

Editorial



By **Rosalyn Gladwin** (top) and **Vanya Kumar**, co-editors 2005

The focus of this, the 30th edition of the *Young Lawyers Journal*, is private practice.

There are about 11,260 lawyers who hold practising certificates in Victoria. An estimated 9500 are working in private practice of some type.

Of the 11,260 solicitors who hold a practising certificate, 4730 fall within the definition young lawyers. This is a huge proportion of the profession – almost one third of all practising lawyers in Victoria are young lawyers. In addition to these numbers, many law students aspire to work in private practice.

However, private practice is not homogenous. There could be as many types of practices out there as there are law firms. Given that such a high proportion of practising lawyers are, or are able to be, members of our section, we have sought to provide some insight into the lives and culture of our membership.

Some of the diverse experiences of young lawyers are highlighted in this edition. One articulated clerk, now a solicitor, speaks of his experience in changing law firms during his clerkship. Also, a young indigenous lawyer gives his viewpoint on private practice. While many of our authors have given a humorous slant to their articles, the challenges that confront young lawyers should not be underestimated.

At the other end of the spectrum, Grant Fisher, an intellectual property partner at Blake Dawson Waldron, kindly provided his time to give our readers an insight into the life of a partner at a top-tier firm. He gives some interesting insight into work, career progression and challenges facing young lawyers who see themselves working and growing in private practice.

Something that touches all practitioners are the changes pursuant to the *Legal Profession Act 2004*. Victoria Strong has addressed these in an article aimed to give an overview of the changes.

Other challenges relating to the practice of law involve the sometimes daunting task of marketing yourself both on paper and in person. Simone Goldstein and Julie Haylett give readers some pointers in the area of marketing. Keeping in view the Young Lawyers' Section's



focus on professional development this year, we include an article on contract drafting tips.

We have also highlighted some of the varied areas of law in which private practitioners often find themselves involved. Richard Feely has looked at the changes in the trade practices area in relation to cartels and Vanessa Bleyer reviews the new forests legislation.

On the lighter side of things, the Legal Comedy Debate, an annual part of the Melbourne Comedy Festival, was a huge success as can be seen from the pictures in this edition. We commend everyone who organised this entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable evening. The debaters themselves were hilarious, mischievous and, sometimes, profound. Furthermore, since the last edition we have celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Young Lawyers' Section. It was a night of champagne and celebrations for the large turnout of past and present members from our section.

The Annual Young Lawyers' Section Planning Assembly was held on 16 April 2005, and we look forward to reporting the results in our next edition.

We take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to this edition and our very enthusiastic committee for all their wonderful ideas. We are looking forward to a huge year ahead and welcome any submissions for the other editions of the Young Lawyers Journal for 2005. ■

Join the Young Lawyers' Section

The Young Lawyers' Section is a dynamic group established to enhance the legal skills, knowledge and professional networks of members in the early stages of career development. It provides you with opportunities to become involved in a wide variety of activities and committees. To be eligible, you must be an LIV member who:

- has less than six years post admission experience; or
- is less than 36 years; or
- is an articulated clerk; or
- is a law student.

For more details, go to www.liv.asn.au/members/sections/younglawyers.

Contributions Welcome

If you would like to be involved in the Editorial Committee or make contributions, please contact us at younglaw@liv.asn.au.

The views expressed in the articles contained in this publication are the views of the authors and not the editors or the Young Lawyers' Section of the Law Institute of Victoria.