

President's Report



**CALLING
ON YOUNG
LAWYERS
TO GET
INVOLVED.**

As the 2012 president of the Young Lawyers' Section (YLS), my primary focus is to ensure that young lawyers are informed of the array of services and events that the YLS offers its members and to bolster young lawyers' engagement with the YLS accordingly. As in previous years, each committee chair is dedicated to creating a program of social events, discussion panels, mooted competition and debates which will inspire young lawyers to become more involved with their legal colleagues. The YLS is mindful of the diversity of its membership, which ranges through law students, graduates, and young and later lawyers, and I hope that our 2012 agenda will entice new lawyers at whatever stage of their career to become more involved with the YLS.

Young professionals networking event 2012

The 2012 YLS Executive is extremely excited to offer its members a new, flagship event this year. It will be unlike any event that has been held by the YLS in recent years and it will be a great opportunity for young lawyers to get dressed up, let their hair down and meet other young professionals. The YLS aims to partner with other like minded and vibrant young professional organisations so as to foster fantastic networking opportunities. If you are only able to attend one YLS social event for the year, I'm sure this one will be it. Watch this space.

Group volunteering opportunities

The YLS is aware that many of its members would love to be able to volunteer for a community organisation on a regular basis but are unable to do so due to long hours, the tyranny of the billable unit or other personal commitments. In 2012, the YLS aims to provide its members with opportunities to volunteer on an ad hoc basis outside of the legal sector. Whether it be building shelter for those without, cleaning up our environment or serving meals for the homeless, the YLS aims to provide young lawyers with the chance to volunteer on a one-off basis to help those in need for a variety of causes.

Increased and diversified use of social media

In 2011, the YLS proudly launched its Facebook page with much success. In 2012, I intend to transform the YLS Facebook page into a powerful communication tool which traverses the various segments of our diverse membership to keep them up to date with YLS news and events. I hope to run various campaigns and competitions via the Facebook page to encourage communication and discussion among young lawyers. The page will also keep lawyers continually informed of upcoming committee meetings and volunteering opportunities as well as the odd humorous titbit to keep things interesting.

Engaging law students

Law students comprise just over 30 per cent of the YLS membership and I want to galvanise their active engagement with the YLS in 2012. In addition to our existing relationships with the law student societies, the YLS proposes to visit the various law schools throughout the year. Through social media I propose to increase law students' awareness of the services that the YLS has to offer, such as the YLS Targeting Traineeships seminar, public speaking opportunities and access to committee meetings as well as an abundance of information and resources.

I am really excited about all the possibilities that 2012 holds. I hope that you get involved with the YLS on whatever level of engagement you want. Whether it be attending our events, following our Facebook page or signing up to be a committee member on one (or more) of our seven committees, on behalf of the YLS I extend a heartfelt welcome to you to get in touch with us and get involved. ●

AMANDA STOREY is the YLS president and a lawyer at Piper Alderman. Amanda can be contacted at younglaw@liv.asn.au.

Law Institute of Victoria Ltd
470 Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000,
GPO Box 263, Melbourne 3001,
DX 350 Melbourne
P: (03) 9607 9311
F: (03) 9602 5270
E: lawinst@liv.asn.au
W: www.liv.asn.au

YLS The *Young Lawyers Journal* is published by the LIV Young Lawyers' Section (YLS) Editorial Committee. For more information on the *Young Lawyers Journal* or YLS contact the LIV YLS manager Anna Alexander
P: (03) 9607 9379
E: aalexander@liv.asn.au
W: www.livyounglawyers.asn.au

Young Lawyers Journal Contributions
All contributions and letters to the editor are gratefully received and should be addressed to:
YLS manager Anna Alexander
LIV, GPO Box 263, Melbourne 3001,
DX 350 Melbourne
E: aalexander@liv.asn.au

Advertising Sales Manager
Greg Cooper
P: (03) 9607 9496
E: gcooper@liv.asn.au
W: <http://bit.ly/IPfmUI>

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