

Northern Territory

Young Lawyers

Welcome to the new NT Young Lawyers management committee for 2010:



**Nick Johansen, Co-President
Ward Keller**

Nick completed a Bachelor of Laws at Charles Darwin University and was admitted in the Northern Territory in 2009. Nick is the Young Lawyer representative on the Council of the Law Society Northern Territory and the NTYL representative on the Australian Young Lawyers Committee. Nick works in Ward Keller's commercial division.



**Donna Ward, Co-President
NAAJA**

Donna completed a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) at Charles Darwin University in 2008 and was admitted in the Northern Territory in 2009. Donna is the alternative Young Lawyer representative on the Council of the Law Society Northern Territory. Donna recently left the Northern Land Council to work as a Community Legal Education Solicitor at the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency; a position she very much enjoys.



**Ashley Marsh, Vice President
Ward Keller**

Ashley graduated with a Commerce/Law degree from the University of New England in 2005. He has a background in community development and policy, having previously worked in remote areas of the Northern Territory and Western Australia and for the Government of Samoa. Ashley was admitted in the Northern Territory in 2008 and works in the Litigation section at Ward Keller.

Who are Northern Territory Young Lawyers?

The Northern Territory Young Lawyers (NTYL) represents lawyers in the NT who have been admitted to practise for less than five years, as well as GDLP clerks. Despite being called the 'young lawyers', there is no age restriction on membership, and junior practitioners of any age are welcome to get involved.

We are a subcommittee of the Law Society Northern Territory, and have two representatives on the Law Society Council. Currently those representative are Nick Johansen (Young Lawyers rep), and Donna Ward (Young Lawyers alternate rep). In addition, a Co-President is automatically a member of the Australian Young Lawyers

Committee of the Law Council of Australia, which ensures young lawyers' issues are promoted at a national level. The current AYLC rep is Nick Johansen.

What's in store for Young Lawyers in 2010?

2010 is shaping up to be a busy



Imogen Taylor, Secretary
Department of Public Prosecutions
 Imogen moved to Darwin in January 2009 after completing her Arts/Law degree at the Australian National University. After a year as a graduate clerk with the Department of Justice, Imogen has started working at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions as a prosecutor.



Sam Burke, Treasurer
Clayton Utz
 "Sam Burke graduated from Charles Darwin University in 2008, was admitted to practice in 2009. He currently works in the litigation team of Clayton Utz, Darwin

year for Young Lawyers; full of networking, social and professional activities, and most of all fun!

During Law Week we will be hosting the Senior v Junior lawyers Great Debate, which always proves to be a fun and amusing event. Last years event was a tie (although we of course think young lawyers were the real winners!), which sets down the challenge for this year's event to be hotly contested! We shall also host the annual Golden Gavel Public Speaking competition, which occurs around midyear. Plans are also in the wings for CPD topics with particular relevance to junior practitioners. There will also be drinks, fund raising events, and a Christmas function Stay tuned for updates.

Australian Young Lawyers report

On 26 February 2010, Co-President of NTYL, Nick Johansen, attended the AYLC meeting in Brisbane. Representatives of the young lawyer groups from every State and Territory were also in attendance.

The meeting was primarily focused on strategic planning for 2010 and a number of policy directives were initiated. These included, in relation to the issue of recruitment and retention of young lawyers (being lawyers in their first five years of practise but of any age), the commissioning of a survey to be undertaken by young lawyers in order to gather and disseminate information regarding issues

such as job satisfaction and the progression from studying law to practising law.

Also, a working group was created to develop AYLC policy approaches toward the recently introduced statement by the Law Council of Australia on Indigenous Australians and the Legal Profession and the proposed "Reconciliation Action Plan".

Nick also raised issues that are presently being implemented by the NTYL here in the Territory including the potential commencement of our own indigenous mentoring program in which we hope to promote the aims of the national Reconciliation Action Plan at a Territory level.

Want to be involved?

If you have been admitted for five years or less, or are a Graduate Clerk/GDLP student, you can become involved with Young Lawyers. Becoming involved with Young Lawyers is a great way to meet people and network among your peers. Meetings are held approximately once a month and you can be as little or as much involved as you like. Please contact Donna Ward donna.ward@nlc.org.au or Imogen Taylor imogen.taylor@nt.gov.au for more information. If you wish to be added to the mailing list without necessarily becoming involved with the committee, please send your details to Imogen Taylor. ☺

