

AS YOUR YLS PRESIDENT FOR 2014, I WARMLY WELCOME YOU TO THIS YEAR'S FIRST EDITION OF THE YLJ.

The Executive Committee began this year by setting clear and actionable plans focused on making a difference for our members in 2014. We are concerned about the increasingly challenging legal environment where there is an oversupply of law graduates and continued high attrition rates of lawyers in their first five years of practice.

As a result in 2014 we will focus on the following:

Increasing opportunities to build meaningful relationships within the profession

Strong relationships within the legal profession are crucial and will inevitably lead to greater career opportunities. In 2014, we will look to expand the LIV Mentoring Program to meet the needs of our members.

Improving understanding of health and wellbeing in the law

While there are many factors that affect job satisfaction, we have found consensus that although our senior lawyers are often strong technically we also look to them to

provide leadership, to be innovative and to have developed communication and management skills, which we believe to be pivotal to reducing attrition rates.

We understand the need to work under inspiring and encouraging leaders who support and guide us through legal practice. The Executive will explore this training issue in 2014.

Continuing to promote the benefits of being involved in the wider community

It is our belief and experience that work in the community enables us to practise and develop our skills outside a firm environment.

In 2014, we will focus on connecting more of our members with our committees and community-focused initiatives.

Developing new innovative professional development programs

We are introducing new and exciting CPD programs in 2014 that will take the form of small workshops aimed at building skills and giving members the opportunity



to network with leading lawyers in their respective fields.


Finally, I strongly encourage you to become involved in the YLS (if you haven't already) and share your ideas through one of our committees. I have no doubt you will be surprised at the opportunities you will have to build meaningful relationships and develop your career.

If you wish to catch up with me over coffee to discuss anything law, career or YLS related, please contact me.

Best of luck in 2014. ■

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

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EDITORIAL > ON BALANCE



Regardless of our individual fields of practice, as officers of the court we are sometimes faced with difficult situations or presented with moral quandaries more often than the average citizen.

Indeed, lawyers are arguably more adept at perceiving where justice or injustice is occurring, and knowing whether to let things slide or to rise against the status quo is not always an easy decision. In such moments it is crucial to acknowledge the need for balance and to make decisions with an open mind while still maintaining awareness of the human factor.

Some of the articles in this edition of the *YLJ* explore the balance between issues of community

desire for legal reform and the effect those reforms might have, and others highlight injustices in our society where a higher level of community engagement and awareness could greatly improve access to justice for the vulnerable.

During the course of 2014 it may be prudent for readers to evaluate their own understanding of justice and injustice and where it lies in our society. Seeking out injustice may prompt an awareness of our community and, through our involvement, foster a more balanced vision for all. ■

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