

June 2019

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 2019, Thursday 17 and Friday 18 October Sydney NSW



The focus for this year's CLEAA Conference is the importance of learning culture and how it intersects with successful learning outcomes, fosters diversity and inspires healthy work practices. We will examine new ways of learning, explore the importance of the supervision model, share our top "tech tips" and more.

Highlights include:

- Professor [Frank H Wu](#) will join us by video link from the University of California to discuss CPD in the context of developing cultural competence
- Dr [Michael McNamara](#), Flinders University Faculty of Law, will look at approaches to supervision in legal practice
- Associate Professor [Chantal Morton](#), Melbourne University will facilitate a session looking at innovative CPD formats for today's learner

The NSW Bar Association will be the venue in the heart of the Sydney legal precinct. Registration details will be available shortly. Keep any eye on the CLEAA website for further developments or via our new [LinkedIn group](#).

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

Improving learning outcomes

If you are interested in more neuroscience and learning materials, the Science of Learning Research Centre (SLRC) at UQ is doing some good things. SLRC was established in 2013, funded as an Australian Research Council Special Research Initiative, with the vision to improve learning outcomes at pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary levels through scientifically-validated learning tools and strategies.

Check out these PEN Principles:

<https://www.slrc.org.au/resources/pen-principles/>

and take special note of Principle No.1 - written text and spoken word don't mix!

Students presented with heavy textual content at the same time as spoken words, leads to poor outcomes. A combination of relevant visual images and spoken words greatly enhances learning outcomes.

Analysis of brain activity has revealed that when a student is looking at an image at the same time as listening to someone speak, completely different parts of the brain are activated. This means these two sections of the brain don't interfere. In fact, the research has found that having these two different neural areas activated at the same time enables the brain to attend to, understand and memorise information better.

However, in contrast research by the SLRC indicates that presenting text-heavy material, such as PowerPoint, chalkboard/whiteboard/blackboard and hand-out material, when used in combination with spoken words, is detrimental to learning outcomes.

Lessons learned? **No more text heavy PowerPoint slides at lunch time CPD sessions! Images only!**

2...

Priestly 11 – time for a review?

The famous Priestly 11 (the eleven law subjects required to be successfully completed for candidate status for admission into practice as a legal practitioner in Australia) have been noted as a “big challenge” for law schools. Professor Nick James, keynote speaker at the CLEAA Conference in 2018, has tackled a subject that often bubbles to the surface when legal educators discuss the changing face of legal practice.

Called the Priestly 11 (as the Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC) was chaired by Lancelot John Priestley when it determined the minimum academic study requirements for legal practice), it is arguable that the subjects are due for review as it’s been 27 years since their introduction.

https://www.lawyersweekly.com.au/biglaw/25707-priestley-11-not-keeping-up-with-reality?utm_source=LawyersWeekly&utm_campaign=27_05_19&utm_medium=email&utm_content=1

Spoiled for choice?

We may sometimes wonder why our CPD attendance numbers are not up to scratch. One possibility could be that we are offering too much – so too much choice. Are we putting on so many programs in close proximity that it’s hard for people to choose? Or are we providing so many formats that it becomes difficult to make a decision?

This article on LinkedIn by Colin Watt, customer service expert, discusses the challenge of having to make choices. No one likes having one option or only two options because that isn’t enough. But if you offer them too many, they aren’t happy either, because it’s too difficult to make a decision.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/why-too-many-choices-can-killing-your-bottom-line-colin-shaw/>

The downward trend in CPD attendance – a view from Canada

It has become evident that CPD attendance in our region has slowly been declining over the past two decades. According to Andrea Johnston, Director of Admissions & Education, Law Society of Saskatchewan, Canada is also experiencing this trend. She discusses this and offers some possible responses in a recent [ACLEA](#) (Association for Continuing Legal Education) blog.

<https://www.aclea.org/blogpost/1325312/324971/Trends-in-CPD-Program-Attendance>

Legal educator recognised in 2019 Queens Birthday Honours List

Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration (AIJA) Chief Executive **Professor Gregory Reinhardt** was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to judicial administration, and to education.

CLEAA Membership – Renewal Date Approaching

All CLEAA memberships will expire at the end of June, so be sure to look out for your email reminder.

Existing member? You can renew your membership via [Your CLEAA account page](#) on our website.

If you are not a CLEAA member and would like to be, you can [join online here](#).

For further information please contact the CLEAA Secretariat at secretariat@cleaa.asn.au

3.....

CLEAA Brisbane Report

CLEAA members (and some new friends) met in Brisbane on 11th April, kindly hosted by Level 27 Chambers.

Louise Ferris, HR Director at McCullough Robertson was the guest speaker at this networking lunch and led a lively discussion about the skills needed for 2022 lawyers and the challenges in providing different learning platforms for different learning styles.

A discussion around skills and mindset included a discussion of programs in Project Management and expanded digital literacy skills. The discussion on mindset focussed on the lawyer of the future needing to be curious, adaptable, resilient and tolerant. Also discussed was the model of sustained performance and the key elements of culture, systems and support.

Louise introduced the firm's approach to building individual and collective capability. The McCullough Robertson Success Academy brings together all the firm's development pathways and programs.

Louise, pictured below, was named HR Professional of the Year for the Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Awards 2018.



International Update: UK

The proposal by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) that solicitors would be free to work for unregulated businesses from this quarter, has been put on hold. The regulator had approved plans for a radical overhaul of practising rights and the Legal Services Board approved SRA plans to liberalise the market, enabling solicitors to offer paid-for unreserved legal services through businesses outside the remit of SRA regulation.

The SRA advises that the delay is to allow firms more time to prepare for the changes. However, the Law Society had previously pushed back on the decision, stating that 'the regulators have sacrificed the best interests of the public they exist to protect'.
<https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/news/sra-delays-advent-of-the-freelance-solicitor-for-six-months/5069684.article>

International Update: US

CLE Rule changes of interest

North Carolina: Effective January 1, 2019, attorneys must complete 1 credit hour devoted to technology per compliance period. This type of credit will count as part of the existing requirement of 12 credits, including 2 professional responsibility credits.

Maine: Effective January 1, 2019, Rule 5(a)(1) has been amended to increase the required annual number of hours of CLE credits from 11 to 12 and to require that at least one live credit hour per year be primarily concerned with ethics and professionalism and one live credit hour per year be primarily concerned with the recognition and avoidance of harassment and discriminatory conduct or communication related to the practice of law as set out in the Maine Rules of Professional Conduct.

Oregon: Effective January 1, 2019, all active Oregon attorneys are required to complete one credit hour on the subject of mental health, substance use or cognitive impairment.