

Minter Ellison

Golden Gavel

Public Speaking Competition

3 September 2010



Donna Storey, Solicitor, NT Government,
 Nick Johansen, Solicitor, Ward Keller,
 Co-Presidents,
 Northern Territory Young Lawyers



MinterEllison

LAWYERS

Northern Territory Young Lawyers hosted the Minter Ellison Golden Gavel public speaking competition for 2010 on Friday 10 September at the Crowne Plaza Darwin. The event was, as usual, full of fun and frivolity as four talented young lawyers pitted their wit against one another in their effort to take out the gavel.

It certainly was a boy's night as MC Grant McAvaney of Minter Ellison kept the crowd amused while introducing the competitors Josh Ingrams, Nick Johansen, Marty Aust, and Ashley Marsh.

Marty Aust



First up was Associate to Justice Blokland, Marty Aust, with his topic **"Such is life: Ben Cousin's guide to professional responsibility"**. Marty had the crowd rolling in the aisles with his take on professional responsibility the Ben Cousins way.

Josh Ingrams



Next up was Northern Territory Government commercial lawyer Josh Ingrams **"From NTYL to the bench – why I should have replaced the Chief Justice"**. Josh mounted a very convincing argument as to why he should

have been the next Chief Justice, although we are not sure that Chief Justice Riley would quite agree!

Nick Johansen



Adding to the fun was Ward Keller lawyer Nick Johansen **"Lawgasm – how to finish in six minutes"**. Nick kept the crowd amused with references to the men's toilets and offers of bribes in return for laughter.

Ash Marsh



Also a Ward Keller lawyer, Ash Marsh took the rear with **"10 tips for a more effective resignation letter"**. We can rest assured that should Ashley ever decide to resign from his employment in this manner, he would certainly leave his mark!

And the Winner is...

All the boys did well however there can only be one winner, and the crown for the 2010 Golden Gavel went to Marty Aust, with Ashley Marsh taking out the Peoples Choice Award. Marty went on to represent the Northern Territory at the National finals in Canberra in October.

Grateful Thanks to...

Young Lawyers extend an appreciative thank you to Justice Peter Barr, Duncan McConnel and Ben Wild for generously contributing their time as judges for this wonderful event, and to Grant for being a wonderful MC.

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



Marty Aust receives the Winners Shield from raconteur extraordinaire, The Hon. Justice Peter Barr.



Duncan McConnel, Ben Wild and The Hon. Justice Peter Barr ponder the colourful creativity of the contestants.

- **Minter Ellison Lawyers**
- Charles Darwin University School of Law
- Clayton Utz Lawyers
- Department of Justice
- Department of Public Prosecutions
- Hunt and Hunt Lawyers
- Marsh Insurance
- MSP Legal
- North Australian Aboriginal

- Justice Agency
- Northern Territory Magistrates Court
- Northern Territory Supreme Court
- Offices of the Information Commissioner/ Commissioner for Public Interest Disclosures.
- William Forster Chambers

Court of the ACT, and ACT Law Society President and Law Council Director Mr Athol Opas. Each judge made some excellent comments that will no doubt help Marty in his future career; perhaps none more so than Refshauge J, who remarked that he shares Marty's love of regularity.

Alas, the eventual winner was Steven Hogg from Queensland who spoke on the topic of ***"Things I wish I could put into a client agreement"***. Equal second went to the NSW and WA competitors who spoke on the topics of ***"The man on the Clapham omnibus: just where was he going?"*** and ***"99% of lawyers make the rest look bad"*** respectively. The people's choice award went to Victoria and was decided by the competitor who received the loudest applause. Frankly the NT was robbed; although we did win the unofficial spectators' drinking competition. With a bit of luck next year's finalist can say as much.

Defame me... I like it!

On 29 October, Marty Aust represented the Territory in the National Golden Gavel finals in Canberra. Speaking at the National Press Club (complete with rolled up sleeves and impressive ink work) Marty's topic was ***"Defame me - I like it"***.

Traversing the national pastime of "cutting down the tall poppy, crushing it to the ground and sticking the boot in", Marty lamented the fact that parliamentary privilege is reserved for the few, and not the many. The crowd were particularly impressed when he likened the satisfaction of bringing down one's betters to the satisfaction of some more basic human behaviour. Nothing brightens up grey Canberra like a bit of Territory colour!

The judges were Justices Penfold and Refshauge from the Supreme

Congratulations!

Congratulations to NTYL Co-President, Donna Ward (now Storey) and Law Society President, Matthew Storey, on their wedding held on the 2nd October. The happy couple were married on Speakers Green at Parliament House in a romantic sunset ceremony followed by a cocktail reception. ●



Ash Marsh receives the People's Choice Award from MC Grant McAvaney.