

President's Report



IT IS EASY TO LOSE YOUR WAY IN THE MAZE OF CAREER CHOICE AND PRACTICE AREAS.

The wave of Olympic fever may have passed but the inspiring stories of personal triumph still linger. Watching Olympians on the world stage is a timely reminder that sacrifices, roadblocks and breakthroughs are all part of the journey towards accomplishing your goals. This Summer edition of the *Young Lawyers Journal* is about high flyers. Many of the interviews focus on the subjects' journey towards reaching their goals. Some of the interviewees are only one or two steps towards their ultimate life goal while others are at the summit of their lifetime achievements.

The interviewees featured are from different backgrounds and work in different areas of the law. However all show common traits including commitment, discipline and perseverance, along with good luck and serendipitous timing.

While reading these provocative stories, ask yourself why you find them inspiring. Is it because these young lawyers have taken a leap of faith which you are too scared to make yourself? Or is it because they have persevered with a goal despite numerous setbacks and temporary failures? Take a few minutes to try to pinpoint what it is about their story you find so compelling. It is never too early or too late for a young lawyer to do some genuine career soul searching.

It is no secret that the high attrition rates of young lawyers from the profession are an embarrassing reality. There are of course gender issues which affect these statistics, including pay inequality and child rearing responsibilities. However another facet of the attrition rate dilemma is that young

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lawyers leave the law because they become disillusioned and burnt out. My personal view on that statistic is that those young lawyers have not pursued a personal dream but are continuing on a predetermined career trajectory on autopilot. Lateral movement within the law is not only possible, but is a frequent occurrence.

When admiring someone else's career from afar it is worthwhile indulging in some introspective analysis as to why are you a lawyer or a law

student and what are your career goals in two, five and 10 years time? Is it to earn more money and secure a promotion at your current firm? Or is it moving to the bar or changing jobs to one which will increase your happiness and career satisfaction. Or perhaps it is as simple as saying that you want to work towards something you truly believe in every day, even if it is only for one hour per day.

The law offers a kaleidoscope of career options, political causes and clients. However, it is easy to lose your way in the maze of career choice and practice areas. If the stories in this issue of the *YLJ* gently tug on your conscience, take a moment to listen to what it says and, if you dare, take a leap of faith towards a more satisfying career and avoid becoming another young lawyer who leaves the law. ●

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

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