

2018 Practical Advocacy Workshop

15–17 June 2018, Supreme Court of the Northern Territory

Heather Traeger

Professional Development Officer
Law Society Northern Territory



L-R: Danielle Cooper and Andrew Fleming, NAAJA, Alice Springs



L-R: Professor Les McCrimmon, CDU; David Baldry, Barrister, William Forster Chambers



L-R: Bahareh Jaber, DPP; Sara Strzelecki, AG&J; Thomas Mooney, DPP



L-R: Marcus Humphreys, Legal Practitioner & Industrial Relations Specialist, ANU; Kate Wyvill, Performance Coach, Sanity Productions





L-R: Anne-Marie Chin, Maysa Crooks, Justice Graham Hiley, Michaela Vaughan & Harita Sridhar. (Associates made up a good number of our ten volunteer witnesses, without whom we would not have had such a successful workshop).



L-R: Miles Crowley SC, William Forster Chambers; Mary Chalmers, DPP; David Morters, DPP



L-R: Sarah Pickles, CAAFLU, Tennant Creek; Nadia Baldassi-Winderlich, CAWLS, Alice Springs

Over 70 people invested a full weekend to focus on teaching and learning the art of being a better advocate for clients, using the facilities of the Supreme Court of the NT. The workshop commenced at 5:00 pm on Friday 15 June and concluded at 1:00 pm Sunday 17 June to allow participants from Katherine to drive home and those from Alice Springs and Tennant Creek to fly home.

Because of the intensity of the Practical Advocacy Workshop, it began with an introductory session on Thursday 7 June at 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm. William Forster Chambers hosted this intensive session via teleconference to enable participants out of Darwin to join in. This was a critical session as it outlined the program, introduced participants to the three organisers and explained the importance of preparation, briefly introduced injunctions and highlighted the fundamental need to develop a coherent case theory.

The art of advocacy is a multi-faceted competency, involving ability to:

- vary voice, tone and pace for effect
- read people
- tell a story—to communicate—the need for clarity in case theory and acknowledging weaknesses in a case from both sides
- identify critical facts from misinterpretation and ability to raise doubt
- ask direct questions and leading questions; as well as
- knowledge of substantive law and supportive case law and relevant legal principles.

2018 Practical Advocacy Workshop

The opportunity to step away from normal practice and focus on deeper development of advocacy skills benefits the practitioner, as well as their employer, their clients and judges and the application of law.

The purpose of the Practical Advocacy Workshop

The purpose of this workshop is to assist junior and mid-career practitioners to develop their skills and knowledge in becoming effective persuasive advocates and gain a competitive edge in the courtroom.

Recognition of the expert panel

Justice Graham Hiley, Professor Les McCrimmon and Alistair Wyvill SC spent many weeks leading up to the workshop in preparing the program content and schedule, selecting and developing suitable cases, calling for and training the volunteer instructors after hours, and leading the instruction and support of participants throughout the weekend. All this was done in their own time to contribute to their profession and gain the rewards of seeing the growth of each advocate over the weekend.

The week leading up to the Advocacy Workshop saw Alistair Wyvill SC instructing in an Advocacy training program in Singapore. This is a demonstration of the calibre of practitioners working and contributing to the profession in the NT.

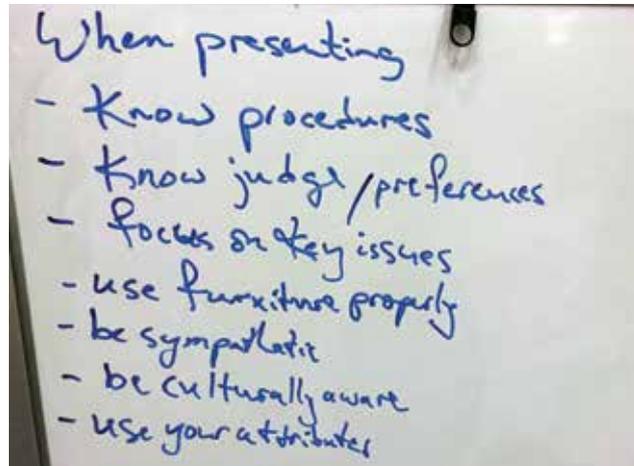
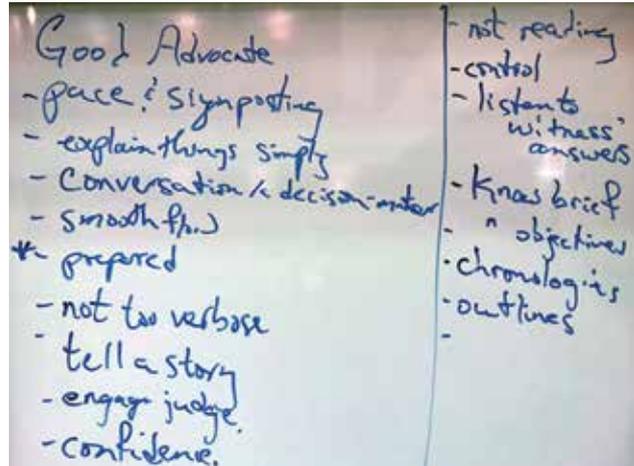
Guest instructor

The Society welcomed the involvement of eminent practitioner, Campbell Bridge SC from Sydney. His involvement continues the long and mutually beneficial association with colleagues from other jurisdictions.

Campbell Bridge SC is an Accredited Mediator in Australia and is a guest international mediator of PMN (Indonesian Mediation Centre). He is on the arbitration panels of KLRCA (Malaysia), ACICA (Australia) and BANI (Indonesia) and is the only non-Indonesian accredited as both an Arbitrator and Mediator in Indonesia.

Guest presenters

The Honourable Chief Justice Michael Grant presented on Ethics in Advocacy on Saturday and Deputy Chief Judge Elizabeth Morris presented on the Do's and Don't's of Local Court Practice, Sunday morning.



Eight instructors

Our volunteer instructors represented a cross-section of judges, barristers and senior practitioners. The legal profession in the NT is fortunate to have active contributors willing to donate their time on a Dry Season weekend, to providing individual feedback for the professional growth of junior and mid-career practitioners. The individual feedback given was most valued by all participants.

The Society would like to sincerely thank: Justice Peter Barr; Matthew Nathan SC; Miles Crawley SC; Mary Chalmers; Duncan McConnel; David Morters; Ben O'Loughlin and Wade Roper.

Performance coach

We were pleased to welcome back Kate Wyvill to the teaching team. Kate is an actor, director and author who gave lots of fun vocal exercises and provided group and one-on-one coaching to participants to assist with their presence, performance and impact in the courtroom.

Thirty-six participants

Participants were required to prepare and present an opening address, conduct an examination in chief and



cross-examination, present a persuasive closing address and deliver an injunction application. Although the main case file was a criminal case, it provided an excellent means for the teaching and learning of advocacy skills useful in all matters, criminal and civil. Many participants were stretched beyond their comfort zone and realised this was where deep learning occurred.

The Society would like to congratulate all participants for putting in a full performance and making an intensive effort for their own professional growth.

Ten witnesses

On Saturday, each witness had the responsibility of playing two characters for either the Prosecution or Defence. The Society would like to thank Errol Chua, Cherrian Eecen, Max Stretton, Thomas Mooney, Allison O'Neil, Kate Bremner,

Eleanor Martin, Harita Sridhar, Maysa Crooks and Anne-Marie Chin for their consistent performances and overall support to the workshop this year.

Six courtroom assistants

Each courtroom had its own assistant to help with any matters arising. The Society would like to thank Micah Kickett, Gabby Hill, Chloe Bryan, Kieren Ko, Kiran and Taara McLaren for their willing support over the weekend.

The Society is sincerely grateful to every volunteer who gave up their normal weekend activities to support this valuable workshop and for sharing their expertise.

The Society also recognises the ongoing support of the Sheriff and staff of the Supreme Court of the NT and of legalsuper as major sponsors of this CPD event.

Law Society NT 50th Anniversary

Celebratory Dinner

ALICE SPRINGS

Friday 31st August 2018

6 ~ 10:00 pm @

Star of Alice

31 Palm Circuit, Ross, Alice Springs

\$154 incl. GST (canapés, 2 courses + beverages)

Dress code Territory Rig

Registrations www.regonline.com.au/lmnt50thalicesprings

DARWIN

Saturday 1st September 2018

7 ~ 11:00 pm @

Skycity Casino Darwin

Grand Ballroom

\$165 incl. GST (3 courses + beverages) Dress code Formal

On the night Launch of the Society's 50th anniversary publication

Mandatory Reading: *Lawyers and Life in the Northern Territory* + entertainment

Registrations www.regonline.com.au/lmnt50thdarwin

Bookings close Friday 24th August 2018

