

# President's Report



## ENGAGE WITH THE YOUNG LAWYERS' SECTION IN 2011.

Welcome to the first edition of the YLJ for 2011. The year is already flying but there is much that lies ahead and much to look forward to. This year at the Young Lawyers' Section (YLS), we hope to have the opportunity to connect with you.

The YLS represents over 6000 members across Victoria, including lawyers under the age of 36 or with less than six years' practical experience, graduates, trainees and law students. It is a dynamic group that exists to enhance the professional skills, knowledge and networks of its members and provide them with assistance, support and opportunity.

As YLS president in 2011, it is my aim to ensure that the section is relevant to and engaged with all its members, taking account of their diverse working backgrounds and interests. From the outset, let me encourage all members to get in touch at any time throughout the year to seek out assistance or contribute ideas to help the section serve you better.

As it has done in the past, this year the YLS will continue to address issues that are of particular importance to young lawyers and law students. Some of the key areas where we will strive to make a difference in 2011 include:

- Career development and support – Helping our members progress their careers will always be a priority for the YLS. Look out for information and seminars relevant to your level of

experience, whether you are a lawyer moving up the ranks, a graduate starting out, or a student looking for your first position. We also hope to advance the mentoring services available to young lawyers and law students.

- Health and wellbeing – Following on from our sold-out seminar on issues of depression, anxiety and stress last year, we are focused on raising awareness and providing young lawyers with information and tools to achieve personal sustainability amid the pressures of working in the legal profession.
- Engaging with the community – As lawyers we don't practise within a box but through engagement with a community in which we have much to contribute. We have an important role and should be proud of that. I am interested in how the YLS and its members can build better ties with other professions and the community.
- Use of social media – The legal profession has not always been the quickest to adapt to new ways of communicating. This year, the YLS hopes to make up ground in this space and provide up to date ways for you to connect with us.

Last year, the YLS played a significant role in promoting diversity across the legal profession. A profession that is more representative of the community is better placed to properly serve the community. This work will also continue in 2011.

Above all, I hope that throughout this year you will find it easy to engage with the section, be aware of what we are doing and take advantage of the many services we offer.

There are a number of avenues through which you can get involved in the YLS. Our calendar of events is packed with seminars, competitions, forums, networking and social events.

Our committees drive much of the work that we do and include professional development, social, community issues, law reform, editorial, regional and suburban and later lawyers. See [www.liv.asn.au/younglawyers](http://www.liv.asn.au/younglawyers) for more information on the work and projects of the committees.

As young lawyers, we not just the future of the legal profession. We represent almost 50 per cent of the profession right now.

At the YLS, we want to make the profession better for you, for our future members and for the community engaging with us. So get in touch and get involved in the YLS this year. •

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