

YOUNG LAWYERS, GRADUATES AND LAW STUDENTS, WELCOME TO THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF THE *YLJ*

The Executive Committee has been hard at work (and play, of course). We have found the mid-year mark to be the ideal time to reflect on and refocus our plans. It is timely that this edition focuses on careers, and we encourage you to also spend time reflecting on and planning to achieve your career dreams and ambitions.

NARS Report and mentoring

Speaking of careers, it may be of interest to you that the Law Council of Australia recently released a report from the National Attrition and Re-engagement Study (NARS). The purpose of the research was to provide insights into the barriers faced by women entering, remaining and progressing in the legal profession.

The report revealed that "close to one in three females expressed dissatisfaction with the accessibility of mentors to support their career development".

As you will be aware, the Executive Committee is strongly focused on the expansion of the LIV Mentor Program this year and we are working hard to make this happen.

YLS events

The first half of the year hosted an array of successful events, including:

- a sterling, packed out, young professionals networking event, The Clique;
- a compelling in-depth panel discussion on children in immigration detention with Julian Burnside QC;
- yet another hilarious Legal Comedy Debate; waging the ultimate battle in "Gender Wars: The best lawyers come from Venus"; and
- the coveted Golden Gavel Competition – congratulations to all competitors on their fantastic speeches.

We have a jam packed second half of the year and encourage you all to come along, learn a thing or two and have some fun. Check out:

- the LIV Legal Careers Fair on Thursday, 10 July 2014 – the opportunity for law students to gain a greater understanding of the range of career options available and possibly present themselves as the best graduate for the job to exhibitors;



- the entertaining Young Lawyers Trivia Night – put your trivia skills to the test on 31 July 2014;
- your peers in action at the LIV & Hanover Welfare Services Mooting Competition and raise money for a notable cause; and
- Regional & Suburban Young Lawyers Week during the first week of October, giving members the opportunity to get together and celebrate what's great about working in regional and suburban Victoria. ■

JESSICA MAIN is the YLS president and a solicitor at McKean Park Lawyers. She can be contacted at younglaw@liv.asn.au.

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EDITORIAL > HOW TO REACH YOUR CAREER GOALS



In the law, as in any dynamic profession, nobody's career can stand still. No matter what place each of us occupies in the law or at what stage of our career we may be, it is impossible to ignore personal career development.

Change can provide us with new and exciting opportunities, and can take us to new areas of law and even to new locations. However, research, knowledge and careful preparation are essential before starting any new role to avoid becoming the subject of a cautionary tale about the high attrition rate of young lawyers.

This edition of the *Young Lawyers Journal* focuses on career development and is a companion to the LIV

Careers Fair this month (10 July at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre).

We invite readers to consider the insights and guidance from the articles in this edition, and use them to think about how you might distinguish yourself from other candidates in your next interview, or how you might improve your chances of job satisfaction in your next role, or even think about where your next role might be. Whether you are a law student embarking on a career in law or a young lawyer in your first years of practice, preparing for the next stage in your development is important. ■

CASSANDRA SEERY is a law student at Deakin University and **SERGE MENDIS** is a lawyer at Hunt & Hunt. They are the co-chairs of the 2014 YLS Editorial Committee.

Law Institute of Victoria Ltd
 470 Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000,
 GPO Box 263, Melbourne 3001,
 DX 350 Melbourne
T: (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 Cassandra Piacentini
T: (03) 9607 9379
E: CPiacentini@liv.asn.au
W: www.younglawyers.asn.au

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

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

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