

Editorial

JUDD YOUNG AND ADAM BUSHBY

Of the 16 young lawyers who make up the executive arm of the Young Lawyers' Section, 10 have changed their employment in the past 12 months.

Some have changed firms, others have moved inhouse or into government/legal centre roles. This cross-section of activity demonstrates the overwhelming consensus that young lawyers will not hesitate to change positions if they are dissatisfied with their role or firm or if they see or perceive that the grass is greener on the other side of Collins Street, or the other side of the world, as the case may be.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that the reasons are varied for movement within, and sometimes flight from, the legal profession. Not surprisingly, financial pressure is an important factor. At one end of the spectrum, a booming property market means that not even the highest paid young lawyers can afford a house in the same inner city suburbs that many of our parents populated during their twenties. At the other end of the spectrum, the federal minimum wage has now overtaken (and replaced) the articulated clerk minimum salary, a bizarre proposition for graduates who may have spent the best part of five years earning their degree.

While depression is a major issue facing the legal profession as a whole, it is young lawyers who are reportedly the most vulnerable.

With our third instalment of the *YLJ* for 2007, we have endeavoured to provide a forum for analysis and honest discussion of such complex issues that affect young lawyers' working lives. We hope to present an overview of what is being done, and a discussion of what should be done, to improve young lawyer satisfaction levels. This is in the interests of employers and employees alike. Indeed, many firms have instigated progressive programs to combat young lawyer disharmony.

As this issue goes to print, the Young Lawyers' Section is working on a proposal (subject to LIV approval) to develop a new group that will have a mandate to implement initiatives that advance young lawyers' interests. It is proposed that the group will develop and initiate projects that respond to and address the communicated needs of young lawyers. If you would like to know more or become involved with the proposed group, please contact Judd Young at judd_young@yahoo.com.au.

It is with the Satisfaction Issue that we also bid our readers adieu and wish all the best to next year's editors. Our most gracious and sincere thanks to those who have contributed to the *YLJ*, including Donna Adams, David Baird, Sophie Banks, Natasha Barnes, Fiona Batten, Andrew Brennan, Matthew Bridges, Jill Button, Jenny Cas, Ceri Clerk, Meg Clancy, Edward Consett, Tom Dedman, Megan Drysdale, Sarah Edwards, Julia Flack, James Fleming, Daniel Gassin, Matthew Gillet, Will Hammond, Claude Harran, Lynton Hogan, Leigh Hogarty-Langston, Anna Howard, Katherine Huynh, Amity Jarvis, Afrooz Kaviani Johnston, Bridgette Kelly, David Kelsey-Sugg, Lisa Lee, Stephen Leonard, Susan Long, Katerina Makris, Anthony Malkoun, Glynn Mayne, Nalini Moore, Derek Mortimer, Jackie Nemy, Belinda O'Connor, Roger Ouk, Josephine Parkinson, Kim Piskuric, Cecilia Riebl, Michelle Rodriguez, Adam Sauer, Ian Scott, Aziza Shataly, Laura Smith, Tehani Suafoa, Lucy Terracall, Lyndal Turner, Sean Vagg, Jaci Wang, Hugh Watson, Zoe Watson, John Wilkinson and, of course, you – our reader. ■