

NT Young Lawyers Golden Gavel competition

The Northern Territory Golden Gavel competition 2006, held at Char in Darwin on Thursday 12 October was very well received by the local legal profession.

The National Golden Gavel is an annual public speaking event organised by the Australian Young Lawyers Committee.

The Northern Territory Young Lawyers held the Territory's first Golden Gavel regional final in Darwin in October 2005. The winner, Caroline Heske, went on to represent the NT at the national competition in Brisbane.

Kris Norrington from the NT Legal Aid Commission won this year's NT Golden Gavel Award from an accomplished field of very entertaining and humorous speakers.

As this year's winner, Kris will represent the NT at the national competition being held in Perth later this year.

Each of the speakers was given a designated topic: Kristy Rogerson - *Forget plain English - lawyers should use rhyming verse*; Martin Fisher - *What's hot and what's not: the latest in legal style in Darwin*; Kevin Cook - *Australia's new No. 1 rated show! 'CSI: Darwin'*; Sarah Riley - *Oestrogen and the law: benefit or liability?*; Kris Norrington - *The law according to the NT News*; and Catherine Hamilton - *Dating, relationships and the Law of Contracts*.

The 'People's Choice Award' went to Catherine Hamilton from the Commonwealth DPP.

The Young Lawyers would like to thank the judging panel - Chief Justice Brian Martin, Chief Magistrate Jenny Blokland and Mr Mark Johnson, Secretary of the NT Bar Association - and the sponsors of this year's event: Hunt and Hunt Lawyers, Halfpennys Lawyers, Department of Justice, Clayton Utz, Cridlands Lawyers, Griffin Wines and the Law Society Public Purposes Trust.

THE LAW ACCORDING TO THE NT NEWS KRIS NORRINGTON

The NT News. The Northern Territory's premier newspaper. By far the Northern Territory's best publication of local and international current affairs. Religiously serving the Northern Territory since 1952. A larger circulation than the Litchfield times,



Golden Gavel Judges Mark Johnson, Chief Magistrate Jenny Blokland and Chief Justice Brian Martin with the Golden Gavel winner - Kris Norrington from the NT Legal Aid Commission.

the even the ever popular Darwin Sun. We're not talking peanuts here, ladies and gentlemen. We're talking oven roasted Californian pistachios. We are talking Murdoch press. Yes Murdoch press, right up there with The New York Post and The Australian. The cream doesn't come any thicker than this.

Nothing inspires me more to spring out of bed on a Saturday morning, than to run down to the local store and get myself a crisp copy of the NT News. Nice... Then I get my Ice coffee, my meat pie and I sit out on my veranda and allow the magic of the written word educate and inspire me.

I love my NT news and I also love the law, so I was thinking the other day: wouldn't it be brilliant if the NT news was the law? Or if the NT news wrote the law? Now we're talking.

If the NT News was in charge we would have a picture of a local model in each piece of legislation somewhere between the "Commencement Provisions" and the "Objects of the Act". We could call her the section 3 girl. Awesome. And we could have random German back packers turning up to our trials wearing only in bikinis to give their two cents worth.

And we would get rid of the judges and replace them with people who are actually in tune with the common people, people who have their finger on the pulse of what Territorians want. People who can cut through all of that politically correct rubbish and get to the heart of the matter. I'm talking the Lone Ranger, I'm talking Robert E Kennedy, I'm talking Creed Lovegrove and that angry man from Karama.

And in true bushranger style we should allow anonymous witnesses to give evidence in our court rooms. Witnesses whose identity can remain hidden to avoid any form of examination. Witnesses who can provide those missing links in the evidence, who can point the finger and say: "he did it I know because



I know his sister and she told me down the pub the other day.”

And we could have a sports section in the back of the NTLR’s where the stats of the season could be kept. You know: Legal Aid 2013 victories, DPP 12. And Balance could report on upcoming events such as: Southwood v Armitage - the battle of wills. And Coates v Cox – mate against mate.

And at the beginning of trials, jurors could receive barrister records with summaries about the current form of the barrister and how they have been travelling throughout the season. The records could also have a sudoku towards the back to keep the jurors entertained while counsel rambles on.

The commencement of trials could have the Judge introducing counsel to the jurors. “...and on the left hand side of the bar table, weighing in at 213 pounds, originating from the garden state of Victoria, wearing a black gown and a white wig but interestingly not wearing any sleeves so that he can show off his big guns it’s the one and only—”

Oh my time’s up.

DATING, RELATIONSHIPS AND THE LAW OF CONTRACTS

CATHERINE HAMILTON

Men are from Mars and women are from Venus ... actually, no we are all from planet earth, yet when women communicate it sounds like this [purple chicken] and when men communicate it sounds like this [yellow duck], so talking to each other can often sound like an unintelligible barnyard of noise. No wonder there are so many fears and misconceptions about entering the courtship jungle – jungle, we are in the tropics after all. Go forth and conquer, machete the undergrowth, swing through those branches...

Ok why the blank faces? I am talking about dating and relationships.

Let me explain it in terms you will understand. Lawyers don’t understand chemistry or physics,



but we do understand contracts – that’s right dating and relationships apply the same principles used to formulate and interpret contracts.

A contract: a legally binding promise, a reasonable expectation of fulfilment, an expectation that she will cook and clean and he will support the shopping addiction ... till death do you part.

We need an offer. To the lay person this is referred to as a date – it starts the negotiation process. There are a few tricks for the inexperienced to be mindful of here:

Ladies: Pharmaceutical Society v Boots Cash is your biggest headache. It has given men the right to pick and choose, men are not bound by the first item they pick off the shelves (oh sorry – the first lady they ask to dinner), they have the opportunity to substitute for a similar article that is much preferred - this is your **Continued page 29...**

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CONFERENCES

10 November 2006

QLS Property Law Conference

Royal on the Park, Brisbane
Queensland Law Society

Tel: 07 3842 5905

Fax: 07 3221 2279

Email: h.bretherton@qls.com.au
www.qls.com.au

1 December 2006

Family Law: Property, Tax & Super

Melbourne, Victoria

Legalwise Seminars

Tel: 02 9387 8133

Fax: 02 9387 8711

Email: info@legalwiseseminars.com.au
www.legalwiseseminars.com.au

1 December 2006

Current Legal Issues for the Mining Industry

Legalwise Seminars

Tel: 02 9387 8133

Fax: 02 9387 8711

Email: info@legalwiseseminars.com.au
www.legalwiseseminars.com.au

4 December 2006

Trade Practices Compliance

Sydney, New South Wales

Law & Finance

Tel: 02 9224 6000

Fax: 02 9224 6099

www.LawFinance.com.au

7 December 2006

Medical Indemnity Conference

Stamford Plaza, Brisbane

Lexis Nexis

Tel: 1800 772 772

Fax: 02 9422 2338

www.lexisnexis.com.au/aus/conferences

8 December 2006

Contract law for In-House Counsel

Brisbane, Queensland

Law & Finance

Tel: 02 9224 6000

Fax: 02 9224 6099

www.lawfinance.com.au

22-24 February 2007

Superannuation Conference

Adelaide, South Australia

Superannuation Group of the
Legal Practice Section of the Law
Council of Australia

Tel: 03 9602 3111

Fax: 03 9670 3242

Email: eloftus@leocussen.vic.edu.au

26-28 February 2007

3rd Annual Company Secretarial Law & Practice

Sydney, New South Wales

Law & Finance

Tel: 02 9224 6000

Fax: 02 9224 6099

www.lawfinance.com.au

26 February - 2 March 2007

International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators

Singapore International Arbitration
Centre, Singapore Chamber
of Maritime Arbitration, Singa-
pore

Tel: +65 6336 2328

Fax: +65 6336 2583

Email: icma2007@cma.sg

www.icma2007.com

22 - 25 March 2007

Australian Legal Convention

Sydney, New South Wales

Law Council of Australia

Contact: Susan Welburn

Tel: 02 6246 3788

Fax: 02 6248 0639

Email: [susan.welburn@](mailto:susan.welburn@lawcouncil.asn.au)

lawcouncil.asn.au

11 - 15 April 2007

Quality in Interpreting: A shared responsibility

Sydney, New South Wales

Critical Link 5

Tel: 02 9241 1478

Fax: 02 9251 3552

Email: info@criticallink2007.com

www.criticallink2007.com

3-9 June 2007

11th Greek/Australian International Legal & Medical Conference

Crete, Greece

Tel: 03 94292 2140

Fax: 03 9421 1682

Email: jennycrofts@ozemail.com.au

www.lmconference.com.au

30 June - 6 July 2007

11th Biennial CLANT Conference

Bali, Indonesia

Criminal Lawyers Association of
the Northern Territory

Contact: Lyn Wild

Tel: 08 8981 1875

Fax: 8941 1639

Email: info@thebestevents.com.au

2-6 July 2007

Cairns Law Conference

Palm Cove, Queensland

Tel: 02 9232 6644

Email: [info@](mailto:info@cairnslawconferences.com)

cairnslawconferences.com
Tel: 02 9232 6644

3 - 8 July 2007

Third International Congress of Psychology and Law

Adelaide, South Australia

[www.sapmea.asn.au/](http://www.sapmea.asn.au/psychlaw2007)

psychlaw2007

14 - 21 September 2007

The Greek Legal and Medical Conference

Kos Dodecanese, Greece

Tel: +613 9690 2033

Fax: +613 9690 2033

Email: eugenia@mitrakas.com.au

www.greekconference.com.au

17-20 October 2007

QLS European Perspectives on Law Conference

Paris, France

Queensland Law Society

Tel: 07 3842 5931

Fax: 07 3221 9329

Email: s.burke@qls.com.au

www.qls.com.au

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cont...

classic invitation to treat;

Gents: a lady wearing a sexy outfit is not offering you the opportunity to grope her in the pub as she walks past ... the outfit is mere puff and can in no way be construed as an offer!

Offer on the table, Now we need acceptance ... no, no, this is not where the bells ring and we shout I do!! Start with – “yes dinner Saturday would be lovely”.

Negotiations are going well, but for the agreement to be legally enforceable we need consideration – valuable consideration. Gents do not turn up with a wilted conundrum of flowers from the local service



Human Rights Arts Awards and Exhibition

Darwin Community Legal Service

invites you participate in this exciting and important art show to be held at:

**Supreme Court Foyer
7 – 15 December 2006**

**Prizes will be awarded at the opening
5.30–7.30 Wednesday 7 December
2006**

So start thinking, talking and acting to bring human rights issues to the attention of the public through vibrant and expressive artworks.

Everyone – from Pre-school to Year Twelve and beyond, established artists and emerging artists – is invited to take part and make this the best exhibition yet. Any medium is accepted and we encourage collaborative works as well as individual pieces.

We look forward to receiving your creative works on display for all to see.

For any further details, entry forms, posters etc contact: Tegan Hall, Tel:
8982 1111

station ... we chose diamonds for a reason. Our promise to cook, clean, and tolerate your mates glued to our couch during the Ashes series dictates that consideration **MUST** be sufficient. And be warned declarations of undying love and promises never again to think about Angelina Jolie, Halle Berry, or Sharon Stone are not valid consideration either – illusory consideration is no consideration at all!

Offer, acceptance, consideration – we are in a relationship! Ah – almost, ensure that each party actually has the capacity to contract. A women’s’ breasts do not have this capacity, try negotiating from the shoulders up. And ladies, an intoxicated Fabio look-alike does not have this capacity either. He is known colloquially as a “player”. If you attempt to contract with a player, the most frequent result is an application to the court for an order of specific performance and it does not matter how ready, willing and able you are to complete your end of the bargain – the only outcome is likely to be a nasty costs order and a warning against such “stalker like” behaviour.

One final point, privity of contract applies. Gentlemen this means you are not able to look at, talk to, or date other women and if you do this will certainly result in a termination for breach.

So there we have it, dating, and relationships: its all about the law of contracts.

