

# 2008 NT Young Lawyers Golden Gavel Competition

By Caroline Heske,  
NTYL President

The 2008 Hunt & Hunt Golden Gavel was held at Char Restaurant on 3 October 2008, thanks to generous sponsorship from the legal community.

It was a thoroughly entertaining evening, with six junior lawyers stepping up to brave the microphone. Raelene Fryer (DoJ) was first off the mark with the topic, 'If Dr Seuss was a Justice of the High Court'. She managed to change her entire outfit, recite poetry, and sing an original piece while accompanying herself on guitar – all within 3-4 minutes.

Next, Lucy Lindbergh-Ostling (Supreme Court) had the delicate task of explaining to us why law is worthy of being known as the second oldest profession.

Steve Ledek (ODPP NT) spoke to the topic: 'Tell

*Below left: Darren Parker's 'Powerpoint presentation'*

*Below right: The Judges - Chief Justice Brian Martin, Sally Gearin and Peggy Cheong*



*Steve Ledek gives his animated presentation*

*Right: Chief Justice Martin discusses Raelene Fryer's Golden Gavel presentation*

*Below left: Sharon Krause*

*Below Right: Lucy Lindbergh-Ostling*



me what you really think: if sledging was allowed at the Bar table'. Adopting a character that might be best described as if-Shane-Warne-were-a-Barrister, he had the audience in hysterics. Sadly for us, the speech was improvised, so we are unable to reproduce it here in *Balance*. Happily for Steve and his spin-bowl sledging, the judges were won over by his performance and voted to send him to Sydney for the National Final. He was almost upstaged by stylish newcomer, Dara Read (NTLAC), who is the first competitor from Alice Springs in the history of the competition, and whose very funny speech is reproduced here for your viewing pleasure. She took out the People's Choice prize, awarded to the speaker (other than the winner) who receives the most audience votes.

Sharon Krause (NTG) followed with 'A Guide to Legal Lunching in Darwin', from which we learned exactly where the best legal lunches end up (Throb Nightclub apparently – no, really?).

Finally, Darren Parker (NAAJA) provided us with the CPD Presentation that lawyers really need. He told us the tragic story of Olly, a perfectly nice person who started studying law and turned into a complete jerk. His 'powerpoint presentation on the NAAJA budget' can be seen over the page.

A big thank you to our judges: Chief Justice Martin, Sally Gearin, and Peggy Cheong. Thanks also to NTYL committee members: Tom Kaye, Patricia Horvat, Melanie Warbrooke, Kristy Rogerson, Kris Norrington, Kate Kensell, and Kasey Stewart.

And finally a big, big, thank you to our sponsors: Hunt & Hunt, Bowen Lawyers, Char Restaurant, CDU Law, Cridlands MB, Department of Justice (Solicitor for the NT), Federal Court of Australia, Griffin Wines, Law Society Public Purposes Trust, Malays Barristers & Solicitors, Myilly Point Chambers, NAAJA, NT Bar Association, NT Supreme Court, NT Legal Aid Commission, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Office of the Information Commissioner, Robert Welfare, RUB Pty Ltd, Smart Financial Services Pty Ltd, and Woodcock Solicitors.

And finally, thank you to all participants. You made the event the best Golden Gavel yet!

**The People's Choice Award winning speech by Dara Read, and Darren Parker's highly technical Powerpoint presentation are printed on the following pages.**

## Out and about at the Golden Gavel



*Steve Ledek and Amanda Nobbs-Carcuro*



*Megan Norrington and Jodi Truman*



*Nigel Browne, Robert Welfare and Michael Powell*










*Sarah Cramond and Clare Jobson*



# How can lawyers change the world

Golden Gavel Powerpoint presentation by Darren Parker

<p>HOW CAN LAWYERS CHANGE THE WORLD</p>	
<p>A Powerpoint presentation by NAAJA - "Doing More with Less"</p>	<p>Olly liked to read books about all manner of curiosities. As Olly cared about many things &amp; wanted to help people.</p>
	
<p>Olly read so many books that one day Olly was accepted into law school, where there was no shortage of books for Olly to read.</p>	<p>At law school Olly learnt about the Adversarial System. Olly thought this was quite curious in how it pitted opponents against each other - like "Gladiators" (The TV show)</p>
	
<p>SOME TIME LATER...</p>	<p>At Olly's graduation Olly grew very impatient &amp; thought the ceremony too long. Olly wished that the other "lesser" graduands were not involved in Olly's ceremony</p>
	
<p>Then Olly went to work in the legal profession. Where Olly's studies were put into practice</p>	<p>SOME TIME LATER...</p>



NB: The adversarial system was beginning to extend beyond the court room

Throughout Olly's working days Olly would become aroused by the thought everyone outside the law was quite silly, as they had NO understanding or use for LATIN phrases



NB: Olly was helping the adversarial system grow exponentially now!

Olly began to speak down to people everywhere. Then they would get upset & speak down to people they knew.



SOME TIME LATER...

Olly went to the Bar & Olly's demeanour grew even more recalcitrant. Then Olly thought "I've got what it takes to become a mediator".

Olly not only changed Olly's world. But also those around Olly





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# “I became a lawyer to help people” and other lies I tell at parties - An edited version

People’s Choice Award winner of the Golden Gavel, Dara Read

I am quite new to Legal Aid and the Golden Gavel jurisdiction, so I sought advice about this matter from a number of more senior counsel in our office prior to appearing before you this evening.

The senior male counsels in question have previously made winning submissions at this event.

The complex social and political commentary and precedents relied upon by counsel in their advice to me can be summarised as follows:

Make lesbian jokes...

As for the issue of lying at parties, I honestly have to say that I am not one to lie as a general rule.... but I do have to admit that I have told the odd porky at parties about double dipping...

And that’s not a lesbian joke.

As I said at the outset, I’m quite new to this, so unlike most of you here I’ve just been through the Legal Aid interview and induction process.

In the interview I was asked all the usual questions –

- What qualities do you think you need to work in a team?
- How do you manage stress?
- What do you say to people when they ask you at parties...‘how do you defend those people’?
- And, why do you want to work at Legal Aid?

My answer, obviously, was: To help people.

I came up to Darwin to attend the Legal Aid induction. The most important part of that process was taking the hypocritical oath before Susan Cox QC:

I hereby solemnly swear to:

1. Abide by the unwritten Legal Aid Uniform code which includes items listed in Schedule 1:

- Red seed beads and coral necklaces
- Turquoise accessories
- Ethnic and handmade jewellery
- Mismatching suit pieces

But does not include items listed in schedule 2:

- Twin sets
- Pearls
- Tiffany hearts or
- Matching suit pieces

The maximum penalty for a breach of this oath is a six month prosecutor dating order.

2. To maintain an outraged demeanor at all times that suggests that my client is wrongly accused, trapped in the web of penal populism, imprisoned by the oppressive forces of a capitalist state and marginalised by their gender, age, race and socio-economic status.

3. Move heaven and earth to ensure that all matters pertinent to the clients’ circumstances are properly put before the court, even if they are only to be defeated by mandatory sentencing which removes even the faintest façade of discretion and justice in this Territory.

4. To bleed from the heart for every client that hauls their sorry ass into the duty lawyer office declaring their innocence whilst simultaneously undertaking to never do it again.

In particular I swear to:

- Insist that all juveniles just need to be loved and hugged.



*Dara Read receives the People’s Choice Award*

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- All male defendants simply need rehab and anger management.

- Advise all female clients to rely on the tried and tested ‘the bastard deserved it’ defence – a sure fire jury winner.

And perhaps most importantly,

- Take all possible steps to ensure that all clients dogs have safe haven whilst their master is in custody.

In conclusion, I hope to have persuaded the judges beyond all reasonable doubt that I am here to help people, and that I’ll be so busy saving the world that I won’t have time to lie at parties.

**Dara Read - Instructing Solicitor (ie. co-author: Helena Blundell).**



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## Golden Gavel judges and participants



*Golden Gavel judges and constants - Chief Justice Brian Martin, Raelene Fryer, Dara Read, Steve Ledek, Sally Gearin, Darren Parker, Sharon Krause and Peggy Cheong*

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### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & THE LAW

## Important Christmas message

Technology can be a great addition to your family, as long as you are aware of, and prepared to accept, the ongoing responsibilities. This Christmas, when considering purchasing technology, you should consider the following issues:

\* A gadget or other technology item should never be a surprise gift — too many electronic organisers, mp3 players, laptops and other novelty gadgets that were never wanted in the first place end up in bottom drawers or worse. Most abandoned or surrendered gadgets find their way to the dark recesses of your desk drawer or the bottom of a storage bin, in around six to nine months after Christmas, when the novelty or cuteness starts to wear off and the reality of caring for, maintaining and updating the gadget for life sinks in.

\* Purchasing a gadget at Christmas, or any other time,

should never be considered before the potential owner (whether this is the purchaser or gift recipient) has thought long and hard about the time, money, space and energy that gadget ownership entails, and whether you/they are willing and able to accept these responsibilities. However, if you're getting a gadget at Christmas or any other time, consider the adoption option and ask your friends if they have any gadgets they have acquired and are not using. You could be the one to save a gadget from the back of a desk draw and give it the kind of love and attention it was built for, the kind it deserves. The best Christmas present for a gadget in need is a committed, permanent and caring home.

\* Rather than give a gadget at Christmas, why not give the wrapped gift of an accessory. With so many third party options, you



*Jason Schoolmeester*

can find an accessory for any need. You and the gift recipient can go together to a Dick Smith or Tandy store to choose the new gadget, with trustworthy advice from their experienced staff (don't let the fact they are 12 years old fool you, kids

*Continued page 36*