

Event Report: CAMLA Young Lawyers Networking Event 2023

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On Thursday 13 April 2023, the CAMLA Young Lawyers Committee hosted its annual Young Lawyers Networking event at the Sydney offices of MinterEllison. The event has become a staple in the CAMLA calendar and sold out again this year, providing another great opportunity for the young lawyers and law students in attendance to hear from a fantastic panel of industry professionals working across the media and communications sector.

This year's panellists included Jessica Norgard (Senior Legal Counsel in the Customer, Product and Marketing Legal team at nbn), Alessandra Steel (Head of Disputes and Litigation at ABC) and Lucy Hughes (Senior Legal Counsel at Stan). The event was chaired by Jessica Millner (Senior Associate at MinterEllison).

The panellists provided insights into their varied career paths and useful advice to young lawyers and students looking to pursue a career in the media and communications space. With most of our panellists all working in in-house roles, one interesting takeaway from the evening was the discussion of how and when to time a transition from private practice into a corporate role. Our panellists each had unique experiences in making this transition with some starting their careers in-house and others having opportunities to work closely with in-house teams through secondments or over a number of years as part of their practice. What became



evident is that there was no single path or right time to make such a move and our panellists strongly encouraged their audience to pursue opportunities when they are presented.

With respect to networking, the panellists provided some great advice and useful tips including:

- Thinking about networking as an ongoing relationship, not just a one-off interaction. Make sure you follow up and maintain the connection after you have made it.
- Networking is a give and take situation. Identify what you can offer or points of similarity with the person you are wanting to connect with,

rather than just thinking about what they can do for you.

- Networking is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Some people are more comfortable in social situations than others or in group situations as opposed to one on one. Find out what works for you and think about how you can build this into the way that you network so that you can play to your strengths and put your best foot forward when connecting with new people.
- The most important thing is to be authentic and sincere, and this will come across in your networking.

Immediately following the panel discussion there was an opportunity for attendees to apply this advice and build their network by socialising and connecting with the panellists and the other attendees of the event.

