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Northern Territory Young Lawyers enjoyed a Law Week full of fun, frivolity, and fierce competition as we took on the might of the Department of Justice in the Tug-of-Law, argued emphatically (albeit unsuccessfully!) with the crème-de-la-crème of the Bar Association, and kicked back in style at both the Alice Springs Law Week dinner and the Darwin Law Week lunch!

Tug-of-Law

NTYL was proud to pull (or should we say tug) together its first ever team for the annual law week Tug-of-Law in Raintree Park. Despite the Department of Justice poaching some of our finest tuggers (and having many of their own!) NTYL managed to rise to the occasion and defeat Clayton Utz in an upset victory (given that our captain, Nick Johansen, bravely competed with one broken leg). We look forward to next year's Tug-of-Law to set the record straight against the Justice Jocks.

Junior v Senior Great Debate

Supreme Court 1 was an arena for battle on Monday night of Law Week. Three young lawyers fought it out with a few 'senior' legal eagles over the question 'Do juvenile delinquents grow up to become the best lawyers?' Well, do they?

The young guns argued that juvenile delinquents grow up to become

hard core criminals, drug addicts, and no hopers – certainly not lawyers and definitely not the 'best lawyers'!. Whereas the crème de la crème of the Bar aimed to persuade that the skills one picks up as a juvenile delinquent can be perfectly translated to a brilliant legal career. These included such skills as utilising the use of graffiti to develop the art of clear and precise writing, and honing liaisons with drug dealers to perfect the art of negotiation.

The senior team ended up convincing Justice Mildren that juvenile delinquents do in fact grow up to become the best lawyers. Yes, the old guys won! It's on for next year!

Thank you to Wade Roper, Tom Berkley and Pete Barr QC for your wit and wisdom. We have no doubt you were delinquents back in the day; due to your legal prowess. The junior team was brilliant, consisting of Steve Ledek, Damien Jones and Craig Zwetsloot. Damien Jones' rap was particularly impressive - if one in the audience closed their eyes, it could well have been Snoopy Dog.

A special thank you goes to Justice Mildren for his last minute judging and the Law Society for providing the all important after debate refreshments.

Alice Springs Law Week dinner

Ashley Marsh, Young Lawyer Vice President, attended the Alice

Springs Law Week dinner. Our heartfelt thanks to the Law Society for sponsoring Ashley's visit.

The Alice Springs Law Week Dinner was held at the Hanuman Restaurant on Wednesday 19 May 2010. The evening was well attended by Practitioners, Magistrates and Law Society representatives. Guest Speaker Magistrate Sue Oliver spoke about Young Offenders in our legal system, a much discussed topic in the Red Centre and one that attendees found both interesting and very relevant.

Adding colour to the night were Magistrates Borchers, Neil and Bamber who took out first prize for the theme of 'Loud Shirt Day'. Russell Goldflam's fishy tie (second place) was no match for the Op-Shop specials that the Magistrates had dug up from the bottom of their closets.

Ashley had a busy role during the evening explaining the reason for his latest return to Alice Springs, and discussing the goal NTYL have set themselves for this year to establish representation in other areas of the Northern Territory outside of Darwin.

Dara Read, Alice Springs NTYL representative was also at the dinner and many ideas were discussed for the inclusion of an Alice Springs group as part of the NTYL.

A night of great food and great company was enjoyed by all who attended.



Darwin Law Week lunch

The Darwin Law Week lunch was held in Hanuman restaurant on Friday 21 May 2010. The annual lunch is a very important event for Young Lawyers, as it is the kick off for the biggest young lawyer event of the year, the Golden Gavel, with the auction for the naming rights.

The auction was once again carried out with great gusto by the Law Society's sweet-talking President, Mr Matthew Storey. Matthew managed to cajole (some would say harass!) a record \$1500 from the winner of the 2010 naming rights auction, Minter Ellison, as well as several other secondary pledges, garnering Young Lawyers a fantastic total of \$3450.00 on the day. Our sincere thanks go to Matthew for his wonderful efforts.

Young Lawyers also gratefully thank Minter Ellison and all of our secondary sponsors for their support of this wonderful event:

- Minter Ellison
- Clayton Utz
- CDU School of Law
- Department of Justice
- Department of Public Prosecutions
- Hunt and Hunt
- Marsh Insurance
- MSP Legal
- NAAJA
- NT Magistrates Court
- NT Supreme Court

- Offices of the Information Commissioner/ Commissioner for Public Interest Disclosures.
- William Forster Chambers

Minter Ellison Golden Gavel Public Speaking Competition 2010

It's on again! The Young Lawyer event of the year, the Minter Ellison Golden Gavel 2010, is set to take place at the Crowne Plaza on Friday, September 10. Pre-event drinks will start at 5:30pm in the upstairs foyer with the event itself starting at 6:30pm in Signatures function room. Come and be dazzled by the wit of the Territory's finest young lawyers as they battle it out amongst their peers.

The annual public speaking competition is an opportunity for young lawyers to showcase their advocacy and comedy skills, with each given five minutes to argue their case on a usually far-fetched topic - revealed only 48 hours beforehand.

Do you want to enter the Golden Gavel? If so, please contact Northern Territory Young Lawyers Co-President Donna Ward for details, on donna.ward@nt.gov.au.

Young Lawyer CPD

Unfortunately the details for the Young Lawyer CPD 'Depression and Anxiety in the Legal Profession' as reported in the last edition of *Balance* have changed. The CPD is now set to take place in mid August. Stay tuned to your weekly 'Practitioner' e-newsletter for further details.

First NTYL branded merchandise

NTYL branded merchandise is on its way! Keep your ear to the ground and your eyes on the 'Practitioner' to be the among the first proud owners of what will be the gear of the year!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to legal super couple Kris and Caroline Norrington on the birth of their first child. Daughter Bethany Lorraine Norrington arrived safely on her due date, Tuesday 6 July 2010. Both Kris and Caroline are former Northern Territory Young Lawyer Presidents and NTYL wish them all the very best. ●

Report prepared by Sophie Anderson, Nick Johansen, Ashley Marsh, and Donna Ward.