Law Week 2016 ran from Monday, 16 May to Friday, 20 May. The Society supported more than 30 events across Western Australia for the legal profession and the community. A range of organisations took part, providing free legal information sessions, seminars and social events.

The programme began with the Law Week Breakfast, where Fred Chaney AO gave an absorbing keynote address on The Case for Legal Aid. The Breakfast was also the setting for the presentation of the Attorney General’s Community Service Law Awards, which recognise practitioners and organisations that have provided outstanding pro bono legal services to the WA community. Michael Tucak won the award in the individual category and King & Wood Mallesons was the inaugural winner in the organisation category.

On Monday, the Commissioner for Victims of Crime outlined how community organisations can help support victims of crime, including victims of family violence. In Fremantle, Attorney General’s Community Service Law Award winner Michael Tucak organised 30 minute one-on-one free legal advice sessions for musicians. Meanwhile, 36 Year 10 students from 18 different schools attended the Society’s Youth Civics Leadership Day. Each of the students had demonstrated leadership potential and civic awareness within their school and community. The students heard from a range of speakers on topics including the rule of law, civics and leadership skills. Each student was presented with a certificate of participation by the Hon Wayne Martin AC, Chief Justice of Western Australia.

On Tuesday morning, Law Access organised the inaugural Walk for Justice along the Perth foreshore to celebrate the vital pro bono work of the profession and to raise funds for the Law Access Pro Bono Referral Service. The event had a superb turnout, with members of the judiciary, legal profession and other supporters helping to raise over $26,000 for this very worthy cause.

On Wednesday, the Society’s Young Lawyers Committee hosted a Law Week Panel Discussion on the subject of Homophobia within the Law. The panel which included leading members of the legal profession, discussed the obstacles the law continues to present for the LGBTIQ community. The Society’s Old Court House Law Museum was the venue for a fascinating discussion of the life of Alfred Hawes Stone. Dr Pamela Statham-Drew provided an insight into one of the first people to practice law in the Swan River Colony, who later became a keen amateur photographer.

The Fremantle Community Legal Centre and the City of Fremantle were proud to host Law in Kings Square. Eight solicitors from private practices in Fremantle and Perth, together with five lawyers from the Fremantle Community Legal Centre and eight volunteer law students from the University of Western Australia, Murdoch University and Curtin University, provided free legal advice to 50 clients on over 20 areas of law.

Law Mutual (WA) and the Society presented two free seminars on Mental Health Matters, one of which involved a review of the Society’s 2011 report into psychological distress and depression in the legal profession. The other was an examination of technology and its effects on the practice of law, including the added stress levels that come with being constantly connected to the work environment through smartphones and access to email.

Law Week also saw the latest meeting
1. Nicholas Creed, King & Wood Mallesons; The Hon Michael Mischin MLC, Attorney-General and Minister for Commerce; Elizabeth Needham, President, Law Society of Western Australia; and Michael Tucak, Creative Legal at the Law Week Breakfast

2. Jeremy Rich, Allens; Michelle Rogers, Curtin University; Matthew Keogh, Immediate Past President, Law Society; Magistrate Hogan, President, Gender Reassignment Board; and Asanka Gunasekera, Western Australian Bar Association at Homophobia within the Law Young Lawyers Panel Discussion

3. Student volunteers at the Fremantle Community Legal Centre’s Law in Kings Square

4. The Hon Wayne Martin AC, Chief Justice of Western Australia opens the inaugural Walk for Justice with Maria Saraceni, Director, Law Access; and Elizabeth Needham, President, the Law Society

5. Participants in the inaugural Walk for Justice

6. Dr Pamela Stratham-Drew presents the Alfred Hawes Stone Talk - Early Lawyer and Photographer

7. Moira McKechnie, Manager Marketing and Communications, the Law Society; Joanna Blackley, Policy Lawyer, the Law Society; Fred Chaney AO; and Aine Whelan, General Manager - Programmes, the Law Society at the Law Week Breakfast
Key Highlights

1. Libby Fulham, Legal Practice Board; Graeme Geldart, Legal Practice Board; and David Price, Chief Executive Officer, the Law Society at the Law Week Breakfast

2. Fred Chaney AO presents The Case for Legal Aid at the Law Week Breakfast

3. Attendees at the Law Week Breakfast listen to the keynote speech from Fred Chaney AO

4. Lawyers from King & Wood Malleson were awarded the inaugural organisation category winner for the Attorney General’s Community Service Law Award

5. Attendees at the Law Week Breakfast

6. Elizabeth Needham, President, the Law Society with Lawyer of the Year Award winners, Michael Geelhoed, Employment Law Centre of WA; Glen McLeod, Glen McLeod Legal; and Claire Rossi, Legal Aid WA

7. Christine Thambypsyrah, Magister Legal; and Sukhwant Singh, Magister Legal at the Law Week Cocktail Evening

8. David Davidson, Office of the DPP - State; Stewart Forbes, S Forbes; and Tim Kavenagh, Hunt and Humphry at the Law Week Cocktail Evening

9. James Nicholls, Allen & Overy; Krista McMeeken, Jackson McDonald; and Richard Sandover, Jackson McDonald at the Law Week Cocktail Evening

10. Sara Kane, Employment Law Centre of WA; Helen Creed, Community Legal Centres Associations (WA); Maria Fitfield, Avon Legal; and the Hon Jennifer Smith, A/President, WA Industrial Relations Commission at the Law Week Cocktail Evening
of the very well-subscribed Sole Practitioner and Small Firm Forum. At the complimentary event, attendees heard from marketing expert Joanne Casey as she addressed the topic *Bang for Buck: Marketing and Business Development on a Shoestring Budget*.

On Thursday, the Society hosted *Refugee Matters: a seminar for lawyers and the public*, which provided a breakdown of the roles of the various courts and tribunals assessing refugee claims and offered first-hand advice for preparing refugee visas from those working in the frontline.

On Thursday evening, the Law Week Cocktail event and Lawyer of the Year Awards were held at Bankwest Place. Attendees enjoyed a selection of delicious canapés and music provided by members of the Perth Symphony Orchestra. Congratulations to the 2016 Law Society Lawyer of the Year Award winners:

- Practitioner with more than five years’ experience: Claire Rossi and Glen McLeod
- Practitioner with less than five years’ experience: Michael Geelhoed

The event also provided the opportunity to present certificates to Steven Penglis, the Hon Justice Carmel McLure and Clare Thompson, who were all awarded Life Membership at the Society’s AGM last year.

A number of Law Week events also took place outside Perth, including *Amazing Race – Law Edition (The Last Verdict)*, which was organised by the Geraldton Resource Centre. 10 teams took part, with four participants in each team. In Albany, the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA held a Law Week Dinner for the legal profession and staff at Lavender Cottage.

Thank you to everyone who attended a Law Week event. Your support has been invaluable in making Law Week 2016 a resounding success.

The Society acknowledges the funding assistance from the Public Purposes Trust for Law Week.

*Public Purposes Trust*

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Special thanks to

- **Government of Western Australia**
  - Department of the Attorney General

- **Bankwest**
  - Cocktail Evening Host Sponsor

- **Profile Legal**
  - Lawyer of the Year Award Sponsor

- **Murdoch University**
  - Lawyer of the Year Award and Community Events Sponsor