

CAMLA Young Lawyers Committee | 2023 Wrap-up

Belyndy Rowe

It is my pleasure to take a moment to reflect on what was an outstanding 2023 for the CAMLA Young Lawyers Committee. Throughout the year, the Young Lawyers organised 6 high-quality events, attracting more than 250 attendees from nearly 100 different organisations. We showcased the careers of 22 experts across our events and podcast and increased the profile of CAMLA with around 500 interactions on the Committee's LinkedIn posts. We believe we have grown the Committee into one of the most sought-after professional development opportunities for young lawyers in Sydney. Which other committee could say it hosted a top defo barrister, a former Matilda, and a Wiggle all in one year?



Live Performance Law 101

A few weeks ago, the Young Lawyers hosted a sell-out event to uncover how a legal team moves a live production from concept to performance. We broke the fourth wall to hear stories about contracted prima donnas who threaten to not show up on time, ridiculous riders, and the illegal use of *Hot Potato Hot Potato* to deter loitering in the Bunbury city council. Our audience was taken on this backstage tour by Daniel Doctor of BBC Studios, Reena Rihan of Opera Australia, Kelly Kim from Michael Cassel Group and Matthew Salgo of the Wiggles. We were also delighted to have the support of our own Chris Chow of Creative Lawyers who starred on the panel, assisted in our search for a venue, and helped prepare panel questions. Thanks Tess Mierendorff and Kathy Janevaska for hosting, and to Canva for the use of their beautiful event space.

Networking Event

Another highlight for the Young Lawyers this year was our annual Networking Event, which was another sell-out. We were pleased to showcase our own Lucy Hughes of Stan, our alumna Jessica Norgard of NBN Co, and Alessandra Steele from the ABC who generously discussed their career paths and provided advice and inspiration for the audience of students and junior lawyers. Thanks Jess Millner and MinterEllison for hosting.

The Women's Game

On the eve of the world cup, just as Sydney was about to witness a monumental shift in support of women's sport, we hosted a seminar titled the Women's Game. This was perhaps one of our most ambitious events yet. A dedicated subcommittee organised the star-studded panel. These were Mel Mallam from Football Australia, Lyn Kemmis of SBS, Michael Bricknell of Endeavor/IMG, Kendall Perry from OnSide Law, and the fabulous Moya Dodd, former Matilda and current partner at Gilbert + Tobin. Expertly hosted by Laksha Prasad and Erin Mifsud and generously supported by Marque Lawyers, this event ensured CAMLA was talking about women's sport and the law at exactly the right moment.

Journalist Privilege 101

Back in May, we had 87 attendees join us online to discuss journalist privilege in Australia. Gina McWilliams from News Corp and Barrister Matthew Collins likened Australia's shield laws to 'Swiss-cheese' - full of loopholes, and with inconsistencies in the definition of 'journalist' across the different jurisdictions. The ABC's Paul Farrell completed the panel with valuable insights into how a journalist can be prepared to fulfil the serious promise of confidentiality to a source. Thanks to Imogen Loxton and Ashurst for hosting.

Online Safety

As the eSafety Commissioner was making final decisions about Australia's world-first online safety code, we hosted a panel of Joelle Moukhaiber from the eSafety Commissioner, Kara Hinesley from Canva, and Arvind Dixit from Corrs Chambers Westgarth. The panel provided us with a unique opportunity to hear about the developments in online safety from 3 angles, being regulatory, industry and advisory. This event was hosted by Isabella Barrett and Erin Mifsud and held in Corrs Chambers Westgarth's beautiful new building.

Alumni Drinks

In a bid to keep ourselves surrounded by the excellent people who have been Young Lawyers in the past, we hosted our first Alumni catch up. Several past members joined us in the city on a rainy night in November. This was such a great night and a way to celebrate and thank some of the people who have come before us and built the Committee into such a special group.

Other activities

In addition to these events, the Young Lawyers continued the Podcast, and assisted the CLB team with its special International Women's Day edition.

Additionally, we have drafted CLB articles, held speaking roles at events, attended and presented at Board meetings, covered front of house duties for events including the CAMLA Cup, lost and found the CAMLA banner several times, and showed great enthusiasm for our karaoke night which has become a standing item on the events planner.

Thank you

On behalf of the Young Lawyers Committee, I'd like to extend our sincere gratitude to Rebecca Dunn, the CAMLA Board, and the Executive team. Your trust in our abilities has really enabled these achievements.

Thanks Eli Fisher and Ash Fehrenbach for the opportunities you have given us to be involved in the CLB, and Alana Callus and Lewis Graham who have been very welcome members of our team this year.

I would also like to thank Cath Hill for her support of the Young Lawyers over many years, and to Manan Luthra for such an immediate contribution to our initiatives.

Most of all, a huge thank you to Nicola McLaughlan and Erin Mifsud who were a critical part of the Young Lawyer's executive team this year. Our successes are a direct result of your hard work and dedication to the committee.

It was a privilege to lead the CAMLA Young Lawyers Committee throughout 2023. I'd encourage any young lawyer with an interest in communications and media law to express their interest in becoming a part of the Committee in 2024.

Belyndy Rowe | Chair, CAMLA Young Lawyers
Bird & Bird