

# News and updates

## Kellie Grainger

CEO

Law Society Northern Territory



Happy 50th birthday to the Law Society Northern Territory! The Society is pleased to be hosting a number of activities to mark this special anniversary. A ceremonial sitting will be held at the Supreme Court on 4 May 2018, the closest date to the anniversary of the Society's inaugural meeting.

We are also looking to acknowledge and remember the important contribution of numerous practitioners to the NT legal profession over many years. The cover of this edition of *Balance* recognises and highlights some of the first Presidents of the Society. A history of the NT legal profession and the Society will be published later this year. Special dinners are being planned to be held in Darwin and Alice Springs later this year – a 'Save the date' will be sent out shortly and we ask that you share this with any former NT practitioners you know who might like to travel back for these special events.

Only a month in and the year's activities are already well-underway. We kicked it off with the annual Start at the Top Family Law Conference on 24 and 25 January 2018. The conference was a great success and well-attended by Northern Territory practitioners from Darwin and Alice Springs, as well as interstate colleagues. The conference delegates had the honour of hearing Chief

Judge Alstergren provide the keynote address for the conference—this was his first since appointment to the Federal Circuit Court bench so the Society was delighted to have the opportunity to host him.

We thank the Federal Circuit Court and the numerous Family Court and Federal Circuit Court judges who continue to support the conference by attending and presenting. The significant work and assistance Judge Cole provides in planning for the program content and coordinating the judicial officers who attend is greatly valued and always appreciated. The Society also congratulates Judge Cole and his wife on recently being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia—a well-deserved honour.

The Society had the pleasure of welcoming the new President of the Law Council of Australia, Morry Bailes, at the Opening of the Legal Year events in Darwin and Alice Springs. Morry is passionate about issues affecting regional and remote practitioners and the impact of technology on the future of the profession. It was wonderful for him to have the opportunity to speak to and meet with members of the profession in Darwin and Alice Springs.

The Law Council of Australia has now published its long awaited discussion

paper to facilitate a review of the *Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules* (ASCR). The ASCR were first adopted in 2011 so it is timely to review the rules and consider if any changes are needed, particularly to clarify the operation of any of the rules. Whilst the ASCR have not been adopted in the Northern Territory it is important that we engage with the review process as any proposed changes may impact this jurisdiction if the ASCR are adopted here in the future. The discussion paper is lengthy and quite detailed but the consultation period is open for three months so members are invited to take some time to have a look at any recommended changes to the current rules, or recommendations not to make any changes as proposed by some. The discussion paper is available on the Society's website and the Law Council of Australia website.

Since my last *Balance* column our Manager Regulatory Services has taken maternity leave—congratulations to Aislinn and her husband on the birth of their beautiful baby girl! The Secretariat welcomes Liza Powderly who has been employed to fill the Manager Regulatory Services role whilst Aislinn is on leave. Efforts to recruit to fill Bella's very large shoes are ongoing and we hope to introduce the newest member of the Secretariat to the profession soon.




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