

MOOTIS

Bill Braithwaite
Head of Exchange Chambers

UK Queen’s Counsel hits Australia with micro-blogging and social networking platform for lawyers

Mootis, the social networking and microblogging platform for lawyers and anyone interested in law, is launching in Australia following huge interest from the legal services sector.

The site, www.mootis.com, was launched in the UK by barrister and Queen’s Counsel, Bill Braithwaite QC in January 2015. Over the last three months, thousands of lawyers and firms have signed up and are now mooting.

Rather than being restricted to 140 characters, Moots can be up to 500 words. Videos can be uploaded and polls can also be conducted.

In Australia, users will be able to sign in as individuals while advanced company profiles are also available. All aspects of the site are free of charge and users can register or connect with LinkedIn, Twitter or Facebook. A dedicated app will be launched next month.

Commenting on the US launch, Bill Braithwaite QC said:

“Since launching in the UK we have received a great deal of interest from lawyers in Australia so it is a natural progression to launch a dedicated Australian platform.”

“One of the advantages of Mootis is that users can follow firms and individuals by location as well as their specialist area of law, so it can be tailored to specific countries or used as a global resource. I would encourage Australian lawyers to register and start mooting!”

“Sites such as Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Facebook are hugely successful but we feel the world of legal services is large enough to warrant its own, bespoke platform.”

“So many legal professionals—at all levels—understand the need to engage with social media but are not entirely comfortable with the general nature of what is out there at the moment.”

“There’s a lot of clutter. Mootis is specifically tailored for what is a vast legal services marketplace that extends far beyond lawyers.”

“In terms of the legal profession, Braithwaite says Mootis will appeal to two audiences; those already registered with sites such as Twitter and LinkedIn and those who are yet to engage with the world of social media.”

“It’s got dual appeal,” he continued. “We believe existing social media users will welcome the benefits of a site focused entirely on legal services.”

“For the thousands of legal professionals in Australia yet to engage with social media this is their chance to get in at the beginning of something new and exciting. It’s a brand new platform, a level playing field.”

In developing the site, the Mootis team analysed social media sites throughout the world. As a result, Mootis has a range of features regular users of social media will be familiar with as well as some unique aspects.



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Key features include:

- Moots can exceed 140 characters (up to 500 words), enabling users to express their opinion with more authority, weight and substance;
- Upload and share video blogs, documents, images and audio;
- Register as a new user on the Mootis sign up page or log in through Twitter, LinkedIn or Facebook;
- Register as an individual or organisation. Organisations can invite all their people to join their Mootis page;
- Keep on top of all the very latest trending legal topics;
- Search and connect with people by name or import existing contacts from other social media networks / invite contacts via email;
- Send and read other users updates, either publicly or privately;
- Integrate with other main social media sites;
- Daily updates from Mootis direct to user’s email account;
- Create polls and surveys;
- Professional verification to establish authenticity of identities of key individuals and companies;
- Privacy features;
- Advanced security.

Bill Braithwaite QC, *Head of Exchange Chambers* (www.exchangechambers.co.uk) has been a QC for twenty-three years.

Summary of the Society’s recent advocacy activities

- Media Release renewing calls for purpose-built youth facility
- Media Release – Territory lawyers dominate leadership roles
- Media Release – NTLS welcomes Government Review of Abortion Laws
- Meeting with Shadow Attorney-General on Bail Amendments
- Attended 2015 Opening of Parliament
- Meeting with NT Legal Assistance Forum
- Meeting with NT Business Council
- Letter to Supreme Court regarding PD 1 of 2015
- Letter to ARNECC regarding electronic conveyancing
- Briefing with Office of the Children’s Commissioner
- Briefing with NTLAF receiving briefing from Department regarding Domestic Violence Strategy
- Radio interview with ABC Darwin on domestic violence
- Gave evidence at Senate inquiry into domestic violence
- Meeting with Gerry Wood MLA
- Opening of new Law Society Northern Territory premises
- Consultation Draft of Version 3 Model Operating Requirements and Participation Rules
- Attended International Women’s Day Conference
- Finalised Welcome to Country Policy
- Letter to Peter Styles MLA regarding amendments to Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act
- Letter to Minister Styles – Return to Work Act
- Radio interviews regarding decision in Lawrie vs Lawler
- Policy Reform with Australian Medical Association – End of Life Care
- Letter to NTLS suppliers regarding Society’s RAP
- Letter to international Red Cross – Nuclear Weapon Treaties
- Letter to Department of Justice – Residential Tenancies Central Bond Holding Scheme
- Attended at Jurisdictional Forum
- Meeting with Attorney-General’s Department regarding uniform law
- Attendance with NT Corrections discussing practitioners experience at new prison
- Attendance with Information Commissioner regarding biometrics
- Letter to Minister for Families and Children – Permanent Care Orders
- Letter to Chief Justice Riley – Court Listings for 2016
- Meeting with Chief Justice Riley to discuss Court Listings 2016
- Letter to Corrections Minister – Behaviour of Corrections Officers
- Attendance at Registrar-General’s Consultative Committee meeting
- Meeting with Lynne Walker Shadow Attorney-General
- Attendance at NARS round table discussion
- Published second edition of Indigenous Protocols for Lawyers
- Launch of second edition of Indigenous Protocols for Lawyers (Alice Springs)