

December 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.

Season's Greetings

As the year draws to a close, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support of CLEAA over the past year.

The 2017 AGM saw a vote of confidence in CLEAA's fundamental purpose, that there is value in continuing to provide a forum to bring together interested parties in the provision of continuing legal education and professional development of solicitors, barristers and judges.

We took up that charge and, over the past 12 months, have worked to implement systems and structures to underpin this core work.

Work on next year is currently underway, including planning for the work of our subcommittees. If you have expressed an interest in being involved in one of our subcommittees, we will be in touch with you very soon.

With the holiday season almost upon us, we wish you a peaceful and relaxing break and all good wishes for your preparations for the end of the CPD year.

Your CLEAA Executive



Mark your diaries!

The 2019 dates for the CLEAA Annual Conference are Thursday 17 and Friday 18 October, Sydney, NSW



If you enjoyed the 2018 Conference then make sure you save the date for the 2019 CLEAA Conference. Join us in the Harbour City for another action-packed two days.

A big thank you to those who have provided feedback from the 2018 conference – we will be taking all of that into account in preparing for 2019. We are inspired by some of the amazing comments:

"Great conference! Thank you for organising and reaching out to us."

"I have been to many CLEAA programs and this was by far the best. The program was informative, relevant and inspiring. Well done!"

Keep any eye on the CLEAA website for further developments via our [LinkedIn group](#).

CLEAA Membership – Half yearly membership available

If you are considering joining for the first time, a six-month membership is available from 1 January to 30 June for only \$37.50.

[Available for purchase](#) from 1 January 2019. For further information, please contact the CLEAA Secretariat at secretariat@cleaa.asn.au

Teaching and learning professional skills in CPD programs – new solutions to old problems?

Questions about what, when, how and by whom professional skills should be taught to lawyers are as old as legal education itself. Once the issues were whether law schools should teach skills at all (other than legal thinking skills) with the associated debate about the scope and purpose of clinical programs. Now the debate is law schools teaching skills such as code, creativity and collaboration. When PLT was introduced the debates (and endless APLEC papers) were about not only how to teach professional skills such as advocacy, drafting and negotiation but also how to assess them and criteria for criteria for competent performance. Skills training in CPD was a hard sell, but moved from mediation to business know-how and onto communication skills. Now, hot topics such as leadership and mindfulness may be pushed aside by the technology steamroller – see two examples below.

1) Technology gaps creating CPD opportunities

Is the legal profession still lagging in technological prowess? A [recent survey](#) found that a majority of lawyers feel this is the case. The survey, by the LIV’s Technology and Law Committee with the College of Law Victoria, reported that 80% of lawyers surveyed said technology training should in fact be mandatory. The respondents said that training in the area should be offered through law school (68%), practical legal training (69%), and continuing legal education (79%).

2) Teaching law students how to use technology and innovation processes to solve legal problems

Swinburne Law School, is running a subject called [Legal Technology and Innovation](#), designed to teach students how to use technology and innovation processes to solve legal problems.

A sobering reflection on the summer clerkship process

Those of us involved in summer clerkship programs might like to reflect in recent press headlined ‘*This cruel system almost destroyed me*’ (SMH 14/10/18). The article is a law student’s perspective on the ‘gruelling even cruel’ selection process for a coveted 3-month clerkship and foot in the door for the ultimate prize of graduate employment.

The article describes a seemingly endless round of interviews, tests and social interactions that are felt as distressingly judgmental, competitive and fake, and a long wait for results that is a source of mental and physical anguish.

A harrowing read but is there a message for talent and capability development professionals or is the article merely a reflection of a fragile individual, overzealous firm, or neurotic society in general?

Or perhaps there is something broken about the clerkship system and the links between or perhaps expectations of professional education, work experience and employment. Time for people who understand these things to be more curious about the current set up, its limitations and consequences and advocate for a better way. Perhaps a possible CLEAA topic for the future? Thoughts welcome to cleaatalk@cleaa.asn.au

Singapore: New Master of Laws (LLM) in Judicial Studies

SMU School of Law and the Singapore Judicial College (SJC) will jointly offer a Master of Laws (LLM) in Judicial Studies from August 2019.

This is a first-of-its-kind in the region and is designed to provide advanced training for serving judges. Aside from enhancing the candidates’ knowledge and competencies in the law, it will equip them for modern day adjudication and judicial administration; candidates will also be taught by experienced Singapore judges. The new LLM provides focused training; it also offers a platform for candidates to interact and build relationships with fellow judges from other jurisdictions.

<https://www.smu.edu.sg/news/2018/07/30/smu-and-singapore-judicial-college-will-offer-master-laws-judicial-studies-august>

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Queensland Member Meeting

The Brisbane CLEAA branch held a meeting at the Queensland Law Society on Monday 3rd December with members Helene Breene and Cynthia Palmer, facilitating the event. Twelve legal educators attended to meet with colleagues and to discuss the paper Dr Stephen Billett presented at the CLEAA conference in October on "CLE and Practice-based Learning in the Legal Sector". There was much discussion on finding practical applications for the concepts, and developing tactics for overcoming the challenges. The next meeting will be held in April 2019.

If you would like to host a CLEAA get together in your state, contact secretariat@cleaa.asn.au.

Useful tips when embarking on video production

Following presentations at the CLEAA Conference on the increasing use of video as a learning tool, a handy table produced by the University of Melbourne may assist if you are trying to decide what style of video production best suits your purpose.

You can use the table to select the best style of video (e.g. interview, slides) for your intended purpose (e.g. introduction to a course/subject). The links in the table provide more information about that topic.

<https://le.unimelb.edu.au/video-and-media/video-for-learning-resources>

Focus on the future of legal education

In case you missed it, a recent feature in *The Australian* focused on the future of legal education (1 November 2018). Journalist Chris Merritt spoke with Jason Taliadoros, Deakin University; Michael Legg, UNSW and Patrick Parkinson, University of Queensland about how their universities are making changes to curricula and law degrees to maintain pace with technological innovations. Professor Parkinson also touched on this topic during his presentation at the Annual CLEAA Conference in October.

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/legal-affairs/the-future-of-legal-education/news-story/3918935e1349f0c104285b7442051ef6>



Curiosity personified - Powerful Owl (Juvenile) Northbridge 2018 Photo by R North (yes upside down is the right way up!!)