

2019 Council Nominations

PRESIDENT – ONE TO BE ELECTED FOR A ONE YEAR TERM

Greg McIntyre SC

A primary endeavour I aspire to focus upon during my Presidency is for the Society to be a strong advocate in support of the recommendations in the report of the Law Council of Australia Justice Project chaired by the Hon Robert French AC. The recommendations speak of ways to improve the legal system to better provide justice to the 13 identified groups of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our society. I will also maintain an eye on ensuring that legal practitioners are supported in their role as professionals and as guardians of the Rule of Law.



Jocelyne Boujos

I am currently Vice President and Treasurer and fully engaged in operational aspects of the Law Society and Law Mutual (WA) principally through the Finance and Audit, Professional Indemnity Insurance Management and QPS Committees. As a principal of Sceales Lawyers practising in commercial and taxation law for over 25 years, I advise private and commercial clients including indigenous organisations and the Law Society. Additionally, I have had a long involvement with professional education including lecturing at UWA and Notre Dame in Master of Tax and Article Training programs. I am on the taxation committees of the Law Council and Law Society, and, am a trustee of the Graduate Women Education Trust.



As President I will provide Council the expertise and diversity of experience gained as a practising solicitor and make a valuable contribution to the future of the Law Society at a time of emerging change within the legal profession.

VICE PRESIDENTS – TWO TO BE ELECTED FOR A ONE YEAR TERM

Eric Heenan

I seek election as a Vice President so that I may continue to contribute to the Society and serve the profession. I am keen to ensure that the Society strongly represents the views of the profession to government and the community, and that it serves and advances the interests of its members.



Rebecca Lee*

Rebecca Lee practices at Francis Burt Chambers, using advocacy, negotiation and strategy skills. As counsel, she has resolved disputes in areas as diverse as construction, taxation, employment law and wills & estates. She holds a BSc (pure mathematics), LLB and LLM from UWA. Admitted in 1994, Rebecca moved to the Bar in 2004, winning the inaugural Chief Justice's Prize, WABA's Bar Readers' Course. In March 2016, she was named WLWA's Senior Woman Lawyer of the Year.



Believing in 'lifting as you climb', Rebecca has served 2 years as a councillor of The Law Society of Western Australia; one year on WABA's Council, three years on the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia; as a Past President of Australian Women Lawyers and Women Lawyers WA; and for three years as editor of *Brief*. In 2011, Rebecca attended the Harvard Negotiation Institute, and in 2016 undertook Leadership WA's Signature Leadership Program.

Nicholas van Hattem*

In the five years I've served on Council, I've seen an increasing consensus of members wanting the same things:

- Better access to justice.
- A more inclusive profession.
- Better use of technology.
- Taking better care of ourselves and our colleagues.



I believe the profession has never been more open to explore and deliver new ways to do our work better. I'd like to contribute to a Law Society which works with all lawyers (and future lawyers) to improve our profession – both for the community we serve and for each other.

Denis McLeod

As a Council member for the last 11 years, I have endeavoured to understand and serve the interests of Law Society members. It seems time now to put that experience to greater use as a member of the Executive, and it is for that reason I am nominating for one of the Vice President positions. I would in that position continue to emphasise the Society's role as advocate for and protector of the interests of members at all levels, being acutely aware of the obstacles and pressures that I, my colleagues and family members, male and female, have faced and continue to face at various stages of their lives in the legal profession.



ORDINARY MEMBERS – SIX TO BE ELECTED FOR A TWO YEAR TERM

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Joanna Knoth

I am a Senior Associate at MDC Legal.

I completed my articles at Jackson McDonald and worked for HLS Legal before joining MDC Legal in November 2015. I have been practising in WA for nearly 10 years.

I have volunteered at the Employment Law Centre and served as a committee member and secretary of Subsea Energy Australia, the peak industry association representing Australian subsea interests.

It is a great time to be practising law in WA. More of us want the same things:

- A more inclusive profession
- Better use of technology
- Better access to justice
- Taking better care of ourselves and our colleagues

We close 2018 with a Law Society engaged with the profession, Judiciary and Attorney General. I would like to continue this trend and contribute to an Executive that works with all lawyers, including future lawyers, to improve our profession for each other and the community we serve.



Daniel Coster

Since my admission in November 2012, I have had the great fortune to work under the guidance of a number of pre-eminent lawyers, and have gained a deep appreciation of the benefits of a collegial and mentoring environment on both personal and professional development.

I am also keenly aware of the increasing pace of technological change and the effect of this on legal practice. I believe the profession should adopt new technologies to adapt to changing client demands, reducing our environmental footprint, and modernising the practice of law.

I also believe the legal profession has an obligation to continue lobbying government regarding funding for legal aid.

If elected to the Council for 2019, I will advocate for:

- Increased support programmes for junior practitioners.
- Ongoing mental health awareness programmes.
- Increased education for practitioners about relevant new technologies and emerging cyber-security risks facing the profession.
- The mandatory use of the Oxford comma.



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ORDINARY MEMBERS – SIX TO BE ELECTED FOR A TWO YEAR TERM

Mark Hemery

Since 1927, our Law Society has played a vital role, through membership services, to equip the profession to serve the WA community, along with the courts, in the administration of justice. As members of a privileged group, who benefit financially from a monopoly on legal practice, I believe WA's lawyers should repay their debt to society by taking on responsibility as guardians of democracy and the rule of law. I strongly support, therefore, the Law Society's long-standing advocacy work on social and political issues where members' interests are directly affected, where the rule of law itself is under perceived threat, or to protect fundamental rights and liberties. I am a partner in a mid-sized CBD practice and have been in practice since 1986. It would be my privilege to serve on the Law Society's council and to continue its important work, and I would welcome your vote.



Gary Mack

I will work hard in Council to represent your interests. To advance the influence of your Society and the interests of lawyers in the modern era of globalisation, technology and disruption. My goals are: improving access to justice particularly for the disadvantaged; ensuring adequate remuneration for legal aid work; support new entrants to the profession; improve mental health support for lawyers and ensure good governance of your Society. I am currently the Convenor of the Law Society's Access to Justice Committee, member of the Professional Affairs Committee and CPD Committee of the Legal Practice Board. A member of FLPA's Law Reform Committee. I volunteer at Sussex Street and Fremantle Community Legal Centres. Lawyer of the Year for 2013. I am a Senior Associate at Leach Legal committed to ADR with involvement in 40 mediations this year. I serve on the Boards of All Saints College and Carlisle Primary School.



Shayla Strapps

I am a solicitor with 15 years experience in government, private and CLCs. I began my career in 2003 at a private firm, later moving to work at Legal Aid WA and the Women's Law Centre of WA working in criminal and family law. From 2007 I was CEO and Principal Solicitor of The Humanitarian Group. In 2010, I founded the establishment of the Judicial Review Asylum Seeker Project in conjunction with the Federal Court, Law Access and the WA Bar Association, a project which helped hundreds of asylum seekers access justice and representation. It was in this role that I was awarded the Lawyer of the Year Award in 2011. I have also worked as an Arbitrator at WorkCover WA hearing and deciding disputes under the Workers Compensation Act. In 2017 I opened Chisholm Law and I also work part time as co-CEO of the Mental Health Law Centre.



Matthew Howard SC

I was admitted in December 1989, joined the Bar in 1996 and took silk in 2009. I practise predominantly in commercial and public/administrative law. I have served as a director of the Law Council of Australia, the Chair of the Mental Health Law Centre, a councillor of the WA Bar's Bar Council and as a director of the Australian Bar Association (including treasurer). I believe that the legal profession occupies an important and privileged position in our community. The things which I would give priority to as councillor of the Law Society are: access to justice; furthering the inclusiveness and diversity of the legal profession; the culture and well-being of the profession; and engagement with the public and government on policy matters.



Nathan Ebbs

After the last 12 months away from Council to focus on family, I look forward to the opportunity to return in 2019/20 if elected.

In the 4 years I previously spent on Council (3 of those as an ordinary member and 1 as Treasurer), I gained a real appreciation of the issues and matters of importance to the profession and the essential role of the Society in ensuring the interests of all members are properly considered and represented.

I am committed to ensuring this continues through regular consultation with all stakeholders including the wider community so as to maintain a focus on the most relevant issues to the profession as and when they arise.



Ante Golem

I am a partner of Herbert Smith Freehills, in the Disputes team. I seek election as an Ordinary Member of the Council. If elected to the Council I would:

- support and build on the work the Society does to raise awareness and understanding of the nature and impact of mental health issues across the profession;
- listen and consult with members of the Society as to the changing market for legal services and the challenges that creates for the profession; and
- encourage Council to continue and promote its commitment to pro bono initiatives. Such work plays an important part in ensuring that the broader community can access our justice system and in enhancing the standing and authority of the legal profession.



Joel Yeldon

Barrister practicing from Fourth Floor Chambers in Perth.

Member of the Law Society for many years. Have served/still serving at committee level.

Member of the WA Bar Association. Served/still serving on the WA Bar Council.



Paula Wilkinson

I am a Founding Director of Kim Wilson & Co, an Accredited Family Law Specialist (NSW), and hold a Master of Applied Law. I acted for five years until 2017 as an Adjunct Lecturer for The College of Law (WA) teaching the Family Law LL.M. I am member of the Law Society Accreditation Committee, the Board of Law Access, and the Professional Indemnity and Insurance Management Committee. I am a member of the WA Law Society Council (1998-2001 and 2017-2018).



My areas of particular interest include:

- My continued involvement as a board member of Law Access;
- Policy Development and Law Reform;
- CPD Programs;
- The interests of Young Lawyers;
- Member Services; and
- Family Law.

If elected I will continue to represent the interests of all members to the best of my ability.

JUNIOR MEMBERS – THREE FOR A ONE YEAR TERM – ELECTED UNOPPOSED

Demi Swain

I graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2017 and commenced as a Graduate Lawyer at Pragma Legal in 2018. My admission date is set for 2 November 2018. My past legal experience was at a range of boutique firms in Western Australia. I have a passion for raising awareness about social justice issues and assist with the up-and-coming Subiaco Justice Centre Inc.

Having recently graduated from University, I believe I have good insight into the issues, concerns and passions of the future of the legal profession. In particular, I am enthusiastic about promoting and fostering collegiality in the profession, as well as mental health and wellbeing.

I will advocate for:

- Functions for law students to receive practical advice from junior lawyers regarding offers day and getting their foot in the door; and
- Establishing mentor groups for junior practitioners with senior lawyers.



Zoe Bush

I am a solicitor at the State Solicitor's Office, a tutor in Torts Law at the University of Western Australia, and former Associate to the Hon. Justice Barker of the Federal Court of Australia. As a Junior Member of Council in 2018, I have been a keen advocate for young women in the profession, as well as for Indigenous legal issues and access to justice more broadly. Recent activities undertaken that demonstrate my commitment to these issues include co-authoring Amnesty International's Report on Indigenous Youth Justice in WA, writing the Society's submissions on justice reinvestment and female Indigenous incarceration, and writing articles for *Brief*. I served as Women's Officer while at Law School and have been active in Women Lawyers of WA since joining the profession. I hope to continue my advocacy on these issues as a Junior Member of Council.



Brooke Sojan

I am a State Prosecutor for the ODP, working in Perth and the Kimberley region. Prior to this I spent four years at Legal Aid, mostly in the Pilbara Office. Most of my work since becoming a lawyer has involved dealing with disadvantaged victims, accused and indigenous people within the criminal justice system. Through the Law Society, I have been a member of and previously convened the Country Practitioners Committee, and a member of the Young Lawyers Committee. I have been on the Law Society Council for the last three years as a country member and a junior member. I have enjoyed my time on council and I would embrace the opportunity to continue in this role. I have been able to further advocate for issues and raise awareness for matters facing junior and country members of the profession. I would relish the opportunity to continue with this work.



HAVE YOUR SAY

Ballot papers were electronically transmitted to members eligible to vote on 30 October 2018 by independent voting services organisation CorpVote. Voting will close at 11.59pm on 21 November 2018.

*Preferred position as specified by nominee

Candidates are listed in order as per the independent ballot draw performed by CorpVote