policy at the cutting edge of the Internet, working with IP lawyers from all over the world, and travelling!

**THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:**
Compared to advising clients directly, in high level policy I sometimes have to remind myself how my work is going to impact people.

**MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:**
I’ve been fortunate to have had many fantastic lawyers help me throughout my career, and am particularly grateful to Robyn Ayres and Delwyn Everard at Arts Law for giving me the opportunity and guidance working in IP law and policy.
NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE:
18 years since admission (although I worked full time for a year before College of Law)

EDUCATION:
BEC, LLB (First Class Hons), University of Sydney

BACKGROUND:
20 years at Gilbert + Tobin – I was the first graduate of the firm appointed to the partnership.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
By chance. I was a litigator working in the Media and Trade Practices area and ended up in IP and Entertainment. The first case I worked on was the Ettingshausen v ACP defamation case (famous for the question: What is it? A “duck”?)

CURRENT FIRM/CHAMBERS:
Gilbert + Tobin

CURRENT JOB TITLE:
Partner
MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
Don’t be too picky about your work – all work is good experience and you will never know where it will take you. So make the most of it.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL: Recognise that you need a strong foundation in law and legal practice and work steadily on your skills. Don’t try to run before you can walk. But when you can run, give it everything you have got.

DON’T BE TOO PICKY ABOUT YOUR WORK – ALL WORK IS GOOD EXPERIENCE AND YOU WILL NEVER KNOW WHERE IT WILL TAKE YOU. SO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.

TIPS AND ADVICE

MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
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MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL: Recognise that you need a strong foundation in law and legal practice and work steadily on your skills. Don’t try to run before you can walk. But when you can run, give it everything you have got.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
IP Practice, Group Leader, firm Marketing Partner

MY TYPICAL DAY:
Juggling a number of competing work and management functions... and running cases.

MY CLIENTS:
Entertainment companies, technology companies and other businesses, usually challenging the status quo.

MY AREAS OF LAW:
Copyright, Patents, Trade Marks, Trade Practices

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
The opportunity to identify, develop and run exciting cases (and often win them).

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
The times I run into the less courageous and those lacking in creativity. I think they are missing what law has to offer.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
Too many influences to mention, but I have been lucky to have been given good guidance (and occasionally some hard truths) at Gilbert + Tobin.
LESLEY POWER

CURRENT ORGANISATION:
Special Broadcasting Service

CURRENT JOB TITLE:
General Counsel

NUMBER OF YEARS OF PRACTICE:
Admitted in 1985

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE:
BA/ LLB (Hons)

BACKGROUND:
I studied at the ANU, and was initially most interested in art, performance and music. As my studies progressed, my interest in the law grew stronger, particularly in the fields of human rights and social change. This led to an involvement in free speech issues, and working in community legal centres.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN THE COMMUNICATIONS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LAW AREA/S:
My first legal job after admission was at the Arts Law Centre of Australia. This was my entrée to the world of arts and entertainment law. From there I moved to an in-house role with the ABC Legal team, and from there to my current role as General Counsel at SBS.

MY CURRENT ROLE:
The General Counsel is responsible for ensuring that all the legal requirements of SBS are met. This encompasses commercial, procurement and contractual arrangements, governance, pre-publication advice and litigation.

MY TYPICAL DAY:
Every day is different and that is one of the joys of the role. A typical day would involve meetings, responding to clients’ requests for advice, managing legal issues and preparing advice or legal documents. Depending on the day, I may have to deliver legal training or attend seminars and lectures, go to court or mediations and attend corporate planning sessions or other SBS events.
MY TIP FOR GETTING STARTED IN THIS FIELD OF LAW:
It can be challenging to secure that first role, and my tip is to be persistent. Keep up to date with current issues by attending seminars, joining networks and writing and presenting papers and articles.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS IN GENERAL:
Find the joy in the process and details of the work you do. If you are interested and engaged, this will be reflected in the quality of your work.

MY CLIENTS:
My client is SBS, so I am working with SBS business managers, engineers, journalists, producers, program makers, broadcasters and executives on all aspects of operations in a 21st century media business.

MY AREAS OF LAW:
Media law (encompassing defamation, contempt of court, and other publishing restrictions), Copyright and Intellectual Property, Commercial and transactional, Governance and regulatory

THE BEST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
The inspirational people I work with who are passionately committed to diversity and to delivering a unique and distinctive media service to Australia.

THE WORST THING ABOUT MY JOB:
There is a lot to do and not enough time to do everything! The role involves constant prioritising of competing demands.

MY CAREER MENTOR OR A LAWYER I ADMIRE:
At the ABC I worked with two different heads of Legal, Bruce Donald and Judith Walker. They both taught me so much, and have been both role models and mentors. I continue to learn from the lawyers I work with, and am surrounded by a wonderful team at SBS Legal.
FURTHER INFORMATION
For further information about our activities see the ‘About the Committee’ and ‘Meetings’ pages of our website, or contact the Chair and Vice Chair at cet.chair@younglawyers.com.au.

RESOURCES
Many resources available on our website have been produced by members of CET.

CET is interested in continuing to develop useful resources, including links recommended by members, that are not contained on those common pages.

Please send your suggestions for useful resources and feedback on your use of this website to the Chair and Vice Chair at cet.chair@younglawyers.com.au.
JOIN US
Whether you work in media, intellectual property, trade practices or in any technology or entertainment law field - there’s a place for every Young Lawyer on the CET Committee!

Join the committee by subscribing to our email list at the following link: lists.younglawyers.com.au/mailman/listinfo/cet

Once you’re a member you can also attend our monthly meetings.

MONTHLY MEETINGS
Third Monday evening of every month (not December)
6pm – 8pm
Law Society Building Meeting Rooms
170 Phillip Street SYDNEY NSW 2000

2015 meeting dates are:
19 January
16 February
16 March
20 April
18 May
15 June
20 July
17 August
21 September
19 October
19 November (Friday)
(followed by an end of year function)