

News and Updates

Melissa Chen

Co-President

Northern Territory Young Lawyers (NTYL)



Northern Territory Young Lawyers' Association (NTYL) represents lawyers in the Northern Territory who have been admitted to practice for less than five years, as well as graduate clerks and GDLP students (even if not yet admitted). Despite being called the 'young lawyers', there is no age restriction on membership, and junior practitioners of any age are most welcome to get involved.

We are a sub-committee of the Law Society Northern Territory, and have a representative on the Society's Council. In addition, we have a representative on the Australian Young Lawyers Committee of the Law Council of Australia, which ensures young lawyers' issues are promoted at a national level.

In the past, we have organised various professional development events specifically catered to young lawyers, as well as social events giving the young lawyers an opportunity to connect with other young professionals.

NTYL launched its first newsletter in February 2017. The newsletters will keep the members of the NTYL and the legal profession abreast of the professional development and social events organised by the committee. It will also provide a platform for the legal profession to share and advertise information or programs relevant to

young lawyers practicing in the NT. We look forward to continuing this form of engagement on a monthly basis.

What's news

New NTYL committee members were elected at the AGM held on 31 January 2017 in Darwin. On behalf of the newly elected committee members, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the members past for a stellar year with a calendar full of successful events. We would like to commend the members past for NTYL's inaugural event in Alice Springs.

On Friday, 24 March 2017, NTYL held their annual 'Welcome Back Drinks' at The Trader Bar in Darwin. The event proved popular with approximately forty young lawyers attending, including many who were new to Darwin or to the legal profession, to take up the opportunity to meet and network with other young lawyers. The event also provided a platform for NTYL to promote itself and encourage attendees to sign up for free membership. A raffle was held on the night to raise funds for future NTYL social and professional development events, with prizes kindly donated by Monsoons, Wisdom Bar and Cafe, and Woolworths.





Lokesh Kashyap

Co-President
NTYL

Incoming committee members

Co-Presidents

Melissa Chen is a criminal lawyer with the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission in Darwin. Melissa studied law in Sydney, worked for a year in Melbourne and is now happy to be back in the Territory having undertaken an internship at the Domestic Violence Legal Service, Darwin, in 2015 and 2016.

Lokesh Kashyap is a lawyer with the Central Australian Legal Aid Service in Alice Springs. Lokesh was elected as a general committee member of NTYL in 2015 and as a secretary on the executive committee in 2016.

Vice-President

Alexandra O'Donnell moved to Darwin from New South Wales two and a half years ago and is currently working at Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission in Darwin. As Vice-President, Alex intends to draw upon her experience as a former NTYL general committee member and looks forward to an exciting year working with a fresh committee to build the capacity and collegiality of young lawyers in the Northern Territory.

Secretary

Elizabeth Thomson is a solicitor at the North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service. Elizabeth is presently Secretary of the NTYL, having been a member of the committee since 2015. Elizabeth relocated to the Territory in 2015 from Adelaide and now considers Darwin home.

Treasurer

Katherine Paterson is a criminal lawyer with the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission in Darwin. Having studied her law degree in Sydney, and volunteered in Alice Springs as a student, Katherine returned to the Territory in 2016 as Justice Blokland's Associate before taking up her current position.

General committee members

Andrew Smith, a proud Tasmanian, is a Tenancy Solicitor at the Tenants' Advice Service of Darwin Community Legal Service. Apart from work, Andrew spends a lot of his weekends as a 'whistle-blower' running around in the heat and humidity as an Australian Rules Football umpire.

News and updates

Charmaine Lentija grew up in Katherine, Northern Territory and moved to Adelaide in 2012 to study law. Charmaine returned to the Territory in 2016 to undertake a graduate clerkship with De Silva Hebron. Charmaine was admitted in late 2016 and began practicing commercial law at De Silva Hebron this year.

Dominic Gomez was admitted in 2013. Dom is currently on secondment from the legal profession with the Canberra Circus. In his spare time Dom enjoys crochet.

Mark Jehne is a criminal lawyer with the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission in Darwin. Outside of work Mark enjoys cycling and playing ultimate Frisbee.

Maureen Gabriel works at Ward Keller, Darwin. Maureen was admitted in December 2015. This is Maureen’s first year as a young lawyer on the general committee of NTYL. Maureen looks forward to being a part of the team and helping to develop the Northern Territory Young Lawyers this year.

Michelle Duggan – this is Michelle’s third year serving as a committee member of NTYL. Michelle is born and bred Territorian originating from Katherine. Michelle is a lawyer in the litigation division at Ward Keller.

2017 calendar

Darwin:

Event	Date
Welcome back drinks	17 March 2017
Annual Law Week Great Debate	16 May 2017
Golden Gavel	25 August 2017
Christmas Party	8 December 2017

Alice Springs:

Event	Date
Welcome back event	7 April 2017
First Annual Law Week Great Debate	16 May 2017
Golden Gavel	25 August 2017
Christmas Party	8 December 2017

NTYL may organise additional events throughout the year. We will keep you posted through our social media and monthly newsletter. Stay tuned!

Stay connected

Young lawyers who would like to be involved in any future events are encouraged to contact the committee by email at NTYL.Committee@gmail.com.

Members of the legal profession who would like to share and advertise information about volunteer opportunities, hosting CPD events and other programs relevant to the young lawyers practising in the NT are also encouraged to contact the committee by email at NTYL.Committee@gmail.com.

