

# Offering a helping hand



**SHARING VIEWS:** Audience members at the latest Hot Topics seminar.



**PROMOTER:** Cornwall Stodart managing partner Michelle McLean advised avoiding office politics.



**NETWORKS WORK:** Master Networking's Beverley Brough said networks benefitted both young lawyers and their firms.

EXPERTS  
HANDED  
DOWN  
PEARLS OF  
CAREER  
WISDOM AT  
THE LATEST  
YOUNG  
LAWYERS'  
SECTION  
HOT TOPICS  
SEMINAR.

The 80 attendees at April's YLS seminar, "Taking the Next Step", were given a bevy of useful ways to advance their careers from three women with hands-on experience.

Cornwall Stodart managing partner Michelle McLean discussed how young lawyers could promote themselves within their firms. Her top tips were to:

- send the message that you're focused on the job by avoiding internal politics;
- build relationships outside your practice group – you'll need the backing of all partners when it's your turn to advance;
- be prepared when you go in to negotiate a pay rise – put together a business case that shows how you add value to the firm; and
- attend firm functions, be a firm player and live the firm values, don't just pay lip service to them.

Caris Cadd is a third-year solicitor in Freehills' competition and market regulation group, who has also completed a six-month secondment at the PILCH Homeless Persons' Legal Clinic. She spoke about opportunities outside a young lawyer's firm and how these could enhance their career, including:

- satisfying their social conscience;
- direct contact with clients; and

- increased responsibility and the satisfaction of handling matters from start to finish.
- Master Networking speaker, trainer and author Beverley Brough discussed how networking advances a young lawyer's career by raising their profile and that of their firm. Her advice was to:
- think of networking as any other skill which you'll need to practise;
  - attend all networking events;
  - address one networking fear at your next function;
  - talk less as the best networkers are the best listeners; and
  - build your network before you need it by keeping a list of the people you know and adding to it. ●

**RENA SOLOMONIDIS**  
YLS Editorial Committee & Solicitor,  
Cornwall Stodart Lawyers

## DON'T MISS ...

**THE NEXT HOT TOPICS SEMINAR "TOWARDS BETTER PRACTICE" ON 21 JULY.**

For more information see the whatsOn Calendar in the Events and Education section of the LIV website, [www.liv.asn.au](http://www.liv.asn.au).

# Sinners are winners

It's a philosophical argument that had the legal profession divided. Is the ideal client guilty or innocent? Melbourne's legal elite took to the stage in April to settle the matter before a sell-out crowd in the annual Legal Comedy Debate, part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Given seven minutes to make their submissions, the debate went down in spectacular fashion.

Philip Dunn QC, Lachlan Clancy and Taboka Finn put up a virtuous fight for

the innocent but Justice Betty King awarded the win to the advocates for the guilty – Theo Alexander, Rachel Doyle SC and Judge Liz Gaynor.

For more photos go to the LIV website at [www.liv.asn.au](http://www.liv.asn.au) and click on "Photo Gallery" in the "Education and Events" section. ●

**MAKING HIS POINT:** Allens Arthur Robinson solicitor Lachlan Clancy supporting the innocents' cause.



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