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Chief Executive Officer Eva Scheerlinck
eva@apla.com.au
Member Services Officer Anna Munro
amunro@apla.com.au
Marketing & Communications Manager
Lyndal Hayward lhayward@apla.com.au
Business Manager Maggie Galley
mgalley@apla.com.au
Conference Manager Caroline Venn
cvenn@apla.com.au
Campaign Officer Thea Bray
tbray@apla.com.au
Researcher Kate Rowe
krowe@apla.com.au
Publications Officer Caroline Henning
chenning@apla.com.au
Personal Assistant Jake Kilby
jkilby@apla.com.au

PLAINTIFF

Managing Editor Kassie James
kjames@pwb.com.au Phone: 03 6235 1111
Editor Caroline Henning
chenning@apla.com.au Phone: 02 9698 1700
Design Tianli Zu tian@artstudiozz.com.au
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Ltd. ABN 96 086 880 499
AUSTRALIAN PLAINTIFF LAWYERS ASSOCIATION LTD
PO Box 2348, Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 Australia
DX 22515 Surry Hills
Phone: 02 9698 1700 Fax: 02 9698 1744
Email: info@apla.com.au
Website: <http://www.apla.com.au>

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Managing Editor's *note*

I am thrilled to take on the role of Managing Editor of *Plaintiff*, not least because now when asked what I do for a living I can answer 'editor'. Tell someone you are a plaintiff lawyer and the response is as if you'd waved three-day-old sushi under their nose. I've told people that I sell used cars and Amway so as to increase my popularity, but I became concerned that I would be struck off the law society for dishonesty.

Being disliked for what you do is not pleasant, but apparently our skins are tough and we can deal with that. More disturbing is the effect this lack of respect for our profession has had on the public's trust in the justice system, and on our ability to effectively advocate for or against change within that system.

This was demonstrated when campaigning against the Ipp reforms. Many of us were confronted with allegations of self-interest. 'Everyone' knew that lawyers were responsible for Australia's financial ruination and that there had been a 'litigation explosion' due to no-win-no-pay cases.

At present, we are akin to an army fighting to protect a city whose citizens wish to surrender it to the enemy. There is little need for the enemy to fight us when the citizens do it for them.

We need to keep protecting the city from the threats both within and without.

But even in battle one needs time to rest and re-energise. This is the purpose of the National Conference.¹ We gave much thought to the conference location - the Hyatt Regency Coolum - so as to accord with Sun Tzu's Art of War 'whereby the army... values the sunny side and despises the shady side, nourishes its health and occupies places with resources... These factors mean certain victory'.² I hope you can join us.

Finally, I convey my thanks to retiring Managing Editor, Tina Cockburn, for the exceptional work she has done on this journal. I also thank the retiring members of the Editorial Committee for their contributions.



KASSIE JAMES, TAS

ENDNOTE:

¹ APLA is obliged by law to advise that attendance at the National Conference has been associated with certain material risks. These risks include sleep disturbance, liver damage and depression upon departing the conference. ² Sun Tzu - 3000BC.