

News and updates

Kellie Grainger

CEO

Law Society Northern Territory



2019 has bolted out of the gates. We kicked off the year with a very successful Start at the Top Family Law Conference on 24 and 25 January 2019. It was delightful to see so many delegates at this conference, a number from interstate. The profile of this conference is slowly growing due to the excellent content and speakers assembled by Judge Cole OAM of the Federal Circuit Court and the Society's hardworking Family Law Committee.

This was promptly followed by the annual Opening of the Legal Year events in Darwin and Alice Springs. As always the profession appreciated the opportunity to hear from the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General. The Society was pleased to welcome Arthur Moses SC, President of the Law Council of Australia, as its guest speaker for these events. His passionate speech about the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the call for constitutional recognition of First Nations peoples was well received.

As we move through the year the Society will be focussing on

opportunities to advocate for law reform that is relevant and important to the profession and the broader community. The Society's recently established Law Reform Advocacy Committee is leading this work for the Society. If you have any issues or ideas for law reform you'd like the Society to consider, whether they are major shifts or minor adjustments to existing laws that will have an important impact, please get in touch with President Maria Savvas or a member of this committee—a list of all of the Society's Committee members is available on the Society's website.

The Society extends its congratulations to our former President Tass Liveris who in December was elected for a further term as an Executive Member of Law Council of Australia. Tass during his first term on the Executive admirably showcased the quality of the Territory profession as he fulfilled this important role and we look forward to working with him and the Law Council of Australia over the coming year. Local members of the profession will have the opportunity to meet

and mingle with the Executive and Directors of the Law Council of Australia in June as they hold their June directors meeting in Darwin and we welcome them at our Annual Dinner.

This year is likely to bring developments in relation to the regulation of the legal profession on the national stage. Western Australia is continuing to progress its move to join the Uniform Law regulatory regime and are working toward this happening from 1 July 2019. The Review of the *Australian Solicitors Conduct Rules* also continues to move forward. Once that review is completed by the Law Council of Australia the Society will return to the question of considering whether or not these rules should be adopted in the NT.

Each year seems to be busier and pass more quickly than the previous these days. This year will no doubt bring many opportunities and challenges. The Society and the Secretariat look forward to working with the profession as we face the year ahead.