



DECEMBER 2017

MEMBER NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Following the announcement on 10 October 2017 of the appointment of Australian Bar Association (ABA) President Will Alstergren QC as the new Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court and a Justice of the Family Court I was elected as the new President of the ABA.

On 14 December, the Federal Attorney-General, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, further announced that His Honour has also been appointed Deputy Chief Justice of the Family Court. His Honour will continue to hold a dual commission as Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court.

I would like to thank His Honour for his service to the ABA and to wish him all the best.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Honourable John Pascoe AC CVO, whose appointment as the new Chief Justice of the Family Court was also announced on 10 October.

On the topic of appointments, or should I say elections, I congratulate the newly-elected ABA Executive: Vice-President Christopher Hughes QC, Vice-President Jennifer Batrouney QC, Treasurer Kenneth Archer and Advocacy Training Council Chair Ian Robertson SC.

The ABA has three key priorities: serving its members; improving our profession; and advancing the Rule of Law. I look forward to working with the new ABA Executive and the full [ABA Council](#) to deliver on these objectives for all members of all Australian Bars.

With these priorities in mind, the ABA will co-host its 2018 National Conference with the New South Wales Bar from 15 – 17 November in Sydney. For more information and to register your interest, click [here](#).

Another way the ABA demonstrates its emphasis on the maintenance and enhancement of professional standards, and in particular advocacy training, is through its Advocacy Training Council (ATC). Strong positive feedback in 2017 has confirmed the vital and leading role the ATC plays in this area. Information on courses already scheduled for 2018 can be found [here](#).

I am interested in hearing how we can improve the services we provide, and in improving networking opportunities for our members. Members are encouraged to [contact](#) me or our CEO, Cindy Penrose, with ideas at any time.



Noel Hutley SC
Australian Bar Association President

New Silks for 2017

The Australian Bar Association (ABA) is delighted to congratulate Australia's new Senior Counsel of 2017.

ABA President Noel Hutley SC said the new Senior Counsel had all demonstrated the highest standards of legal practice at the Bar over an extended period of time and were leaders of the profession.

"Senior Counsel are outstanding barristers who display the criteria of learning, skill, integrity, honesty, independence, disinterestedness, diligence and experience and the ABA congratulates those who have taken Silk in 2017," Mr Hutley said.

The following new Senior Counsel were announced in New South Wales on 29 September 2017: Gregory Richard Waugh, Lesley Anne Whalan, Michael Luscombe Wright, Melissa Anne Gilles, Michael Robert Elliott, Naomi Louise Sharp, Richard Craig Scruby, Francis Paul Hicks, Katharine Clare Morgan, Huw Baker and Ruth Clare Anne Higgins.

The following new Senior Counsel was announced in the Northern Territory on 24 October 2017: Miles Crawley.

The following new Senior Counsel were announced in Victoria on 23 November 2017: William Guy Gilbert, Mark John Gibson, Marcus Clarke, Paul Lawrence Ehrlich, Michael Wolf Wise, Paul James Hayes, Craig William Dowling, Scott William Stuckey, Michael Geoffrey Rees Gronow, Garry John Fitzgerald, Julian Paul McMahon AC, Scott Robert Johns, Suresh Rajkumar Senathirajah, Minal Vohra, David Joseph Nicolas Purcell, Mark Anthony Irving, Stephen Howard Parmenter, Claire Michelle Harris, Robert Andrew Heath, Lisa Michelle Nichols, Sally Amanda Flynn, Stewart John Maiden and Lisabella Gianna De Ferrari.

The following new Senior Counsel were announced in Western Australia on 29 November 2017: Stephen Wright, Amanda Burrows and Simon Freitag.

The following new Queen's Counsel were announced in Queensland on 6 December 2017: Justin Andrew Greggery, Melanie Heather Hindman, Michael Robert Hodge, Benjamin Job, John William Peden, Darlene Ann Skennar and Michael Anthony Williamson.

ABA Silks Ceremony and Dinner 2018

The Australian Bar Association will hold its annual dinner on the night of the new silks taking their bows in the High Court on 5 February 2018.

The keynote speaker for the evening will be the Honourable Justice Michelle Gordon of the High Court of Australia. Lisa Nichols SC from the Victorian Bar will speak on behalf of the new Silks.

The dinner will be held in the Great Hall of the High Court in Canberra at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

All judges and barristers, not just the new silks, and their partners are invited to attend.

Dress for the evening is formal and the cost for the dinner is \$400 per person (including GST).

Members of the judiciary and friends of counsel who wish to attend the dinner should complete an [RSVP](#), together with the appropriate payment, by Wednesday, 17 January 2018.

Proposed Counter-Terrorism Laws Over-Reach In Relation To Children

In a media release issued on 11 October 2017, the Australian Bar Association (ABA) urged the Federal government to reconsider proposed changes to counter-terrorism laws which would allow for children as young as 10 years of age to be detained for up to 14 days without charge.

ABA President Noel Hutley SC said that whilst Australia needed robust counter-terrorism laws to protect against the threat of terrorism, the proposed changes were unjustified and went too far.

"In the absence of any demonstrated need for longer periods of detention without charge than already exist, the proposed changes are unjustified and represent an over-reach by government," Mr Hutley said.



Mr Hutley said it was vital the government heeded the words of Federal Attorney-General George Brandis QC, who, in a recent speech (9 October 2017), cautioned governments not to make the mistake of diminishing fundamental freedoms whilst attempting to protect people from threats such as terrorism.

In his speech Mr Brandis said: “In protecting our people from terrorism, for instance, we must be careful to ensure that our legislative and policing response is at all times consistent with our values and obedient to the rule of law, even if, on occasions, that may constrain what our law enforcement authorities can do. That is the price we pay for being democracies.”

Mr Hutley said: “The ABA firmly believes in the rule of law and urges the Government to maintain an appropriate balance between the undeniable need to keep the community safe with the protection of fundamental legal rights.”

Mr Hutley said if the government proposed to proceed with further changes it should provide greater detail as to them, including the level of judicial oversight and consult with the legal profession.

Judicial Welcome for Federal Circuit Court Chief Judge Will Alstergren

On a stifling 35-degree day in Melbourne it was standing room only for the judicial welcome for Federal Circuit Court of Australia Chief Judge Will Alstergren on 29 November 2017.

Among the speakers was Australian Bar Association (ABA) President Noel Hutley SC who said His Honour had been appointed to lead a national court with a broad and demanding jurisdiction.

Mr Hutley said the qualities of leadership required to lead such a court had been remarked upon by another eminent member of the bar and former member of the High Court, Susan Crennan AC, who had said of



At the judicial welcome for Federal Circuit Court Chief Judge Will Alstergren in Melbourne on 29 November: Andrew Harris QC, Australian Bar Association (ABA) V-P Christopher Hughes QC, Alstergren CJ, ABA V-P Jennifer Batrouney QC and ABA President Noel Hutley SC. Photo credit: Les O'Rourke.

His Honour: You tackle problems with a high level of pragmatism and diplomacy; You have a firm grasp of contemporaneous issues concerning access to justice and the judiciary; You have shown leadership qualities, enthusiasm and capacity for hard work; [and] You get things done which is important in a leader of a court.

Mr Hutley observed: “Now that is a reference, as High Court judges, sitting or retired, aren't known for hyperbole.”

Mr Hutley also outlined His Honour's many contributions to the legal profession and particularly the ABA. These contributions included advocating on behalf of the ABA; developing policy; assisting the Advocacy Training Council; and organising national and international conferences.

His Honour was President of the ABA at the time of his appointment to the Bench.

To read Mr Hutley's speech in full, [click here](#).

The official welcome in Melbourne followed an informal welcome for both the new Chief Judge and the new Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, the Honourable John Pascoe AC CVO, held in Sydney on 20 October 2017.

Editor's note: On 14 December 2017, the Attorney-General, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, announced that His Honour Chief Judge Alstergren had also been appointed Deputy Chief Justice of the Family Court. His Honour will continue to hold a dual commission as Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court.

Advocacy Training Council

The Appellate Advocacy Workshop returned to Brisbane in September, conducted at the new Supreme Court. As previously reported, the Workshop was jointly conducted by the ABA and the New Zealand Bar Association.

Since then, I have visited New Zealand to conduct a Train-the-Trainer Course with Chris Gudsell QC and James Rapley, both of the NZBA. Seven very senior members of the NZBA completed the Course, together with Kerry Clark of the South Australian Bar.

The intention of the Course was two-fold; first, to train some coaches and, secondly, to export some intellectual property to help the NZBA expand its pool of coaches without the need to rely upon us (although we remain more than happy to assist, if required).

Justice Harrison of the NZ Court of Appeal reprised his appearance at the Appellate Workshop and



confirmed the judiciary's commitment to the Bar training the Bar.

As you will have heard, the [ABA/NSW Bar National Conference](#) in 2018 will be held from 15 – 17 November in Sydney. This probably means that the Appellate Workshop will remain in the early September slot, so pencil in the second weekend in September 2018 now if you want to be sure to secure registration as a number missed out this year.

I confirm that the Advanced Trial Advocacy Intensive will be conducted in Sydney from 22 to 26 January 2018. It will conclude on Australia Day and is to be delivered at the Federal Court at Queen's Square. It is a residential Course pitched at barristers with 5 – 7 years plus at a Bar. The Course is available to juniors and Silk alike and I am pleased to see the return of some of the latter to the registrants. Registration closed on 31 October 2017, but some places are still available. More details can be found [here](#). Please contact Kelsey Rissman, the Chief Executive of the ATC, care of the BAQ if you are interested in registering (ph: (07) 3238 5100 or email: kelsey.rissman@qldbbar.asn.au).

On current indications, it looks like there will be three Courts undertaking the Civil Stream, and three undertaking the Criminal Stream. As advised in the last issue, the Civil Stream is using a fresh problem (not *Medie*) and the Criminal Stream will be reprising the problem introduced last year (which we affectionately call, "Blowing up Judges"!) The Criminal Stream will end with a jury trial with jurors drawn from the ranks of the law schools and elsewhere. The Civil Stream also ends with a trial (on quantum).

At the time of writing this report, the dates for the Essentials Course in Adelaide have not yet been finalised (as the State Court are scheduled to be in the middle of a re-vamp) but will be confirmed very soon. Please check the [ABA's website](#) for more precise details.

As previously noted, the demand for places at ETAC is always high and increasing. It would be wise to register your interest as soon as the dates are announced, remembering that preference for registration is afforded to Readers from the Bars of Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania, each of those Bar Associations having a requirement that new entrants to them complete the Course. New members of the Bars of the Territories also have elected to undertake the Course, although it is not compulsory for them. In the event that there are places left over (or to even up numbers) places are occasionally made available to barristers at the eastern seaboard Bars with a small amount of experience (2 years or less). Two Ross Ray QC Scholars (from the South Pacific) and various attendees from the Hong Kong Bar have also retained places at the Course. At present, the subscription is 30 registrants (plus scholarships), but consideration is being given to increasing this number to 36 because of demand.

The International Advocacy Training Council (IATC) will hold its 3rd International Conference in Stellenbosch, West Cape Province, South Africa on 2 - 3 April 2018. The Conference follows the World Bar Conference over the Easter period from 29 - 31 March 2018, also in Stellenbosch. The programme for the IATC Conference can be obtained from the ATC Secretariat. The Chief Justice, the Hon. Susan Kiefel AC, is a Patron of both the IATC and the ATC. The objects of the IATC are to:

- (a) promote the rule of law;
- (b) promote high standards of advocacy internationally;
- (c) promote best-practice in advocacy training internationally;
- (d) promote the independence and integrity of advocates internationally; and
- (e) promote good administration of justice;

by providing advocacy training or similar activities in jurisdictions around the world, on a non-profit making basis; and supporting and co-ordinating the provision of international advocacy training by affiliated bar associations or councils around the world.

The Advocacy Training Council takes this opportunity to extend to you the greetings of the Season and trusts that at least some of the break has been pencilled in to prepare for the Intensive. See you in Sydney.

Ian Robertson SC

A Year in the Life of a Bar President

My ascension to the 2017 President's office at the Victorian Bar was the legal equivalent of Steven Bradbury's remarkable performance in the speed skating at the Winter Olympics at Salt Lake City in 2002. After trailing the field throughout the whole race, seconds before the finish line, those in front of him had a spectacular fall and he accidentally whizzed through to snatch the gold.

I was Junior Vice President and my predecessor, Paul Anastassiou QC, literally fell from his post in the dying days of his Presidency and my Senior Vice President, David O'Callaghan QC was appointed to the Federal Court.

I was it.

There was an 'extensive' handover from Anastassiou: "Don't stuff it up."

That was it.

Despite my premature ascension, I have found the role as rewarding as it has been demanding.

My presidency swiftly followed the inception of the Bar's strategic plan, which aims to advance professional excellence by giving members the support they need, to promote the distinctive skills of barristers amongst clients, solicitors and the broader community and to ensure that the Bar continues to be a strong, independent, authoritative voice to promote and safeguard the rule of law.

I'm happy to say we have achieved solid milestones in carrying out our strategic plan. We launched the [Bar's new website](#). We opened the refurbished Level 1, Owen Dixon Chambers East. This community area is the jewel in the crown of the Victorian Bar. We now have state-of-the-art meeting rooms, library and teaching facilities as well as a full-service restaurant, café and bar. No other Bar in Australia comes close to offering these facilities to their members.

Another highlight of this year was the establishment of the Peter O'Callaghan QC Gallery foundation. The Gallery is an important community place for our Bar, providing a visual tribute to the Bar's history, and honouring the champions of our Bar. Again, it is unique to the Victorian Bar. The Foundation was created to support the continuing growth and preservation of the Gallery.

The Bar's second Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was launched in March by Magistrate Rose Falla and her father, Uncle Kevin Coombs, an esteemed leader of the Victorian Aboriginal community. I look forward to seeing the Bar achieve the RAP's vision of providing real access to justice, encouraging meaningful participation, and valuing and respecting Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander barristers and people in the legal system.

A theme of my Presidency has been progressing the Bar's commitment to equality and diversity in briefing practices. This year the Bar Council resolved to support and facilitate the adoption of the Law Council of Australia's national model gender [equitable briefing policy](#) by members of our Bar. The policy aims to see women briefed in proportion to their representation at the Bar, in terms of both the number and, importantly, the value of briefs, by 2020.

It has been a historical year this year – with the retirement of Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC and the appointment of Chief Justice Anne Ferguson. I was honoured to be able to represent our Bar at the numerous formal, informal and ceremonial events to mark this changing of the guard at the helm of the Victorian judiciary.

The Victorian Bar is proud of its unique wholly-owned property company, Barristers Chambers Limited (BCL) which provides high quality, affordable office accommodation and related services to members of the Victorian Bar. BCL's net assets are \$160.9m and this year it reported net profit after tax and revaluation of \$6.6m. It was pleasing to secure BCL's agreement to the payment of a dividend of \$550,000 to the Bar for the first time in its history, during my Presidency.

It has been an honour to represent the Victorian Bar over the past year. I have sincerely appreciated the support I have enjoyed throughout my term from the members of our Bar and the broader legal community.



Jennifer Batrouney QC (Australian Bar Association Vice-President)
Photo credit: Josh Robenstone

I have been fortunate to work with two exceptional Vice-Presidents, Matt Collins QC and Wendy Harris QC. I believe that we have operated as a truly collaborative leadership team. The 21-member Victorian Bar Council has been a harmonious and hard-working group during my Presidency and they have also been a pleasure to work with.

The Victorian Bar Office is led by our indefatigable CEO – Sarah Fregon. Throughout the year, I have constantly been struck by how lucky we are to have a CEO who has been a barrister. Her perspective on any issue is always aligned with the Bar as she is “one of us”. I am personally indebted to Sarah for her patience, and good humor and unfailing support.

I finish this year as President of the Victorian Bar in the knowledge that our Bar will be in good hands for the future, as it has been since its inception. I look forward to continuing to represent our Bar in my new role as Vice President of the Australian Bar Association.

And, for the record . . . I didn't stuff it up.

Jennifer Batrouney QC

(Vice-President Australian Bar Association)

Member Profile

Each quarter, the *ABA Member News* profiles a member. If you would like to nominate a member to be featured, please email media@austbar.asn.au

Kerry Clark of the South Australian Bar

Kerry is a member of Murray Chambers in Adelaide and Magayamirr Chambers in Darwin. She accepts briefs in all areas except Criminal and Family Law - children's issues, but has a focus on commercial matters, including contract, professional negligence, competition, property and construction disputes. Kerry also appears regularly in employment and defamation matters.

Prior to joining the independent Bar in February 2008, Kerry was an Associate at law firm Johnson Winter & Slattery practising in commercial litigation.

She has been actively involved in a wide variety of professional bodies and has a particular interest in access to justice, being involved in the establishment of two important not-for-profit organisations, the Refugee Advocacy Service of SA and JusticeNet SA. The latter arranges pro bono lawyers for those who are ineligible for Legal Aid but cannot afford a private lawyer, and has grown to include services for people representing themselves in the Supreme, District, Federal and Federal Circuit Courts (Adelaide and Darwin registries).

Kerry has previously served for several years on the Bar Council of the South Australian Bar Association and as President of the Women Lawyers Association. She is currently a director of Lawguard and on the Board of Examiners which determines applications for admission to practice in South Australia.



Where did you grow up?

Mostly in Adelaide, with some short stints in country South Australia as a child (Kadina, Whyalla). After my parents separated, my Dad moved to Darwin and I spent lots of school holidays there. I hated it at first, being away from friends and the unrelenting humidity, but grew to love it. Now I try to do as many matters up there as I can, though I still prefer the dry season.

What drove you to pursue a career in the law?

Nothing really, it was more of an accident. I wanted to be a diplomat, so I enrolled in a politics degree majoring in French and International Relations. As I had decent marks in Year 12, my teachers suggested I do a double degree. Somewhere along the line law took over. Possibly, it was around the time I realised working for DFAT involved two years in Canberra followed by an unattractive overseas posting because all the best positions go to retiring politicians.

Did you always want to be a barrister?

See above (no). However, a year in the Supreme Court as a Judge's Associate (to David Bleby) definitely piqued my interest. I was also inspired by members of the Independent Bar who were acting pro bono for asylum seekers detained at Woomera in the early 2000s. They had the freedom to take on this work that many solicitors in firms did not. A bunch of law students, myself included, camped out in various chambers and barristers' homes on weekends putting together briefs and trying to identify jurisdictional errors. It was, and remains, an issue that should cause us all to consider to what extent we truly value fundamental human rights, access to justice and the rule of law.

What do you love most about practising law?

When you get a big win for the little guy. Hopefully none of my insurer or bank clients are reading this . . .

What have been some of the bigger challenges you've faced in your career or as a barrister?

Being young (27 when I signed the Bar Roll). Being

a girl, the 30th to sign our Bar Roll, from memory. I'll never forget, after being recommended by a Sydney silk to junior him in an Adelaide matter, the instructing solicitor emailing me to say I was not getting the brief, but could I recommend a male junior with equivalent experience? It took a few deep breaths before I could reply without expletives. I was probably more shocked that the solicitor put this in writing than by the underlying discriminatory attitude. Thankfully things have improved, and I sincerely hope the next generation of women at the Bar will never see gender as a "challenge" to be overcome.

What does the future hold for the practice of law at the Bar?

Less oral advocacy and less court work, unfortunately. That is the undoubted trend, at least in the civil arena where no-one but the big end of town can afford to litigate. More strategic use of Counsel by large corporate and government clients, including by direct briefing. Better use of technology to work when you want, where you want. More women. A more diverse Bar in general, I hope.

What are some of the cases you've worked on in recent years?

Lately, some interesting cases in the Federal Court for ASIC (involving unconscionable conduct by a general store owner on remote Aboriginal- controlled land, currently reserved before the Full Court) and the ACCC involving packaging of baby food (also reserved). For an example of "big win for the little guy" the decision just handed down in *Hosseini v Life Without Barriers* [2017] SAET 146 which was a large underpayment of wages case in our State employment tribunal. Sometimes the low-profile, seemingly unsexy cases can be the most satisfying.

What do you do to unwind?

Cooking. A good book. GnT, preferably on a beach.

Favourite book, or book you're currently reading (briefs don't count)?

Whilst on holidays recently I read the latest Grisham, *The Rooster Bar* (because, you know, there is not enough law in my life). It is about a trio of final year law students, drowning in student loan debt, at a greedy law school which misrepresented their employment prospects in an overcrowded graduate job market. I found it equal parts depressingly accurate and outrageously funny because their "solution" is not at all realistic, nor advisable. It will probably be made into a half decent movie if you are not the trashy novel type.

If you weren't a barrister, what would you be?

A teacher (according to my kids). If I got to choose, Ambassador in Paris, but without being a politician first.

International Bar Association Sydney 2017 Conference

The Australian Bar Association (ABA), together with the NSW Bar Association (NSWBA) and Bar Council of England and Wales, hosted a reception on Thursday 12 October 2017 during the International Bar Association's (IBA) 2017 Annual Conference in Sydney.

ABA President Noel Hutley SC, NSWBA President Arthur Moses SC and UK Bar Council Chair Andrew Langdon QC each delivered engaging speeches highlighting the collegial relationship between members of the bars, and encouraging strengthened relationships between our Bars.



The Presidents were delighted that so many of our international as well as local colleagues (including corporate counsel) were able to attend the event, and were honoured to welcome The Rt Hon Lord Keen of Elie QC from the UK Ministry of Justice.

The IBA conference, which ran from 8 – 13 October attracted more than 4,100 registrants from Australia and internationally from around 110 jurisdictions.

To read more about the conference and to view videos of various presentations and photos, click [here](#).



CIArb Australia Annual Dinner

The Australian branch of global dispute resolution body, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) held its 2017 Annual Dinner on 7 October.

Sponsored by the Australian Bar Association (ABA) and the independent bars including the New South Wales, Queensland, South Australian, Victorian and Western Australian Bars, the dinner was held at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney on the eve of the International Bar Association's Sydney conference.

Guests included international practitioners, members of the Australian judiciary, business, media and representatives of global arbitral bodies.

MC-ed by Carson Scott, Chief Business Correspondent and Business Anchor for Sky News Australia, the evening's proceedings included a welcome address by CIArb Australia President, Caroline Kenny QC; the keynote address by Alexis Mourre, President of the ICC Court of International Arbitration, who delivered the dinner speech "Regulation of Ethics in Arbitration: How much is too much?"; and the Sponsor's Address delivered by William Alstergren QC, then President of the ABA and now the Honourable Justice William Alstergren, Deputy Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

The dinner attracted 95 guests which included judges from the NSW Supreme Court: Chief Justice Tom Bathurst AC; Head of Equity, Justice Julie Ward; Head of Commercial, Technology & Construction and Commercial Arbitration Lists, Justice David Hammerschlag; and President of NSW Court of Appeal, the Hon Margaret Beazley AO.

Other guests included ABA International Law Committee chair Patrick O'Sullivan QC; Allan Myers AC QC; the Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG; and representatives from global and national firms, heads of arbitral institutes and international visitors from around the world.



2017 CIArb Australia Annual Dinner speaker President of the ICC International Court of Arbitration Alexis Mourre, then ABA President (now Deputy Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia) the Honourable William Alstergren, CIArb Australia President Caroline Kenny QC and master of ceremonies Carson Scott.

LCA President's Dinner and Award

Leaders of the Australian legal profession congregated in Canberra to farewell outgoing Law Council of Australia (LCA) President Fiona McLeod SC on 30 November 2017.

Among those who attended the Law Council President's Dinner at The National Gallery of Australia were Federal Attorney-General Senator the Honourable George Brandis QC who congratulated Ms McLeod on her advocacy, passion and commitment to legal issues during her 2017 presidency.

LCA President-elect Morry Bailes described Ms McLeod's presidency as "phenomenal" and said her work was characterised by "a spark, energy and enthusiasm which is unrivalled."

Other VIPs in attendance included the Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC MP, Shadow Attorney-General; Noel Hutley SC, ABA President; Federal Senators and Members present including MP Matt Keogh; Gordon Ramsey MLA, ACT Attorney-General; Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for multiple portfolios including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Disability, Children and Youth; members of the Judiciary; Kathryn Beck, President New Zealand Law Society; and representatives of the embassies of Korea, United States, China and Thailand.



ABA President Noel Hutley SC and LCA President Fiona McLeod SC

The ABA congratulates Ms McLeod, who was president of the ABA in 2015, on her exceptional leadership of the LCA.

The LCA's 2017 President's Award was presented at the dinner to legal assistance and rule of law champion, Victorian barrister Dr David John Neal SC.

The President's Award is awarded to an individual who has been an 'outstanding example to the Australian legal profession and to those who might seek to join its ranks.'

Presenting the award, Ms McLeod said Mr Neal was an outstanding example to all Australian lawyers.

“David has been a great servant both to the public and to the entire profession,” Ms McLeod said.

“David’s achievements and his contributions as a scholar, researcher, teacher, public servant, and practising barrister are contrasted by his quiet modesty and patient concern for his fellow citizens.”



LCA President’s Award winner Dr David Neal SC

ACT Bar Bench and Bar Dinner

The ACT Bar held its annual Bench and Bar Dinner on 15 September. The event was a wonderful evening and the fraternal spirit of the night was inspiring. Chief Justice Susan Kiefel AC was the honoured guest and speaker and is pictured here with ACT Bar President Ken Archer and ACT Solicitor-General Peter Garrison.



Review of Federal Court Practice Notes

More than a year ago, on 25 October 2016, the Federal Court issued a suite of national practice notes, replacing its 60 previous practice notes and administrative notices. The Court now has 27 national practice notes. These include the Central Practice Note (with guiding principles for case management), National Practice Area practice notes (relevant to specific practice areas) and General Practice Notes (applicable across National Practice Areas, or which address important administrative matters). More information about the Court’s practice notes is available here.

The General Practice Notes were issued on a “12-month review” basis to allow for detailed feedback (excluding the Class Actions Practice Note which, like the Court’s other practice notes, was subject to an earlier consultation process). That formal review period has now closed. The Court will review the feedback received, make any appropriate amendments to the practice notes and provide further updates when any changes occur.

Although the formal review period has closed, the Court continues to welcome feedback from the legal profession and other Court users in respect of all of the Court’s national practice notes.

If you would like to provide any feedback about the Court’s practice notes, please send an email to the Deputy National Operations Registrar, David Pringle (practice.notes@fedcourt.gov.au) including a short summary of any important issues that you wish to bring to the Court’s attention and your relevant contact details. The Court will consider all feedback and acknowledge receipt of all feedback provided.

SAVE THE DATE

2018 National Conference

15-17 November 2018 | Sydney



ABA

Australian
Bar Association



www.nationalconference.austbar.asn.au

To register your interest please email
conferences@austbar.asn.au

Equitable Briefing in the ACT

The ACT Bar Association and the ACT Law Society co-hosted an equitable briefing networking event on 31 October 2017.

Held at the ANU Law School, the inaugural event was an opportunity for the ACT Bar to affirm its commitment to equitable briefing practices for women barristers.

The function also provided an opportunity for women barristers to meet with solicitors and representatives from Government agencies who are looking out for competent and skilled advocates.

Writing in the November edition of the ACT Bar's *Bulletin*, ACT Supreme Court Chief Justice Helen Murrell said: "It was very encouraging to see such a strong group of women advocates already at the ACT Bar and to meet other talented women who are considering a career at the bar."

At the equitable briefing event Beth Morrisroe, Reader at Burley Griffin Chambers, was announced as the winner of the Women's Scholarship 2017, proudly sponsored by BarBooks Australia.



Noor Blumer, Director, Blumers Personal Injury Lawyers; Emma Hlubucek, Senior Policy Lawyer at the LCA; and Ken Archer, President, ACT Bar Association

New Uniform Legal Services Commissioner

The Australian Bar Association (ABA) welcomes the appointment of Megan Pitt as the new Legal Services Council (LSC) Chief Executive Officer and Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation following the departure of inaugural CEO and Commissioner, Dale Boucher.

Ms Pitt formerly led the Sydney office of the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) as its Director for over 20 years, before taking on this dual role based in Sydney.

As a lawyer of 34 years standing, Ms Pitt has a strong background in Commonwealth litigation and legal practice management.

In taking on this appointment, Ms Pitt said she was committed to promoting the benefits of the Uniform

Law and continuing to strengthen links between the LSC, local regulatory bodies, the legal profession and consumers in the Uniform Law states, NSW and Victoria, as well as reaching out to non-Uniform Law jurisdictions.

Together, the Legal Services Council and Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation oversee the implementation of the Legal Profession Uniform Law scheme; a regulatory framework for Australian legal practitioners.

Ms Pitt's five-year term officially commenced on 3 October 2017.

The ABA congratulates Mr Boucher for his excellent work as inaugural CEO and Commissioner.

In other related news:

- On 21 November 2017, the Attorneys-General of NSW and Victoria (the Standing Committee) reappointed the inaugural members of the LSC, extending the members' tenures until October 2020. The members of the LSC are: The Hon. Michael Black AC QC (Chair), Fiona Bennett, Kim Boettcher, Steven Stevens and Bret Walker SC.
- The 2016 – 17 annual reports for the LSC and Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation have been published. Click [here](#) to view the reports.
- The [Legal Profession Uniform Law Library \(Australia\)](#) is now available within the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) database.. The library contains all Statutes, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines and Directions, and a growing body of DLRA determinations relating to the Legal Profession Uniform Law, together with all published decisions made under the Legal Profession Uniform Law since it commenced in NSW and Victoria on 1 July 2015.



ABA London and Dublin Conference Papers

Members wishing to access copies of papers from the ABA's London and Dublin Conference in July 2017 can do so by clicking [here](#).

Conference attendees can also access photos from the conference [here](#).

DATES FOR THE DIARY

22 - 26 January 2018

Advocacy Training Council Advanced Trial Advocacy Intensive

Sydney, Australia

<http://austbar.asn.au/advocacy-training/courses/advanced-trial-advocacy-january-2018>

23 February 2018

Constitutional Law Conference and Dinner

Sydney, Australia

<http://www.gtcentre.unsw.edu.au/events/2018-constitutional-law-conference-and-dinner>

1 - 2 March 2018

Australian College of Community Association Lawyers (ACCAL) 13th Annual Strata Law Conference

Melbourne, Australia

<https://www.acca.org.au/media-community/conferences-events>

29 - 31 March 2018

Biennial World Bar Conference

Stellenbosch, South Africa

<http://worldbarconferencesa.co.za/>

2 - 3 April 2018

International Advocacy Training Council (IATC) 3rd International Conference Stellenbosch, South Africa

Information available from Advocacy Training Council Secretariat

<http://austbar.asn.au/advocacy-training/contact-the-atc>

15 - 18 April 2018

24th International Council for Commercial Arbitration (ACCA) Congress

Sydney, Australia

<https://icca2018sydney.com/>

1 - 2 May 2018

GCS General Counsel Summit

Sydney, Australia

<http://gcs summit.com.au/>

23 - 24 May 2018

IBA 13th Annual Bar Leaders' Conference

Oslo, Norway

<https://www.ibanet.org/Conferences/conf853.aspx>

5 - 6 June 2018

German Bar Association (DAV) 1st International Bar Leaders Symposium

Heidelberg, Germany

<https://anwaltverein.de/de/>

9 - 12 July 2018

Hellenic Australian Lawyers (HAL) Association International Legal Conference

Rhodes, Greece

<https://hal.asn.au/rhodes-conference/>

11 - 13 July 2018

The University of Melbourne third biennial Public Law Conference

Melbourne, Australia

<http://law.unimelb.edu.au/public-law-conference>

15 - 17 November 2018

ABA/NSW Bar Annual Conference

Sydney, Australia

<http://www.nationalconference.austbar.asn.au/>

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https://www.ibanet.org/Conferences/conferences_home.aspx

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