

Editors' Note

Our dear CLB readers,

It's here. The final edition for 2020, and what a year it has been!

We will do our best not to mention what a wildly *unprecedented* year it has been for everyone, including us here at the CLB. We have certainly seen exciting developments across the board on defamation, technology and communication law issues.

In this edition, we're delighted to bring you the annual wrap up from Dr Martyn Taylor, who reflects on CAMLA's year, what events were held and how CAMLA is moving into 2021. We also hear from CAMLA Young Lawyers Committee Chair, Calli Tspidis, on the exceptionally well received events, webinars and most recently, the newly launched podcast brought to you by the CAMLA Young Lawyers Committee.

COVID-19 has demonstrated the need to adapt and change with technology, and the legal industry is no exception. In a highly anticipated interview, Justice Michael Kirby shares his timely thoughts on developments in technology and how lawyers should utilise these advancements to better address problems in the Australian legal system. His Honour also discusses defamation, privacy and data security in his interview with **Ashleigh Fehrenbach**.

Speaking of privacy, **Gina Tresidder** and the team at Russell Kennedy Lawyers report on lessons from the Digital Platforms Inquiry 12 months on and what business need to do to ensure privacy and ACL compliance. And our **Eli Fisher** interviews dynamic dad-daughter duo, **John Gray** (Hall & Wilcox) and **Camille Gray** (Initiative Australia) in his first instalment of the CLB's Intergenerational Interesting Interviews.

We also hear from **Caitlin Whale** (Baker McKenzie) who speaks with **Rachael Zavodnyik**, Head of Legal APAC at Infosys.

On the defamation side, Australia's Model Defamation Provisions have created waves of activity and discussion. In October, CAMLA held its Defamation Reform Panel Discussion to capture some of this activity with presentations from experts **Robert Todd** (Ashurst), the **Hon. Mark Speakman SC MP, Associate Professor Jason Bosland** (Melbourne University), **Marlia Saunders** (News Corp Australia) and defamation

barrister **Lyndelle Barnett** (Level 22 Chambers). We're pleased to be able to include a report from what was a fantastically insightful event. For more on this issue, **Peter Bartlett** and the team at MinterEllison share their insights on the reforms and the recent passage of the *Defamation Amendment Bill 2020* (NSW). **Dom Keenan** also looks into the new public interest defence to defamation in New South Wales.

Also inside, we have reports from a number of the CAMLA Young Lawyers Committee representatives. **Tom Barkl** (ACMA) reports on the CAMLA Breakfast Seminar with the Hon. Paul Fletcher MP, who discussed a staged approach to media reform, where we are and the road ahead. **Jessica Norgard** (NBN Co) fills us in on the CAMLA Streaming Services 101 event.

The Courts have been kept busy in the lead up to the end of the year with important developments in both media and consumer law spaces. **Gina McWilliams** (News Corp Australia) shares her insights on the *F v Crime and Corruption Commission* (QSC) case. **Kirsten Webb, Damiano Fritz** and the team at Clayton Utz share the Federal Court's view on misleading and deceptive conduct in advertising in the *Telstra v Optus* case.

So, to say the least, 2020 has been a big one and we're already poised for an exciting and intriguing 2021. We will kick off the new year with an announcement of the winner of the CAMLA Essay Competition at the CAMLA Young Lawyers Networking event. We look forward to publishing the entries of the top three finalists, Kate Mani (*Social media and suppression orders: the end of e-secrecy?*); Anna Kretowicz (*Don't Ask Journalists To Keep Your Secret: Source Confidentiality In Australian Media*); and Isabella Barrett (*Comment is free, but at what cost?: An evaluation of the impacts of Voller on the concept of defamatory publication*). Well done to everyone who entered the competition!

Many thanks to Cath Hill for pretty much everything this year, and to Michael Ritchie at MKR Productions for making us look so good (even when we're WFH).

Finally, thank you to all the contributors and to you, our readers for sticking with us in this unprecedented time (well, we tried). We wish you all the best for the festive season. Here's to 2021!

Eli Fisher and Ashleigh Fehrenbach