

# And the Winner is.....

## The 1998 Gordon Lewis Speakers' Competition

Marisa Patitucci

"Lawyers love to use words .... they are our tools of trade... a case can be won or lost on the manner of delivery ... and the words used....", so noted Mr Campbell Mc Comas in the course of his humorous address on the art of advocacy to those who attended the 1998 Gordon Lewis Speakers' Competition held on 10 June 1998 at the Mitre Tavern.

Over a decade ago His Honour Judge Gordon Lewis, County Court Judge, founded this prestigious event to create a forum in which young legal professionals would be encouraged to excel in public speaking. His Honour, a former Executive Director of the Law Institute between 1973 and 1986, is well known for his witty and thought-provoking speeches. With public speaking and the art of persuasion, communication and negotiation being essential skills in our profession, the Gordon Lewis Speakers' Competition has sought to nurture, the development of those skills in young lawyers, and has succeeded in doing so.

The eleventh anniversary of the event attracted eight young legal professionals, each from diverse backgrounds and legal practices:

1. Catherine Dunlop, Maddock Lonie and Chisholm;
2. David Beattie, sole practitioner;
3. Iresha Herath, Bella & Associates;
4. Malcolm Langford, Lewis Hutchinson;
5. Caitlin Barraah, Lander & Rogers;
6. Jarmal Richard, Dunhill Madden Butler;

7. Ayshia Rizza, sole practitioner; and
8. James Blackmore, Dunhill Madden Butler.

Natalia Urosevic and Marie-Claire Putrino, Joint Chairs of the Young Lawyers' Editorial Committee welcomed the adjudicators, the major sponsor Mahlab Recruitment, the contestants and guests to the evening. His Honour Judge Gordon Lewis was one of the adjudicators and the other was the irrepressible Mr McComas, well know debater and public speaker.

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Each contestant presented two speeches. The first, a prepared speech of 5 to 7 minutes on "The Next Millennium: What the legal profession will look like?" and the second, a short impromptu speech of 2 to 3 minutes on one of a number of general topics. Two of those topics were:

- (a) "How to deal with the client from hell?"; and
- (b) "What do you get when you cross a lawyer, a wharfie and a politician?".

Although the principal topic was chosen to be as general as possible, it inspired each contestant to creatively

contrive a range of diverse legal issues that could possibly confront a lawyer practising in the next century, and to ingeniously depict what each believed would be the technological gizmos that the profession would by then (hopefully!) have access to, and how those wonderful inventions could be skilfully used to successfully solve the most complex of cases. Each contestant came up with cleverly devised humorous anecdotes and scenarios (LA LAW eat your heart out!) making it a lively debate and the adjudicator's final decision very difficult!!

# Events

The prizes were presented by His Honour Judge Gordon Lewis and Ms Katherine Sampson, the Managing Director of Mahlab Recruitment. In reviewing the performance of the speakers, His Honour declared that "[they] were all of a very high standard and in particular the winner Ms Catherine Dunlop epitomises everything that is excellent in public speaking".

For her exceptional efforts Ms Dunlop was awarded the prestigious Gordon Lewis Speakers' Trophy, a cheque for \$850.00 and the leading textbook on advocacy "Hampel on Advocacy". Ms Dunlop's prepared speech is reproduced on page 18 of this Journal.

Malcolm Langford received the second prize of \$400.00 and a Law Institute Journal book package and Jarmal Richard collected the third prize of \$150.00 and another Law Institute Journal book package.

During the intermission and after the prizes were awarded, the audience was invited to partake in a fantastic spread of delicious finger food, supplied by the Mitre Tavern to end a very pleasant evening. Natalia and Marie-Claire acknowledged those who participated in making the evening a success and presented His Honour and Mr McComas with tokens of the Young Lawyers' appreciation for their contribution to the night. The event was well appreciated by the adjudicators, sponsors and the large gathering that attended.

Ross Beecroft and myself, the Organising Committee for the 1998 Gordon Lewis Speakers' Competition, would like to extend our congratulations to the prize winners of the event and to all participants. Public speaking is *the* critical "job requirement" of a lawyer. The Gordon Lewis Speakers' Competition is a rewarding (just look at the prizes which are on offer!), brilliant and fun way for young lawyers to "practice" the art, particularly by those aspiring to practice at the bar!

We would also like to thank the event's sponsors who generously provided the prizes, our guest adjudicators His Honour and Mr McComas and those other individuals (and you know who you are!) who gave up their time to make this year's competition the most successful yet.

The tradition lives on .....



The entertaining  
Campbell McComas



2nd place winner,  
Malcolm Langford

3rd place winner,  
Jarmal Richard



1st place winner, Catherine Dunlop congratulated  
by Judge Gordon Lewis