

THIS ISSUE OF THE *YLJ* FOCUSES ON LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROFESSION.

Shortly after my election as president I found myself in chambers with some spare time. I wandered over to the LIV Library, overpowered by curiosity, and dug deep into the history of the *Young Lawyers Journal* (*YLJ*) and the Young Lawyers Section (YLS). The term "section" is based on practice areas and was introduced to the LIV in 1979. A Young Lawyers Committee existed before then, but the establishment of a section led to the YLS becoming the largest grouping within the LIV. The April 1979 issue of the *LLJ* documents the YLS inaugural meeting on 23 March 1979, which Justice Sir Ninian Stephen addressed.

Growth was fast. The YLS began publishing the *Young Lawyers Section Newsletter* and by 1982 it had evolved into the *YLJ*. The inaugural editor was the current minister

for defence Kevin Andrews. He became chair of the YLS shortly afterwards, holding that role from 1983 to 1987. The YLS ran an impressive suite of social and professional development activities and initiatives, which included calling for articles of clerkship to be abolished.

On many occasions, women have held the role of YLS chair (or president as it is known today) including in 1989 Fiona McLeod SC, who later became the 2012–2013 Victorian Bar chair.

So why get involved in the YLS in 2015? With such an impressive history, the YLS has demonstrated that it has much to offer. Joining a committee in the YLS can lead to the creation of valuable relationships and amazing opportunities.

This issue of the *YLJ* is about learning and development within the profession, which



includes developing a good network. The opportunities the YLS offers, including involvement in committees, taskforces and social events such as the Golden Gavel or Trivia Night, will enable you to create a valuable network and appreciate issues affecting the entire profession.

I look forward to representing you in 2015 and hope to see new faces engaging with the YLS over the coming months. ■

JOEL SILVER is the YLS president and a barrister. He can be contacted at younglaw@liv.asn.au.

 [facebook.com/LIVYoungLawyers](https://www.facebook.com/LIVYoungLawyers)

 liv.asn.au/YoungLawyersBlog

EDITORIAL > BUILDING SUCCESSFUL CAREERS



First, we would like to welcome readers to the first issue of the *YLJ* for 2015.

We look forward throughout the year to the articles in the *YLJ* addressing key issues within the profession for young lawyers, and providing practical guidance and solutions for law students, graduates and young lawyers.

The legal profession is constantly evolving, and many practitioners are facing a more competitive job market than ever before. This can be seen in the difficulties of either entry into the profession, accessing new job opportunities or seeking career advancement within your place of employment. Given these pressures it has become essential for many young lawyers to explore new avenues for development, whether it be in the public or private sector, in order to ensure positive growth and meaningful involvement with the profession.



This issue of the *YLJ*, which deals with learning and development, is designed to provide tools and information to empower young lawyers and law students to take advantage of options that aid their development. This *YLJ* includes tips for distinguishing yourself in the workplace and building a positive reputation, broadening your knowledge and skill set by keeping abreast of CPD, and seeking the advice and opinion of a mentor to further your career (take a look at the LIV Mentoring Program online, which is tailored to help young lawyers find a mentor).

We encourage readers to reflect on the factors that influence their learning and development in the profession and forge a path that will ensure their success both in and outside the workplace. ■

CASSANDRA SEERY is a final year arts/law student at Deakin University and **SERGE MENDIS** is an associate at Hunt & Hunt. They are co-chairs of the 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 *YLJ* or YLS contact the LIV YLS acting manager Elizabeth Maginn
T: (03) 9607 9379
E: younglaw@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 acting manager Elizabeth Maginn
LIV, GPO Box 263, Melbourne 3001,
DX 350 Melbourne
E: younglaw@liv.asn.au

Acting advertising and corporate partnerships manager Lisa Crowle
T: (03) 9607 9337
E: lcrowle@liv.asn.au
W: <http://bit.ly/IPfmUI>

Cover illustration
iStockphoto

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Law Institute of Victoria Ltd. No responsibility is accepted by the LIV, the editor or the printers for the accuracy of information contained in the text and advertisements. Neither the LIV nor the *Young Lawyers Journal* in any way endorses or takes any responsibility whatsoever for any material contained on external websites referred to by the *Young Lawyers Journal*.