

# Editorial



By **Vanya Kumar** (top) and **Rosalyn Gladwin**, co-editors 2005

**T**he theme of this edition of the *Young Lawyers Journal* is Corporate Practice, with a view to providing, along with our regular features, an insight into the world of the in-house lawyer. Generally, when one reflects on the work of a corporate or in-house practitioner, it evokes images of directors' duties, board meetings and minutes, and, of course, the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth). However, this is only a fraction of the type of work undertaken by our in-house colleagues. Frequently, in-house lawyers are required to be business partners, counsellors, and advisors on points of law and ethics. Often they are expected to be familiar with any facet of law which may be, or become, relevant to their employer. In short, they are required to be a 'Jack (or Jill) of all trades'.

So, what is it that draws our in-house colleagues out of private practice and into the corporate world? How does being employed by your client compare with working for a client through a law firm? Are the perks really better? Do lawyers leaving private practice miss billable units and hours? With these questions in mind, we decided to put out the call to young lawyers everywhere for articles which explored, explained and answered. We have been delightfully inundated with articles that cover the life of our in-house counterparts as well as many other articles covering the facets of the legal profession (from the young lawyer perspective) more generally.

In particular, Jacinta Cullum has undertaken an informal survey of some in-house counsel - her article considers many of the questions about working in-house. We have feature articles on employment flexibility and corporate social responsibility. Additionally, Joshua Gladwin's interview with Therese Ryan, General Counsel of General Motors Holden, provides a vivid insight into the world of corporate lawyers along with sage words for young lawyers interested in practising in-house. Our Career Doctor, Nalini Moore of Mahlabs, has also written a very relevant column for those who are seriously considering moving in-house. Megan Drysdale looks at the middle ground between private and in-house practice in her article about making the most of secondment opportunities.

Additionally, it seems that many young lawyers have a passion for community involvement and undertake some amazing extra-curricular work. Stemming from this, we have a few particularly interesting reads. Helen Collins discusses the challenges faced by young lawyers on boards of not-for-profit organisations. Amy Barry-



Macauley discusses her experiences in working for the Australian Red Cross while also working as a solicitor in private practice. Amanda Graham reflects on the social climate in South Africa, whilst Ben Fisher recounts his experiences in working for the Israeli Ministry of Justice. We were left astounded by the breadth of activity and types of work that young lawyers everywhere are undertaking.

On the side of legal updates, we have included reviews of the *Permanent Trustee Australia Ltd v CSR* judgment. Victor Ng has provided an interesting and succinct review of monitoring of employees in light of the new *Workplace Surveillance Act 2005* (NSW) - something which should interest most readers. A must read for all young lawyers, whether in-house or in private practice, is Catherine Dwyer's piece discussing the results of the recent Articled Clerk survey undertaken by the Law Institute of Victoria. Lastly, Andrew Gormley has taken a look at the vexed issue of plain language in law firms.

The Young Lawyers' Section has been busy this year and a number of activities are planned for the second half of 2005. A couple of the key upcoming events include the Young Lawyers' Ball (this year it is a masquerade) and the new Negotiation Skills Competition run with Latrobe University. Other upcoming events are noted in the Calendar (see opposite page) and in the reports from the committees.

We hope that the blend of articles in this edition gives our readers not only an insight into in-house practice, but a renewed appreciation for the diversity of the work and interests of young lawyers. We hope that you enjoy reading this edition as much as we did in compiling it. ■

## Join the Young Lawyers' Section

The Young Lawyers' Section is a dynamic group established to enhance the legal skills, knowledge and professional networks of members in the early stages of career development. It provides you with opportunities to become involved in a wide variety of activities and committees. To be eligible, you must be an LIV member who:

- has less than six years post admission experience; or
- is less than 36 years; or
- is an articled clerk; or
- is a law student.

For more details, go to <https://www.liv.asn.au/members/sections/younglawyers/>.

## Contributions Welcome

If you would like to be involved in the Editorial Committee or make contributions, please contact us at [younglaw@liv.asn.au](mailto:younglaw@liv.asn.au).

The views expressed in the articles contained in this publication are the views of the authors and not the editors or the Young Lawyers' Section of the Law Institute of Victoria.