

Articles Handbook Wins National Award

By Samantha Miles

The Northern Territory Young Lawyers' Handbook has received a prestigious national award. The Handbook was selected by a judging panel comprised of Sir Harry Gibbs (ex Chief Justice of the High Court), Peter Short (then President of the Law Council of Australia) and Katherine Armitage (a member of the Australian Young Lawyers' Standing Committee).

The award was one of three presented by the Australian Young Lawyers' Standing Committee in conjunction with the Australian Legal Convention and seek to recognise outstanding contributions by young lawyer organisations and young lawyers to the profession and the greater community.

The Articles Handbook won the award in respect of a program relating to professional issues.

The award is a fitting recognition of the hard work of Northern Territory young lawyers in endeavouring to provide guidance for articulated clerks and their principal solicitors as to how to both undertake and provide articles of clerkship which will fit law graduates for careers as successful lawyers.

Samantha Miles, editor of the Handbook, received the award on behalf of the Northern Territory Young Lawyers at a cocktail reception held in the offices of the sponsor, Clayton Utz, in Melbourne.

Copies of the Articles Handbook are available from Samantha Miles at Clayton Utz,

Darwin.

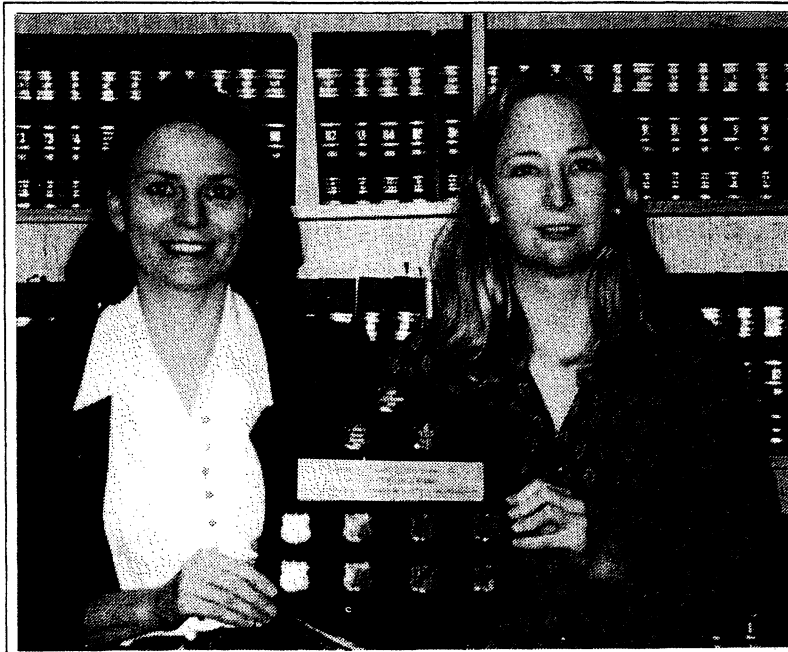
As chairwoman of the Australian Young Lawyers' Standing Committee, Samantha presented awards to the winners of the other two categories. New South Wales Young Lawyers won an award for its outstanding contribution to community issues. The winning program was called "Shadowing". Students from disadvantaged country areas of NSW such as Bourke were brought to Sydney for a week and allocated a lawyers who they then shadowed for the whole week. Reactions to the program varied, with some students being grateful they would never have to see the inside of a law office (or hopefully a courtroom) again, and others having their aspirations to become a lawyer confirmed.

The winner of the Clayton Utz Young Lawyer Award (individual category) was Eugene Fung, a Chinese Australian young lawyer practising

with Minter Ellison in Brisbane. Since his admission, Eugene has contributed many hours of voluntary work in endeavouring to bridge the divide between the Chinese community and the legal profession. Traditionally Chinese people have perceived the law as being inaccessible and only for the privileged. Eugene was the first lawyer in Queensland to publish a legal advice column in a Chinese newspaper. Eugene is a truly remarkable young lawyer who hopes that in the future it will be unremarkable to be a Chinese Australian lawyer and her will simply be perceived as an Australian lawyer.

The Clayton Utz Young Lawyer Awards 1997 recognised the contributions of those individuals and organisations who had taken time from frantically busy professional schedules to make a difference to the lives of others, whether in the community or within the profession. The legal profession in the

Northern Territory can be proud of the Articles Handbook, its winning nomination, and also its nominations in the individual category – Sue Porter and Kate Halliday. Sue was nominated for her work with the Northern Territory Young Lawyers Incorporated and the Law Society. Kate was nominated in respect of her outstanding efforts in establishing the Women's Legal Advisory Centre. Given its comparatively small number of practitioners, the profession in the Territory has much to be proud of.



Samantha Miles and Teegan Lindsay of NTYL and the trophy