

COMMITTEE NEWS AND UPDATES

Northern Territory Women Lawyers Association (NTWLA)

Welcome to 2017. Particularly, the NTWLA Committee welcomes all our new members who have signed up over the last few months. There have been quite a few and our organisation continues to go from strength to strength.

I would like to thank all those many association members, guests and members of the profession who attended our joint Christmas function and AGM in late November 2016. Once again it was a popular event—most convivial and enjoyable. We were lucky enough to have the new Attorney-General and Minister for Justice speak at the event—she gave all who attended a light-hearted and humorous, but ultimately serious, insight into how she balances her work and life. Her speech reflected what many lawyers have to face on a daily basis—often juggling life and death issues at work and having that work encroach on your home life, but still having to make room for the routine and unexpected (like dealing with unwanted Darwin wildlife before breakfast!).

A new and invigorated Committee was appointed at the AGM. The 2017 Committee has a mix of some existing members and some new members and again, it has a good mix of members from private practice, government and NGOs. We also have members from both the Top End and the Centre. The 2017 Committee is as follows:

- President: Ros Chenoweth, Director Crime Victims Services Unit, AGD
- Vice-President (Darwin): Bronwyn Haack, Summary Prosecutions, NTDPP
- Vice-President (Alice Springs): Sall Forrest, Central Land Council
- Treasurer and Public Officer: Frieda Evans, Supreme Court Library
- Secretary: Jessica Holgersson, Halfpennys

Committee members:

- Anna Davis, NT Working Women’s Centre;
- Lhia-Clare Davis, Minter Ellison
- Traci Keys, Anti-Discrimination Commission
- Linda Shanks, Commonwealth DPP
- Caitlin Weatherby-Fell, Top End Women’s Legal Service
- Julia Parkin, Central Australian Women’s Legal Service.

Personally, I am very pleased to have been re-elected President for a second year and I’m very much looking forward to building on the Committee’s 2016 work. Particularly, the Committee is looking to holding some more events in Katherine this year and working with Law Society NT to provide some practical CPDs for the profession.

For the profession and women generally, 2017 is shaping up to be a fascinating year—both for the NT and globally. With a new Labor government in the NT focussed on implementing a range of reforms, it will be interesting to see how these reforms develop. The reforms currently being developed around abortion laws and those that will come out of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory are of great interest to our members. Our organisation is keen to see issues continue to be debated in the community and within the profession—issues such as domestic violence as a work issue; pregnancy discrimination and flexible work arrangements. I would urge all members of the profession to be involved in the development of policy around these and other issues of law reform. The NTWLA is keen to provide a voice for women lawyers in this regard and members of NTWLA can contact us to provide your views on these reforms, or indeed any law reforms, to help us

Roslyn ChenowethPresident
NTWLA

develop submissions on matters of interest to our members.

As these reforms are taking place in the NT, we are reminded of how imperative it is for the legal profession to keep women's issues on the agenda. As women's reproductive rights are again at risk in the United States under the new Trump Administration, and women and children refugees continue to be some of the most at risk people in the world, no one can afford to be complacent.

If you are interested in becoming a member of NTWLA or providing feedback on issues of interest, please contact us at ntwomenlawyersassoc@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at a NTWLA event in 2017.

Important dates for the 2017 year



CPD Certificates

- Friday 31 March 2017: Annual CPD Certificate due
- Friday 30 June 2017: Supplementary CPD Certificate due

Law Practice Notifications

- Friday 7 April 2017: Annual Declaration Part A

Trust Account Notifications

- Friday 21 April 2017: Part B Trust Money Statement
- Friday 21 April 2017: Notification of External Examiner Appointed
- Wednesday 31 May 2017: External Examination Report
- Tuesday 1 August 2017: Annual Declaration of Persons Authorised to Effect Withdrawals

PC Renewals

- Friday 21 April 2017: PC renewal kits to be distributed to practitioners
- Wednesday 31 May 2017: Due date to submit renewal applications
- Thursday 1 June 2017: Late fee applies to renewal applications submitted on or after this date
- Friday 30 June 2017: Final date for renewal applications