



PRESIDENT'S PIECE

By Julian Creagh

Welcome to the August QYL newsletter, sneaking in before the end of the month like so many bills to clients.

Solicitor/Barrister Forum

This Thursday 3 September you have the opportunity to meet aspiring young barristers (or alternatively if you are a narcissist; "*aspiring young barristers will have the opportunity to meet you*") in an informal networking environment.

RSVPs to date indicate that this type of event is long overdue. Don't delay sending your RSVP form if you haven't already.

LexisNexis / QYL Business Law seminar series

Renowned providers of top-shelf professional development LexisNexis have teamed up with QYL to present a seminar series specifically designed for those of us in the gentleman's area of Business Law (and others who aspire to such greatness). The three half-day seminars will be "*Understanding Financial Statements*", "*Buying & Selling a Business*" and "*Tax & Revenue Law*".

The days of the strict Black Letter Lawyer are numbered. Our clients expect us to have an understanding of their businesses and the documents, processes and tax implications that go with it. In addition, we each need to have a mental radar system for important and unusual elements when financial statements, due diligence results, business structures and tax matters cross our desks.

For these reasons QYL encourages you to book into the seminar/s which will give your practical skills the necessary boost. In addition, paid-up QYL members will reap the benefit of generous QYL member discounts. The discounts are bigger than your \$50 annual membership fee!

Annual General Meeting

It's great to see people start nominating for positions in the 2010 QYL Executive and Committee.

If you are made of "the right stuff" and want to get involved then please come along to our AGM on the evening of Monday 28 September at the Pig 'n' Whistle riverside (there will be food!).

What's coming up...

Solicitor/Barrister forum

On the night of Thursday **3 September 2009**, QYL and the Bar Association of Queensland will be host a joint networking evening designed to foster closer links between young lawyers and young barristers.

Details:

- Date: Thursday 3 September 2009, 5.30 for 6.00pm
- Venue: The Bar Common Room, Level 5, Inns of Court, 107 North Quay, Brisbane
- Cost: \$20.00
- RSVP: via the form that is on page 9 of this newsletter

LexisNexis Business Law Seminar Series Seminar 1: Understanding Financial Statements

LexisNexis and QYL have put together a 3-part Business Law half-day seminar series. The first is the morning of **Tuesday 15 September 2009** on Financial Statements and their relevance to lawyers.

Details:

- Date: Tuesday 15 September 2009, 8:30am - 1:00pm
- Venue: Christie Corporate Centre, 320 Adelaide Street, Brisbane
- Cost: \$434.50 for QYL members, \$495.00 Early Bird (by 4 Sept), \$550.00 standard price (all prices incl. GST)
- RSVP: via LexisNexis registration form accompanying this newsletter

QYL Annual General Meeting

On the night of Monday **28 September 2009** QYL will have its AGM. Members are encouraged to attend, vote on constitutional changes and 2010 management appointments and even nominate for committee or leadership positions in QYL.

Details:

- Date: Monday 28 September 2009, 5.30 for 6.00pm
- Venue: Pig 'n' Whistle Riverside
- Cost: Free
- RSVP: Not required – just turn up (although an indicative email for catering purposes will mean that you get more food!)

LexisNexis Business Law Seminar Series Seminar 2: Buying & Selling a Business

The second seminar in this series is the morning of **Tuesday 13 October 2009** the sale and purchase of businesses.

Details:

- Date: Tuesday 13 October 2009, 8:30am - 1:00pm
- Other details: Same as Seminar 1 above.



Wine Tasting 2009 – 10 July 2009 @ Brisbane Polo Club

QYL decided to hold this year's wine tasting in the luxury and ambience of the Brisbane Polo Club wine cellar. From what we can remember this was a popular choice of venue and an enjoyable evening sampling excellent wine from around Australia with canapés to match.

QYL would like to thank all who attended, especially our long time supporter and sponsor John O'Brien of Visis Financial Planning (www.visis.com.au) for sponsoring the evening. If you want to be wealthy enough to have your own wine cellar full of wine (other than cleanskins) you should book a financial-planning appointment with a Visis professional.

We also thank Andrew Bromley of Prestige Liquor (ph 3847 2851) for not only selecting and supplying excellent wine, but presenting it in a humorous and down-to-earth manner. A selection of photos from the evening follows:



Left:- *"pinkie fingers up"* the opulent surrounds and fine wine made silver-tails of us all.

Top right:- for some reason most of our photographs were on a funny angle and only a few were not blurred (no joke). It is an interesting metaphor.

Bottom right:- Left to right; Wadi Nadzri (QYL Vice President and wine tasting event organiser), Andrew Bromley (Prestige Liquor) and Janita Singh (QYL Secretary)



Queensland Young Lawyers & LexisNexis Professional Development present Business Law Seminar Series

The Queensland Young Lawyers Business Law seminar series is specifically designed for new or young practitioners to cover the essential aspects of providing commercial advice to SMEs.

Conducted in partnership with Queensland Young Lawyers, the series is offered as three half-day programs that build on each other over a three month period.

Seminar 1: Understanding Financial Statements - 15 September 2009

Speakers: Anita West & Anna Borissova, Pilot Chartered Accountants

This intensive, practical workshop is designed to provide legal professionals with the ability to advance their skills in understanding financial statements to successfully appraise the trading performance of businesses.

Seminar 2: Buying and Selling a Business - 13 October 2009

Providing a framework for best practice in advising on SME transfers, this program concentrates on due diligence and contract preparation, plus provides a useful overview of franchising.

Seminar 3: Tax and Revenue Law - 17 November 2009

Applying tax and revenue frameworks to practical business law examples, this program will provide an insight into the choices and issues that practitioners must consider.

Who should attend:

- Queensland Young Lawyers Association members
- Junior practitioners with up to 5 years PAE
- Practitioners seeking to update/refresh skills in business law
- Junior barristers

Take advantage of these special offers:

1. Register and pay before 4 September 2009 to **SAVE up to \$346.50** with our Early Bird Price.
2. Register a group of 3 or more to take advantage of the special advance price any time and **save up to \$346.50**

For further information or to register, go to www.lexisnexis.com.au/pd or call 1800 772 772.

See the LexisNexis flyer that accompanies this newsletter for more information...



Golden Gavel 2009 – 11 August 2009 @ Vinos

The Queensland 2009 Golden Gavel comedy night was an eye-wateringly funny evening with nine very funny speakers and over one hundred attendees.

A selection of photos from the night appear below. Michael Hodge's winning speech is featured (with more photos) in the annexure at the end of this newsletter. Michael has edited one of his saucier jokes after Rodney Rude rang up to complain. If you want uncensored ~~fit~~ hilarity you will need to actually turn up to these events.



Classical-era Golden Gavel speakers. From left to right; Michael Hodge, Clayton Payne, Steven Hogg, Chris O'Meara, Steve Mackie, Derran Moss, Julian Creagh and Peter Black. The lack of lady speakers this year was not due to a want of trying – all of our invited lady speakers “conveniently” discovered they had conflicting travel plans this year. The challenge goes out to the very funny women of the legal profession for 2010 Golden Gavel.



“I won People’s Choice so technically I am the winner” - Steve Mackie straight-talking to Michael Hodge (winner) and Derran Moss (runner-up).



Above left:- Shane Elliott explains why Rugby League players should launch a class-action against women for bringing the game into disrepute.



Above right:- the talented and funny Julian Creagh looking dapper at Golden Gavel and generally enjoying the reigns as newsletter editor.



Above left:- Peter Black on *"The Kyle Sandilands guide to tact and discretion with traumatised witnesses"*

Above centre:- Clayton Payne represent's Bubbles the chimpanzee in the estate of the late Michael Jackson

Above right:- Steve Hogg delivers *The inaugural Gordon Nuttall pro bono oration.*



Left:- Steve Mackie delivers *"Life as a Lawyer" – The Musical* to critical acclaim (People's Choice award).
Right:- Derran Moss delivers *Evidence 101 by Malcolm Turnbull* with his verbal safety-catch on full-automatic.



Special thanks go to our adjudicator for the evening Petrina Macpherson. Petrina's Golden Gavel and stand-up comedy experience kept the evening in very good hands and ensured that our winner (Michael Hodge) was the very best Queensland representative at the national Golden Gavel final in Perth.



Queensland Young Lawyers – Seventh member profile for 2009

James Fleetwood

Employer: HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

Position: Trainee Solicitor

Age: 23

Area/s of Practice: Rotating trainee - completed litigation, currently in Planning and Environment with property and commercial rotations to complete

Pets: My mum and sister's dog - cross between a mini poodle and a Ihasa apso – Moet & My finance's dog - Australian Silky Terrier - Tess

Sport: Enjoy watching Rugby Union & AFL

Favourite Book: Catch 22

Favourite TV Show: Top Gear



Study: Bachelors of Laws and Sustainable Property Development from Bond University (began law degree at UQ and transferred to Bond when the new Mirvac School of Sustainable Development opened). My degree at Bond gave me insight into the changes concerning sustainable development. It is something to watch especially with climate change. I have just begun a Graduate Certificate at QUT in accounting because I want to know how to read and analyse company reports.

[Editor's note:- if you don't want James to make you look ignorant then you had best book yourself into LexisNexis/QYL Seminar 1: "Understanding Financial Statements"]

Where in 10 Years: That is a hard one. It definitely has to be something that I enjoy and presents challenges. I really can't honestly answer that question until I have completed all of my rotations.

Why a Lawyer: The work is interesting and challenging.

What if you weren't a lawyer?: Banker.

Comments about being a rotating trainee solicitor: It is a great learning experience and I get to see several different areas of practice and different lawyer's styles. I would recommend it.



Inaugural Australian Young Lawyer Conference

Perth to play host to the Inaugural Australian Young Lawyers Conference

Without a doubt the most exciting event for the AYLC this year is the inaugural Australian Young Lawyers Conference, incorporated under the umbrella of the 36th Australian Legal Convention.

Set to be held in the beautiful city of Perth from 17 to 19 September 2009, the conference has been designed to cater specifically to the needs of young practitioners, whilst still also taking advantage of the main convention program. This includes keynote addresses from His Honour Chief Justice Robert French of the High Court of Australia and the Hon Robert McClelland MP, the Federal Attorney-General. Delegates will also be lucky to have a speech from Professor Fiona Wood AM, whose work with the Bali bombing victims, contribution to medical science and involvement in the community has resulted in a long list of accolades that include being named Australian of the Year in 2005.

One of the highlights of the conference is the young lawyer's stream of the academic program, covering a number of relevant and diverse topics. We have already secured high calibre members of the profession to host these sessions, including a member of the judiciary, senior counsel and a partner in one of the largest Perth based commercial firms. A breakfast entitled "Global Aspirations: Practising Law Overseas" will feature a panel presentation from lawyers and industry members offering tips and advice to those interested in working beyond the jurisdiction of Australia, and the effect that the current economic crisis may have on those ambitions. Saturday's program will also include an offsite excursion designed to showcase the best of Western Australia, hosted by a very special guest. The hard work of the organising committee has produced a balanced program that is tailored to the needs of young legal professionals.

However the conference is more than just CPD points! In an exciting move, it has been decided that the National Golden Gavel Competition will be held as the convention's Friday night event. After enjoying canapés, drinks and entertainment on a balmy Perth September evening, delegates will see the winners from each State and Territory Golden Gavel go head to head in their bid to secure the coveted title of the one with the gift of the gab. Competitors are given the topics of their presentations less than 24 hours in advance, and with past topics ranging from "Such is life – the Ben Cousin's guide to professional responsibility" to "Why I should replace Michael Kirby on the High Court bench", the annual event never fails to impress. We are pleased to announce that His Honour Chief Judge Wayne Martin of the Supreme Court of Western Australia has accepted our invitation to join the panel of judges, lending the event the gravitas that it deserves. Queensland barrister and Golden Gavel winner Michael Hodge will be flying the Maroon flag in the National Golden Gavel final.

The evening will also see the presentation of the 2009 Australian Young Lawyer Awards that recognize and celebrate the achievements of organisations and individuals from around the country.

What better way for the inaugural conference to end than the convention Gala Dinner? Enjoy fine food and wines at Frasier's Restaurant in King's Park, overlooking Perth city and the iconic Swan River, whilst being entertained by one of the state's leading entertainment groups. Whilst not included in the registration fee, at a very reasonable \$125 tickets will sell out fast!

So get onto your managing partners or start saving yourself because Perth will be the place to be in September if you're a young lawyer! Registration is open now, and for more information visit www.law09.com.au.



Executive Members

President:	Julian Creagh	- Solicitor with Quinn & Scattini Lawyers
Vice-President:	Wadi Nadzri	- In House Counsel
Secretary:	Janita Singh	- Solicitor with Ellison Moschella Lawyers
Treasurer:	David Topp	- Barrister

Committee Members

Joanne Bennett	- Solicitor with Bennett Carroll Lawyers
Anne Connell	- Solicitor with Burchill & Horsey Lawyers
Leanne Doxey	- Associate with Bain Gasteen Lawyers
Danielle Keyes	- Solicitor with Deacons Lawyers
Stephen Mackie	- Solicitor with Deacons Lawyers (and immediate past vice president and 06/07 president)
Leah Mangano	- Associate with Carter Newell Lawyers
Adrian Robins	- Solicitor with James Conomos Lawyers

Interested in becoming a part of the committee? Contact us:

Queensland Young Lawyers Inc

GPO Box 1147
BRISBANE QLD 4001
queenslandyounglawyers@gmail.com
www.qldyounglawyers.com.au



Queensland Young Lawyers Inc

ABN 91 113 661 372

Membership Application 2009

Full Name: _____

Date of birth: / / dd/mm/yyyy

Please indicate: Solicitor Barrister Trainee Solicitor / Articled Clerk

Full-Time Student Other: _____
(Please provide copy of student card)

Date of Admission (if applicable)

_____ / _____ / _____ dd/mm/yyyy

Level of Study (if applicable)

Firm/Employer/University:

Telephone Number:

(work)

(home/mobile)

E-Mail Address:

Secondary E-Mail Address:

Feel free to provide a webmail address just in case your employment email address becomes inoperative for any reason

Friend Function Proctor Web

How did you discover QYL?

Other: _____

Signature:

Not required when submitting form electronically with online payment

x

Membership from now to 31 December 2009 - \$50 or \$25 for full-time student

Amount Paid: \$ _____

Cheque or money order

PayPal - date of payment / /

Visit our website to pay by PayPal using either  

SUBMIT THIS FORM (AND CHEQUE/MONEY ORDER PAYABLE) TO:

QUEENSLAND YOUNG LAWYERS INC
GPO BOX 1147 BRISBANE QLD 4001
secretary@qldyounglawyers.com.au
www.qldyounglawyers.com.au

Your application will be considered at the next Management Committee Meeting held on or about the second Tuesday of each month. QYL will confirm your application shortly thereafter. GST is not payable on this membership fee.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Proposer's Signature & Name

Secunder's Signature & Name

Golden Gavel Annexure

Michael Hodge's winning Golden Gavel speech:

"Reintroducing the notion of fault in divorce" – Lessons from Jordan and Peter Andre

For those of you who don't know, Peter Andre and Katie Price, aka Jordan, are getting divorced. What, you might ask, could possibly tear apart a set of singing abdominal muscles and a pair of breasts with learning difficulties? Well, fortunately, they've told us. She says he has a tiny penis and is premature ejaculator. He says she was having an affair with a gay dressage rider.

As you can imagine, I was concerned to hear that any of these things could be grounds for divorce.

But what pleased me, was that Peter and Katie understood that divorce should not be some blame-free process conducted with quiet dignity behind the shadowy curtain of the family court.

If there is one thing that the people of this country are crying out for ... it is the public castration of sex offenders. But, if there are six to ten things that the people are calling for then surely, one those things, is a divorce revolution.

That is why, tonight, I call for us to bring democracy back to divorce.

The first thing we need to remember is that fundamental to all democracies is the right to know. We cannot continue to allow important decisions to be made behind closed doors, away from media scrutiny and free from the principles of public accountability. Divorce is not a Labor Party fundraiser.

And so I propose ADAC – the Australian Divorces and Annulments Channel – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, non-stop coverage of every marital dispute in this country.

There is no justice like show justice.

And then, with the launch of ADAC, we will give the people their second fundamental democratic right – the right to vote.

Because, to paraphrase the inspiring words of one of our greatest Australians – we will decide who gets divorced in this country and the conditions upon which they may separate. God, I miss him.



The public has lost confidence in the ability of the unrepresentative swill masquerading as the third arm of government to decide anything correctly.

...

These are difficult tasks best left to what I like to call, the People's Court.

Finally, and seriously, to truly bring democracy to divorce we must make everybody equal under the law. And that is why I ask, why should I have to marry somebody in order to be able to divorce them?

It is wrong that we discriminate against people by denying everybody the legal right to a bitter and acrimonious disassociation. I don't need to marry someone to know that I hate them. I hate them now. You should be able to divorce anybody you want.

Unless you're gay.

Because we have to acknowledge that it would undermine the very foundations of the institution of divorce and the social structure of this country, if we started allowing a man and another man to resolve their growing loathing and abiding contempt for each other by equitably dividing their property and going their separate ways through a state-sanctioned legal process – isn't that what the Holy Bible teaches us?

So, what have I achieved tonight? I've called for a meaningless revolution, trampled on gay rights and my only substantive proposal was the creation of a new television channel which I might get to feature on. Basically, I'm just a 2020 summit and a hypocritical, self-righteous essay away from being Kevin Rudd.

