

“Sponge Worthy” – sounds hot Piscean Prince.

How the mighty have fallen. Back in the day lawyers were hot property, with men like Perry Mason combining the cool of Shaft with the allure of Mr T.

If lawyers want a return to the heady times where the mere mumbling of “marry me, I’m a lawyer” attracts a screaming horde of beatlesque groupies, we are going to have to work on our image.

I’ve come up with a few suggestions to get the ball rolling.

1. Pay cash

If cash is the only thing that is attractive about being a lawyer, then we’re going to need to start using it. People – put away the key card and credit card and upgrade to a massive roll of cash. Despite the risk of being mistaken for a fruiterer, your pulling power should increase exponentially. Pay for everything with cash: drinks; dinner; taxis; a car; your next house.

2. Work on professional envy

It doesn’t help things that even lawyers don’t want to be lawyers. We need to make people want to be us – to think that there is nothing more alluring than a career in the law and that simply by being around us, some of our awesomeness will rub off.

3. Work on distinguishing ourselves.

Back in the good old days, lawyers got to distinguish themselves by the cut of their wigs – people passing by could say “ooh, check out that lawyer, looking all nice”. These days we just get lost in the CBD crowd – I mean, how is anyone to know, just by looking at us, that we are lawyers? It’s why Supreme Court judges still have pulling power – it’s the red robes.

If we can nail this, we will remove that awkward moment where you have to admit “Yeah I’m a lawyer, yeah I’m pretty much as good as it gets”.

If we work together, we can bring back the glorious past, where Marry me, I’m a lawyer is the start, middle and end of the dating game.

Lachlan went on to represent Victoria at the National Golden Gavel Competition on 18 September 2009 in Perth, WA, where he acquitted himself well, winning the People’s Choice award for “Lawgasm” – how to finish in 6 minutes. ●



Melanie Szydzik, Supreme Court of Victoria for the YL Composite Team

Advocates of the future

The LIV & Hanover Mooting Competition 2009 showed that the future of advocacy is in safe hands.

The LIV and Hanover Welfare Services Mooting Competition 2009 provided its participants with a thoroughly entertaining and highly learned foray into the world of advocacy, while also enabling the LIV to continue its long-running commitment to raising funds for Melbourne’s homeless.

This year the LIV Mooting Competition raised \$31,100 for Hanover Welfare Services.

Hanover will use these funds to help the homeless afford shelter and attend training courses to help them to get back into the workforce.

The long-running competition saw 12 teams of “robed-up” budding advocates from various firms battle their way through six rounds.

The two highest-scoring teams – the YL Composite Team and Lander & Rogers – competed in the Grand Final at the Supreme Court of Victoria on 23 July

before Justice Neave AO, Justice Redlich and Justice Weinberg.

The competitors’ skills in research, analysis and advocacy were tested and improved exponentially as they submitted sophisticated arguments and responded to the judges’ probing questions with a calmness belying their age.

In a closely fought contest, the YL Composite Team took out the coveted prize of being awarded as winner of the LIV Mooting Competition 2009.

The winning YL Composite Team was comprised of Chris Tam and Melanie Szydzik (both from Supreme Court of Victoria) and Tanya Skvortsova (Christopher Bunnett).

The Lander & Rogers team was comprised of Vivian Klaf, Diana Costaras, Matt Hooper and Gavan Blau.

Special mentions go to Lander & Rogers competitor Diana Costaras who received the Best Advocate Award and Melanie Szydzik of the Composite Team, who received the Runner Up Best Advocate Award. ●

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