

**February 2018**

*The following items turn the spotlight on developing, maintaining and enhancing lawyer competence in the face of rapid change and some implications for continuing legal education and professional development professionals.*

**CLEAA Annual Conference 2018, Brisbane - Mark the dates and plan to be there!**

This year's annual conference will be held on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 October, 2018 at the Queensland Law Society. We look forward to welcoming you to sunny Brisbane.

A recent has shown that the annual CLEAA Conference is a highlight for many members, providing an opportunity to network, share ideas and keep in touch with CPD developments.

We are now working on the conference agenda and welcome any suggestions for speakers or topics.

Watch this space for details, and keep abreast of updates on our Facebook page or website

<https://cleaa.asn.au/events/>

**Congratulations to legal educators honoured in the Australia Day awards**

Ernest Schmatt was made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia. Mr Schmatt was honoured for significant service to the law in the field of legal education and review, and through the use of technology to assist the judiciary. He is Chief Executive of The Judicial Commission, an independent statutory corporation which provides education for judicial officers, investigates complaints made against them and compiles sentencing information.

Neville Carter, Chief Executive Officer of The College of Law was made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for significant service to legal education through executive roles, to the law as a practitioner, and to professional standards. Mr Carter has been Chief Executive Officer and Principal of the College of Law since 1991.

<https://www.gg.gov.au/australia-day-2018-honours-list>

**Virtual Internships**

King & Wood Mallesons (KWM) has become the first law firm in Australia to offer a virtual law internship. The program has received overwhelming interest from students. In just two weeks, the program has attracted about 1,000 enrolments from 42 universities.

Participants can choose to finish all of the program's five modules, which focus on Asia experience, disputes, innovation, pro bono, and transactional. KWM partners and lawyers feature in briefing videos of the program, which asks participants to complete tasks such as drafting documents, communicating with clients, understanding smart contracts, working with community partners, and analysing and advising on corporate legal matters.

<http://www.kwm.com/en/au/knowledge/news/kwm-launches-australias-first-virtual-law-internship-20180116>

**Review of the Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules**

The Law Council of Australia is undertaking a nation-wide review of the Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules, and has invited CLEAA to comment on the issues canvassed in the Public Consultation Discussion Paper.

The Australian Solicitor's Conduct Rules were collaboratively developed by all of the State and Territory Law Societies and other constituent professional bodies of the Law Council, as the agreed set of professional conduct rules for all solicitors in Australia.

The Law Council invites public comments and submissions on the issues raised and discussed. The closing date for Submissions is 31 May 2018.

<https://www.lawcouncil.asn.au/policy-agenda/regulation-of-the-profession-and-ethics/review-of-the-australian-solicitors-conduct-rules>

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**Guidance for judicial officers and Muslims participating in court processes**

The Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) has been working closely with the Judicial Commission of New South Wales in establishing a better understanding of the Australian Muslim Community and the Islamic faith. As part of this dialogue ANIC has prepared a document entitled “Explanatory Note on the Judicial Process and Participation of Muslims” which intends to:

- a) give practical guidance and explanation to members of the Australian Muslim community of the etiquette and behaviours expected of persons engaging in the judicial processes so that they may act consistently with these without compromising their religious beliefs;
- b) provide information to judicial officers on Islamic concepts and practices as they relate to matters which may be raised in connection with Muslims participating in the court processes.

<https://disputescentre.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Explanatory-Note-on-the-Judicial-Process-and-Muslims.pdf>

**Legal technology trends in the profession**

The ABA Legal Technology Resource Center (LTRC) released its annual ABA TECHREPORT 2017 in December 2017. This publication explores how lawyers are using technology in their practices. Examples of statistical information included in the report are:

- More than 1 in 3 firms with 10-49 attorneys report having experienced a security breach.
- 27 percent of respondents indicated that they had a client retain their legal services directly or via referral because of their use of social networking sites for professional purposes.
- Even among lawyers who have private offices, 77 percent regularly work from home, 33 percent while traveling and 20 percent regularly work from clients’ or opposing counsel’s office or from court.

[https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2017/12/american\\_bar\\_associa.html](https://www.americanbar.org/news/abanews/aba-news-archives/2017/12/american_bar_associa.html)

**Enrolments in PLT on the increase for mature students**

According to a survey conducted by the College of Law, the number of student enrolments aged 30+ has increased by 43 per cent in the last two years.

Interestingly, a significant majority (93%) of those surveyed indicated that they intended to practice law.

The future implications for CPD providers will no doubt be something to monitor, as this cohort will bring a variety of new skills and experiences to the profession.

<https://www.lawyersweekly.com.au/careers/22638-plt-provider-reports-hike-in-enrolments-for-over-30s>

**New Secretariat for CLEAA**

The Executive Committee is pleased to welcome Business Angel Services as the new provider of secretariat services for CLEAA. Established in 1996, Business Angel offers professional business services providing organisational, administration and event management skills.

Kathryn McKenzie, Director, has extensive experience in administration, association and event management and has worked with small business to large corporates, non-profit organisations and many committees.

Kathryn joined CLEAA as of 1 February and will be the first port of call for CLEAA member services.

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