



Hugh Bond (right) with Matthew Littlejohn.

National Golden Gavel 2014

Hugh Bond

NTYL Raconteur Extraordinaire 2014 / Present NTYL President

If Dettol® instant hand sanitizer were a city, that city would be Canberra, the host of the 2014 National Golden Gavel Competition, which was held on Friday 12 September 2014. Each State and Territory sent a representative to this illustrious comedy cockfight, and I was lucky enough to be sent on behalf of the Northern Territory. My goal was simple – to bring enough poo jokes and sexual innuendo so as to sully the minds of the uptight Canberra crowd.

The topics, released to competitors 24 hours before the event, were legal puns based on song titles. Some of the stronger titles were “My milkshake brings all the briefs

to the yard” and “Billing me softly”. However, clearly the inspired ACT young lawyers who came up with these topics began to clutch at straws at some point, struggling to get enough witty puns for all the competitors.

In a blatant act of discrimination against the least populous of the states and territories, I was given the most terrible of the topics: “Lose yourself, by Eminem – a 101 in lawyering”. Oh Canberra, how droll!

After a bottle of inspiration juice (read shiraz) and a quick nap, I was primed to dissect the gnarly topic. I decided to focus on three ways in which “losing yourself”

can help you become a better young lawyer:

- firstly, by losing your expectations of grandeur;
- secondly, by losing your integrity; and
- thirdly, by losing your inhibitions.

Sadly, dear readers, I must report that I did not bring home that National Golden Gavel for 2014. That honour went to Jamie Cooke, a Scottish lawyer on secondment to the Perth office of Norton Rose Fulbright. Although his accent gave him a natural advantage, his approach to the topic “Working class lawyer” was second to none.

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...noteworthy was the representative for Queensland, Matthew Littlejohn. As the winner of the 2013 Northern Territory Golden Gavel, Mr Littlejohn is well on his way to winning achieving his goal of winning the Gavel in each state and territory.”

Inspired, no doubt, by the Territory's own Dominic Gomez, Mr Cooke even found use for some handy props. It was truly an insurmountable effort.

Also noteworthy was the representative for Queensland, Matthew Littlejohn. As the winner of the 2013 Northern Territory Golden Gavel, Mr Littlejohn is well on his way to winning achieving his goal of winning the Gavel in each state and territory.

All in all, the event was a success and even the most tightly wound Canberrans found themselves chuckling away at various points throughout the night.

I thank the Law Society Northern Territory for supporting my trip to Canberra; and William Forster Chambers and the Department of Attorney-General and Justice for sponsoring the Northern Territory Golden Gavel. ●

2014 only got better with age

Peter Clayton and Rose Watts

Previous Co-presidents, Northern Territory Young Lawyers

The Northern Territory Young Lawyers (NTYL) would like to extend a big thank you to the Law Society Northern Territory for all of their support and guidance over the past year. 2014 has been a busy and productive year for the NTYL and we look forward to implementing new ideas, events and plans for 2015.

In March, we collaborated with the Young Professional Network (YPN) to host a 'welcome' event at Il Lido, where NTYL members were encouraged to extend their professional network outside of the legal profession.

In May, the NTYL celebrated law week by hosting the Senior vs Junior Great Debate, the topic being "Lawyers are like fine wine: they only get better with age", adjudicated by his Honour Justice Barr. The seniors were victorious.

In August, the NTYL hosted the Golden Gavel and we would like to extend another warm thank you to our sponsors: William Forster Chambers, Hunt and Hunt, Solicitor for the Northern Territory and Marsh Pty Ltd.

Hugh Bond came in first place with the topic "Workplace affairs and other top tips to lose your job in ten days" and went on to compete in the Nationals in Canberra.

Maddy Sutton won the People's Choice awards with her topic "*I withdraw that your Honour*": Five words every young lawyer should know and why". Overall, the submissions were of a high standard and we look forward to what the local Northern Territory comedic talent will bring to the table next year.

The remainder of the 2014 calendar year will be focused on implementing ideas and creating a smooth transition for next year's committee to take the reins.

The NTYL will be hosting our annual Christmas party on Friday 28 November at Shenanigans (from 7pm onwards). We hope to see everyone there and we wish the Northern Territory legal profession a merry Christmas and safe and happy holidays. ●