

CANDIDATES



JENNIFER BALL

Large Firm Member

I am a Partner in the Restructuring & Insolvency practice at Clayton Utz and am also an expert in litigation and commercial dispute resolution. I want to ensure the Society simplifies lawyers' lives and achieves workable policy outcomes, through its unique ability to influence Government policy and inform decision-making on the justice system and regulation. I am experienced in law reform through various advisory committees and am currently a member of the NSW Supreme Court Users' Group, the ASIC Regional Insolvency Liaison Committee and am also a director of the Turnaround Management Association Australia, having previously chaired its NSW Committee.

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DAVID BARKER

Corporate Member

Emeritus Professor David Barker AM. Currently member of the Law Society Licensing, Government Solicitors and Indigenous Issues Committees. Member, Committee City of Sydney (President 2009) and North Metropolitan Law Societies. Foundation Fellow/Secretary Australian Academy of Law and Secretary Australasian Law Academics Association. Formerly Dean UTS Law Faculty, Member Legal Profession Admission Board and Chair Australia Law Deans. Committed to ensuring the Law Society provides suitable assistance to solicitors to enable them to cope with increasing demands placed upon them in practice. Seeks greater support for regional law societies.

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HOWARD BELL

Government Member

Dr Howard Bell OAM LL.M. is a NSW government lawyer and Accredited Specialist in Public Law. He currently serves on the Law Society's Government Lawyers Committee and the Public Law Committee. A passionate volunteer with charities and the homeless, Howard holds an OAM for service to the community. He currently serves on the Boards of Shelter NSW and WEA-Sydney. He is a Major in the Army Reserve, has served in Legal Corps, and on active service in East Timor. On Council, Howard will represent you, your professional interests, issues and concerns, ensuring your voice is heard.

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SUSAI BENJAMIN

Suburban Member

Susai works with the Litigation Branch at Revenue NSW (formerly Office of State Revenue). Passionate about socially, economically and culturally disadvantaged peoples' access to legal system. Honorary Director and Acting Principal Solicitor, Toongabbie Legal Centre Inc - www.tlc.asn.au - run by volunteers. Keen to explore the options for simple cost assessment method and maintaining the integrity of legal profession, work towards pro-active approach by the Society in advocating for and supporting the community legal sector and lobby for a greater diversity in judicial and quasi-judicial appointments.

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ANDREW BIDE

Suburban Member

As a Sole Practitioner and Regional President of the Parramatta and District Law Society, I am always committed to maintaining the high standards we set for our profession. Always eager to prevent the erosion of our areas of practice which we often see replaced with inferior services by non-lawyers. If elected as your Councillor, I will work tirelessly to ensure that the interests of the profession are protected and not undervalued. There is a place for small, medium and large firms and, if elected to Council, I will seek to ensure that the mix is protected.

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ANGELO BILIAS

Suburban Member

I am the principal of Biliias and Associates and have a sound understanding of the issues facing suburban and small to mid-sized firms. Solicitors need strong and responsive representation on the Law Society Council and, if elected, I am determined to provide this. I am a member of the Professional Conduct and Licensing Committees and have previously served on the Criminal Law Committee and the Law Society Council. I am dedicated to ensuring that the Law Society serves the needs of its members and actively assists with the difficulties that solicitors face in our professional lives.

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WAYNE DIXON

City Member

Presently Dixons Lawyers, previously a partner in a city firm and in the banking sector including Lloyds, Chase NBA, ANZ, State Bank. My practice includes: commercial, property, conveyancing, family law, wills & estates. Committee member Sydney Regional Law Society. I am committed to a strong, proactive Law Society dealing with important issues such as LPI access and costs, improved solicitor and judicial resources in courts, increased member services and benefits, mental health, inclusion, diversity and education. Improved website promoting the Society and profession, improved legal aid and services for unrepresented clients and the disadvantaged.

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COLLEEN DONNELLY

Suburban Member

Admitted 1987. Sole practitioner since 2006 - Suburban practitioner. President, City of Sydney Law Society. I have practised in criminal law, family law, personal injuries, workers compensation, commercial litigation and conveyancing. I now practise solely in criminal law. I am committed to the rule of law, and to halt the assault on it by successive governments using the "law and order" debate to erode civil liberties. I am also keen to address the problems faced by women with children in the profession, having experienced the difficulties in obtaining employment following a time away from the profession caring for children.

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MATT DUFFY

Large Firm Member

Currently Special Counsel at HWL Ebsworth practising in intellectual property, commercial and corporate law with over 20 years' experience. I undertake pro bono work for arts-based schools and foundations and am a committee member of the charity Underwater Earth. I support the traditional values of the profession and will work to ensure uniform national regulation is achieved where appropriate and transparency in admission requirements. I am committed to the development of a Society which supports its members and addresses important issues that affect the interests of its members.

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JANE GLOWREY

Country Member

I live and practise in Deniliquin in a general practice family firm and have done so for more than 20 years. Our profession and its health matter to me. I have served on Council and many committees – I currently serve on four committees. I know how important country and suburban practitioners are to their communities and know first-hand the impact of the drought on rural practitioners. I am committed to ensuring that our Society does all it can to keep our practices viable. Trust me to provide an experienced, committed, country female perspective to the deliberations of Council.

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SUZIE LEASK

Country Member

Associate Director - Corporate & Commercial, Australian Business Lawyers & Advisors (Newcastle). Previously Ashurst (Sydney) and in house counsel. Private Practice Lawyer of the Year 2019; Australian Law Awards Finalist Regional Lawyer of the Year 2018; Newcastle Business Club 2019 Finalist Young Business Leader; Committee member Women Lawyers Association NSW (Newcastle); Hunter Young Business Mind Awards; former Company Secretary Lake Macquarie Business Limited. Facilitator WLANSW Newcastle event "The First 100 Years Project: Where to now". Launched International Womens' Day Moët Marquee fundraiser for domestic violence charity. I am committed to supporting regional practitioners and promoting flexible workplace practices.

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KAYTE LEWIS

City Member

Principal at Voice Lawyers. Treasurer NSW Young Lawyers 2016. Currently member of Law Society Employment Law and ADR Committees. Previously, member of Law Society Family Law Committee and the Communications Entertainment and Technology Law and Continuing Legal Education Committees of NSW Young Lawyers. Nationally Accredited Mediator and currently member of the Legal Aid Review Panel and Law Society Panel of Mediators. I would like to promote the continued advancement of women in the profession. As a sole practitioner I want to ensure that appropriate support is given by the Society to small practices.

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IONA LUKE

Corporate Member

I am sole in-house counsel at China Construction Bank in Australia. My practice includes regulatory, banking and finance, corporate and commercial. My prior legal experience is in insurance, privacy, data law, property and tourism. I have a diploma in governance and experience working in audit, IT and operations. Currently a member of the Business Law Committee and previously Deputy Chair of the Privacy and Data Law Committee. I wish to serve on the Law Society Council to help it provide better support for in-house counsel and sole practitioners.

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HUGH MACKEN

City Member

I absolutely adore the Legal Profession. I have basically served on all Committees and positions of the Law Society, on and off, since 2003. I'm passionate about serving the members and the Profession. Like others in our team, I seek to preserve the scope of legal work and prevent pretenders and wannabees from providing legal services. I want more resources put into health and wellbeing of the Profession. I want restrictions on providing legal services removed. If you support me, I will support you.

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MARY MACKEN

Corporate Member

Corporate Counsel, Blacktown Council. President of NSW Law Society 2010. As President I pursued the implementation of the national legal profession and the advancement of women and diversity. Former Chair of Property Law; Environmental Planning; Government Solicitors' Committees and member Disclosure Committee. Active referee and mentor in sport – including weightlifting. Have worked as a lawyer for thirty years in the private and public sectors. Committed to animal welfare and protection of native fauna. Committed to promoting solicitors for judicial and quasi-judicial positions, preserving existing areas of practice, developing new practice areas and reducing regulatory burdens on members.

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STEVE MCAULEY

Suburban Member

Your needs must be the priority. We exist to serve you. Complaints against solicitors must be met with a filing fee. Costs regulations are too complex. CLE costs need reducing. Legal Aid rates are way too low. Young lawyers need career options. Suburban and country court sittings need improvement/restoration. Parliament should stop eating up legal work. I am the Secretary, Parramatta & District Regional Law Society and an Accredited Specialist – Commercial Litigation. In practice for 14 years, I am married with five children. The Law Society must focus on you.

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MICHELLE MEARES

Country Member

Associate at Watts McCray Lawyers' Central Coast office specialising in family law. Previously based at Plaintiff Litigation firm in Gosford - personal injury, wills/estates, worker's compensation. Member Family Law and Privacy/Data Law Society Committees. Member Central Coast Regional Law Society Committee. Board Member/Secretary Electronic Frontiers Australia. Mentor The Opportunity Collective addressing Workplace Gender Diversity in Regional Australia. Former Young Lawyers' Delegate. Committed to working with the Law Society to assist regional practitioners to overcome issues of distance and delay. I will advocate for funding for our Family Courts and ensure interests of regional lawyers are represented during any future Court merger.

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PHILLIP ROBERTS

City Member

Sole practitioner, PCR Law & Associates, specialising in IT law, civil litigation and wills and estates. Vice-President - City of Sydney Law Society, Committee Member - Law Society Litigation Law and Practice and Legal Technology Committees, Committee Member - NSW Society for Computers and the Law. I am committed to proactively supporting members' concerns from all sectors of the profession. I also support retaining areas of practice and the Law Society's role in lobbying to protect members' interests. I have a particular interest in Small Law and regional practices.

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CATHERINE SAMUELS

Government Member

LLM. I have over 19 years' experience practising in the public and private sectors. Accredited Specialist Children's Law. Member - Law Society Government Solicitors and Children's Legal Issues Committees and the Children's Court Advisory Committee. I am committed to addressing bullying and harassment in the legal profession and promoting respect and kindness. I am also committed to promoting gender equality. Women represent over 50% of lawyers in Australia yet earn less than men and are under-represented in leadership roles. Men should also be better supported to take parenting leave and work flexibility.

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ANTONELLA SANDERSON

Suburban Member

Current Councillor and member of the Law Society Family Law, ADR and Costs Committees. Accredited Specialist in Family Law and Family Law Arbitrator. Previously Secretary of Cronulla Chamber of Commerce and a founding member of the Southern Sydney Collaborative Professionals Group. Lobbied for an extension of stamp duty exemption provisions for family law transfers under arbitral awards, which was approved. Advocated for proper funding and resourcing of the Family Law Courts. During recent proposed reforms to Family Law I have sought to preserve a continued role for solicitors in property and parenting matters.

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JAMES SKELTON

City Member

I am a member of Swaab's corporate and commercial practice with a focus on commercial transactions and IP and technology advice. I also have corporate experience through two in-house secondments. An Executive Councillor of NSW Young Lawyers since 2015, I was honoured to be named 2017 Australian Young Lawyer of the Year by the Law Council of Australia for my contribution to the profession. I am Co-Chair of Sydney charity, the Aurora Group - A Ruby Foundation, and hope to bring my encouragement and support for diversity, and my not-for-profit governance experience, to the Law Society Council.

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ELIZABETH STAHLUT

Country Member

As a rural practitioner working in a small law practice in Armidale NSW, I see the results of the drought first hand, including its impacts on local businesses and individuals. I believe strongly that wealth shouldn't determine access to justice and that a properly funded Legal Aid Commission, proper funding to community legal and other services, and proper remuneration of private lawyers who do Legal Aid work, are important ways to ensure equal access to justice. If elected, I will campaign for this, as well as promoting strong collegiate and community ties.

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JADE TYRRELL

City Member

I am passionate about supporting the personal and professional development of young lawyers, and deeply committed to furthering the Law Society's goals of increasing access to justice, improving diversity within the profession and promoting and preserving value for members. I am a commercial and dispute resolution lawyer and sit on the Law Society's Litigation Law and Practice Committee. I am also Chair of the Young Lawyers Civil Litigation Committee. These experiences, and my years of active involvement on the Young Lawyers Executive Council, mean I am well-placed to be a dedicated and effective representative.

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JOANNE VAN DER PLAAT

Country Member

A partner at Blaxland Mawson & Rose Solicitors, Cooma, I practise primarily in workplace relations, property, planning and estates. I want to ensure the issues that most concern you are addressed by the Society and in particular, that country practice remains sustainable. I am Treasurer of the NSW Law Society, chair the Professional Conduct and Audit, Finance and Risk Committees, co-chair the Employment Law Committee and am a member of the Human Rights Committee. I actively support all members in areas of concern including supervision, conduct, regulatory compliance and wellbeing.

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