

# 2021 Council Nominations

## VICE PRESIDENTS *Two to be elected for a one-year term*

### Rebecca Lee \*

Rebecca Lee practices at Francis Burt Chambers, using advocacy, negotiation and strategy skills. As counsel, she acts 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 Senior Woman Lawyer of the Year (WLWA).

Believing in 'lifting as you climb', Rebecca has served two years as Junior Vice-President and Treasurer of The Law Society of Western Australia; two years as a Councillor; one year on WABA's Council, three years on the Legal Practice Board of WA; as a Past President of Australian Women Lawyers and WLWA; 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.



### Ante Golem \*

I am a partner of Herbert Smith Freehills and have served on Council since 2018.

The events of 2020 have highlighted that as a profession we are ready to explore and implement new ways of working. If elected to Council I would assist the Society to:

- continue supporting change in our profession to help foster a culture that embraces diversity, equality, flexibility and inclusion for all current and future members;
- build on the work done to improve awareness and understanding of mental health issues across our profession;
- listen and consult with members of the Society as to how our profession can better use technology to improve how we work in a changing market for legal services; and
- maintain its commitment to pro bono initiatives, so that our profession continues to play its part in ensuring that the broader community can access the justice system.



### Shayla Strapps \*

Shayla Strapps is CEO and Director of Ruah Legal Services and Mental Health Law Centre. She has 17 years of experience representing disadvantaged groups in our community. She is passionate about access to justice and ensuring everyone can access quality legal services. Shayla has experience across criminal, family and administrative law and in 2011 established the Judicial Review Project which helped thousands of refugees access pro bono legal assistance in partnership with the WA Bar and Federal Court. In 2011 Shayla was awarded the Law Society 'Lawyer of the Year' award. Shayla has also served as an independent Arbitrator at Workcover WA. Shayla has significant Director and Board experience on a range of not for profit Boards. She currently serves as a Director for Law Access and has been an Ordinary Council member since 2018. Shayla also mentors junior members of the profession in remote and regional WA.



### Paula Wilkinson \*

I am a Founding Director of Kim Wilson & Co, an Accredited Family Law Specialist (NSW), and hold an L.L.M. I acted for five years until 2017 as an Adjunct Lecturer for The College of Law (WA) teaching the Family Law L.L.M. I am member of the Law Society Accreditation Committee, the Professional Indemnity and Insurance Management Committee and a Director of the Board of Law Access. I am a current member of the WA Law Society Council (1991-2001 and 2017-2020). If re-elected I will continue to represent the interests of the Membership to the best of my ability, in the context of the rapid change we have all experienced throughout 2020.

I will continue:

- my involvement on the board of Law Access. The growth for its support continues to strengthen in the community;
- to seek to address the needs of young lawyers/graduates.



## ORDINARY MEMBERS *Seven to be elected In accordance with Rule 56(f) the first six elected persons will serve a two-year term and the remainder (one) will serve a one-year term*

### Rebecca Lee

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### Richard Klimek

I seek election to serve as an Ordinary Member of the LSWA to contribute towards the development of law reform, as well as collegiate and educational engagement within our profession.

I have been an active LSWA member since 2003 and previously served upon its Accreditation, Access to Justice and QPS committees.

If elected, I will be committed to facilitating the expansion of the existing accreditation regime, which the LSWA regulates, commensurate with our eastern states counterparts. The reputation of our profession would benefit from an emerging community recognition of an objective merit-based standard of accredited specialisation awarded in each discipline of legal practice, particularly since online marketing of legal services has become increasingly competitive with "expertise" routinely touted without merit.

My present commitments are as the Legal Practice Director of the medium-sized firm I founded 15 years ago and board member of a community legal centre for the past decade.



### Angie Gimisis

I was admitted in April 2008 working predominantly in insurance law. Since that time, I have managed the Perth office of a national law firm and then became legal practice director of a law firm owned by an ASX listed company. I have also served as a committee member of the Australian Insurance Law Association for over 8 years.

After taking so much from the legal profession, I believe it is my time to give back and serve as a member of the Law Society Council.

After feeling the after-effects of COVID-19 and lockdown, I believe that it is more important than ever that we focus on the health and wellbeing of our legal profession along with ensuring that there is access to justice. I would like to be involved in promoting and implementing a change by raising the importance of these issues.



### Judy McLean

Judy McLean's diverse experience ranges from working in the community legal sector, private practice, state government and local government. Judy is an accredited mediator and currently employed by the City of Fremantle as the Principal Solicitor and Coordinator of the Fremantle Community Legal Centre and when required, provides counsel to the City of Fremantle's executive. In 2001, Judy joined the Women's Legal Service and initiated the women's prison project and represented mothers in protection and care matters, long before a duty court service existed.

In 2006, Judy commenced practice in a private firm, regularly appearing on complex matters in the District Court, Supreme Court, SAT and AAT.

In 2008, Judy joined the Teacher's Registration Board as a senior solicitor, investigating teacher misconduct, and was instrumental in developing processes and precedents for Inquiries.

In 2013, Judy returned to the community legal sector and in 2014 completed her Masters in Law.



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The events of 2020 have highlighted that as a profession we are ready to explore and implement new ways of working. If elected to Council I would assist the Society to:

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### 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 as its 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 a councillor of the Law Society are: access to justice; furthering the inclusiveness and diversity of the legal profession; the culture and mental well-being of the profession; and engagement with the public and government on policy matters.



### Paula Wilkinson

I am a Founding Director of Kim Wilson & Co, an Accredited Family Law Specialist (NSW), and hold an L.L.M. 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 Professional Indemnity and Insurance Management Committee and a Director of the Board of Law Access. I am a current member of the WA Law Society Council (1991-2001 and 2017-2020). If re-elected I will continue to represent the interests of the Membership to the best of my ability, in the context of the rapid change we have all experienced throughout 2020. I will continue:

- my involvement on the board of Law Access. The growth for its support continues to strengthen in the community;
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### Gary Mack

I am a sole practitioner, but I have previously worked in mid-sized firms and community legal centres. I understand and seek to represent these segments of the profession in Council. I am a member of three committees of the Legal Practice Board including the Management Committee. I convene the WA Access to Justice Committee and a member of the Law Council of Australia Access to Justice Committee. I seek to further the Society's lobbying to ensure all citizens, despite socio-economic status have access to legal services. I am committed to cultural change within the profession to improve inclusivity and end sexual and other harassments including bullying. I am a Graduate of the AICD with board experience including not for profit, corporate, as well as a Councillor for a local government. I seek to reform the governance of the Society so that it can face its future with agility and innovation.



### Shayla Strapps

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### June Kenny

I am a Nyikina woman. I started my law degree as a mature age student gaining entry to law through an alternative entry program for Indigenous students.

I have been practicing law for 19 years in the area of commercial law and commercial litigation. I have particular interest in providing advice to Aboriginal Charitable Trusts.

I was Managing Director at Dwyer Durack from 2010-2016. I incorporated JDK Legal Services in 2016 and commenced providing legal services through this entity in July of that year.

I am a member and graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a member of the Western Suburbs Business Association and ALPMA. I am a past convener and committee member of the Law Society of WA's Indigenous Law Committee (as it was then known).

I believe I can make a valuable contribution to the Law Society Council particularly on Indigenous issues.



## JUNIOR MEMBERS

Three to be elected for a one-year term

### Selina Gates

I graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from Edith Cowan University in 2016 and was admitted in December 2017. I work as a solicitor at Cove Legal, a commercial litigation firm specialising in tax disputes and insolvency advice, health law and defamation. Prior to my legal career, I worked as a Communications Manager for some of Western Australia's leading companies including Wesfarmers and Alinta. I am strongly committed to serving the legal profession and especially keen to advocate for women entering the profession. Despite being a junior lawyer, I believe the combination of my communications background and my newly acquired legal skills will add real value to the profession. I look forward to the opportunity to support my colleagues, the profession and the Law Society as a Junior member.



### Lindsay Allan-McConchie

I'm a barrister at FBC specialising in criminal defence, VROs and personal injuries (public liability, workers' compensation and victims of crime), with a passion for legal professional ethics and professional development.

I seek election because, I am cognisant of the many issues faced by practitioners throughout their careers and also those seeking access to justice in both the civil and criminal spheres. I have had the benefit of working in the NT and Victoria prior to moving to WA, in both private and government sectors, and truly appreciate the diversity of our profession.

My key priorities would be: authentic engagement with members and the public on issues and participate in being an instrument of action, and where necessary, reform. My personal areas of interest include access to justice, expert evidence and confirmation bias in litigation, proliferation of knowledge and ideas, managing work/life balance, and collegiality among the profession.



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## JUNIOR MEMBERS *Three to be elected for a one-year term*

### Lea Hiltenkamp

I am a lawyer at Glen McLeod Legal a boutique firm which specialises in environment and town planning law.

I wish to re-nominate as a junior member of the Law Society Council in order to continue advocating on important topics which affect not only the WA legal profession, but also the wider community. I have enjoyed my previous term as a Junior Member and having the opportunity to have input into matters of social justice and important opportunities for law reform. As a recently admitted lawyer, I have also taken the opportunity to become actively involved in the Young Lawyers Committee as an ex-officio member.

I am committed to being an energetic Council member and am particularly passionate about issues facing the profession in 2021, including continuing the conversation about mental health, fostering collegiality and campaigning against sexual harassment in the legal industry.



### Thomas Camp

I am seeking re-election as a Junior Member. I am a solicitor at Butcher Paull & Calder, having previously worked at the Inquiry into the City of Perth, Mony De Kerloy and as the associate to the Hon. Justice Le Miere.

I have served on the Brief Editorial Committee since 2017 and I am committed to serving the profession, through judging mock trials, writing articles for Brief or taking part in mentoring.

Having been on Council this year has been a rewarding experience and I am proud of the work the Law Society has done in an extremely difficult time.

As a Junior Member of Council, I aim to help continue its good work with a focus on supporting members of the legal profession on a practical and personal level as well as improving outcomes for vulnerable members of the community involved in the legal system.



### Grace Ritter

Although still very junior in the profession, I have been fortunate to work in law for some time. I worked as a legal assistant at Kakulas Legal from 2011 – 2016, and moved to a paralegal role at FourLion Legal in 2017. I completed the Piddington Society's PLT Program in 2019 and was admitted to the profession in November of the same year. I am currently working as a Restricted Practitioner at FourLion Legal.

I am a self-confessed "law nerd" with a genuine love for the profession and the peculiarities and quirks of the law. More importantly, I believe that as lawyers we have a real ability to help shape society. I would relish the opportunity to contribute to the Society's initiatives in the profession and in the broader community.

I am confident that I could bring enthusiasm, flexibility, and commitment to the Law Society Council.



### Alex Gordon

I write to apply for election as a junior member of the Council of the Law Society of Western Australia in 2021.

I was admitted to practice on 7 June 2019 and am currently employed as a solicitor in the litigation team at Palmos Legal in Perth, who are supportive of my application.

It would be a privilege to serve on the Council so that I may address the important issues facing the younger members of the profession, as well as the profession as a whole.

In my spare time I enjoy playing music, cross country running, politics and film.

Should I be elected to the Council, I am confident I can contribute to the betterment of the profession and hope to have the opportunity to do so.



## HAVE YOUR SAY

Ballot papers were electronically transmitted to members eligible to vote on Wednesday, 28 October 2020 by independent voting services organisation CorpVote. Voting will close at 3.00pm WST on Wednesday, 11 November 2020.

### \*Preferred position as specified by nominee

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