

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022/23





# Acknowledgement of Country

The Law Society of Western Australia respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

*Artist: Marlia Miyalan Fatnowna*

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*All social photos courtesy of Scene Team and the Law Society of Western Australia. Images of the Old Court House Law Museum courtesy of Bo Wong.*



# The Law Society of Western Australia is the peak professional association for lawyers in Western Australia.

The Law Society of Western Australia is the peak professional association for lawyers in Western Australia. The Law Society is a not-for-profit association dedicated to the representation of its members and to the enhancement of the legal profession through four strategic imperatives.



*Ante Golem, 2023 Law Society President; Past Presidents  
Jocelyne Boujos, Rebecca Lee and Greg McIntyre SC*

## Law Society Four Strategic Imperatives:

- **Strong Voice** – proactively engaging with key stakeholders to influence positive change for the profession;
- **Vital Support** – delivering targeted, relevant and highly valued services;
- **Supported Future** – developing programmes and services that respond to change in order to support future careers, expertise and business imperatives; and
- **Forward Thinking** – being an engaged, sustainable and forward-thinking Society where Council, Committee members and staff are aligned with the vision and purpose of the organisation.



# President's Report

*Ante Golem*

Reflecting on this past year, two things have remained constant: continuous changes in and to our profession, and the Law Society's commitment to keep our members informed, prepared and supported.

In the midst of so much change and progress taking place, I am proud of the work of the Law Society in delivering strong advocacy, high value services and organisational excellence during 2022/23.

## Legal Profession Uniform Law

Western Australia officially joined the Legal Profession Uniform Law Scheme on 1 July 2022 (Uniform Law). This event was a tremendous milestone in the expansion of the Uniform Law scheme, and a significant step towards the goal of Australia having a national legal profession under a national regulatory regime. The scheme is now operative in respect of 75 per cent of the legal profession in this country.

The Law Society worked to ensure our members were informed and prepared for the significant changes brought about by the Uniform Law and has continued to provide ongoing support and education to the profession. On 6 July 2022, the Law Society facilitated a CPD Seminar on Uniform Law with the Chair and CEO of the Legal Services Council who travelled to Perth especially for the occasion. This was attended by 250 delegates in person and online.

A dedicated information hub on the website continues to provide valuable updates and resources, including Fact Sheets, Uniform Law Cost Requirements and Billing Requirements.

In addition to this, the Law Society and Law

Mutual (WA) continue to provide templates for Client Engagement Agreements to assist with costs disclosure obligations and the Law Society has delivered CPD seminars on topical Uniform Law matters, including the new regulatory framework, Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules, and contentious and non-contentious cost determinations.

## Celebrating 100 years since women won legislative change

2023 celebrates 100 years since women won legislative change, removing barriers to their right to be admitted and to practise law in Western Australia. The First 100 Years project started in England, to celebrate the 2019 centenary of women practising law in that jurisdiction.

In recognition of the broader passing of the one hundred year mark across Australia, and specifically for Western Australia in 2023, the Law Society and Women Lawyers of Western Australia collaborated to promote the first 100 years and the importance of women's contribution to the practice of law.

Our #100faces100yearsWA Photography Campaign was launched on International Women's Day (8 March 2023) on social media. The campaign aims to create an inclusive snapshot of the current faces of women in law in Western Australia, and we invited all female lawyers to join the campaign by having their portrait image included. To date, we have received over 100 photos which will be showcased later in 2023 in a bespoke #100faces100yearsWA photo gallery on a special website page to celebrate this important milestone.





## Law Week 2023

Every year Law Week brings an opportunity to connect the legal profession and the broader community to build a shared understanding of how the law supports and intersects with our society.

The Law Society presented another successful Law Week in 2023, branded Justice, Inclusion and Community, with a festival of events from 15 – 19 May 2023 that sparked ideas, provoked reflection and provided a forum to be more curious and proactive across a number of important issues.

The week came to a grand finale with the Long Table Lunch Live on Friday 19, May. Celebrating women in the law, it was a great opportunity to collaborate with Women

Lawyers Western Australia for the theme of this year's Law Society's Long Table Lunch Live.

This event honoured women in the profession, from those who pioneered the way, to the many faces of women in law today as part of the 100 Years milestone of when women won legislative change removing barriers to being admitted and to practise law in Western Australia.

There were over 20 events presented by the legal profession and the Law Society across a dynamic Law Week 2023. My thanks to everyone who contributed to its success, including our valued supporters and sponsors.





Old Court House Law Museum Fundraising Launch Evening – Pictured L-R: Bennie Ng, David Price, Áine Whelan, Ante Golem, Olivier David



Panellists for the YLC Law Week Panel – Multidimensional Discrimination in the Workplace: The question of intersectionality

## The Voice of the Legal Profession

One of the objects of the Law Society, as outlined in its Constitution, is to promote the development and improvement of the law in Western Australia. To this end, the Law Society continues to advocate for law reforms that will enhance the legal profession and benefit the community.

## The Unlawful Detention of Juveniles

The Law Society has and continues to raise its concerns in relation to the manner in which the State government and the Department of Justice are managing children and young people in detention centres at Banksia Hill and Unit 18, Casuarina. The extended periods of cell incarceration are completely inappropriate for these children and this form of punishment is contrary to the object and purpose of the *Young Offenders Act*.

The system is broken if juvenile detainees are being housed in conditions described as cruel and punishing, and as having no rehabilitative effect. In March 2023, the Law Society wrote an open letter to the media and the leaders of the opposition parties in relation to these concerns, including an opinion piece (published on 13 April in *The West Australian*). Concerns were also raised in a media statement on 17 May 2023 and in article “The Unlawful Management

of Banksia Hill and Unit 18, Casuarina Detention Centres” prepared by the Hon Denis Reynolds CitWA, former President of the Children’s Court of Western Australia published in the April 2023 edition of Brief.

## Voice to Parliament

October 2023 was the date set for the Australian public to vote at a referendum on the proposal to amend the Constitution to provide for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth.

The Law Society endorsed the Law Council of Australia’s (LCA) position as set out in the June 2023 *Guide for the legal profession - Referendum for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice*, that the constitutional amendment, as proposed, is constitutionally orthodox, just and legally sound.

The Law Society provided information and resources via newsletters and the Law Society website, including Facts Sheets from the Law Council of Australia. The aim of this was to ensure access to accurate and informed material ahead of the referendum, so that the legal profession and wider community could make a fully informed decision when voting.





*The Law Society's Voice to Parliament information hub*

## Law Access Ltd

The Law Society's pro bono arm, Law Access Ltd, provides a valuable service by matching applications for legal help from vulnerable and financially disadvantaged members of the community to lawyers and legal firms willing to provide their services free of charge.

Law Society members agreed at the Law Society's Annual General Meeting on 15 November 2022 to provide an additional \$20,000 cash support to Law Access. This brings the total funds given to Law Access by the Law Society on behalf of its members to \$40,000 this financial year. This significant contribution is in addition to a range of services provided to Law Access at no cost by the Law Society.

As the demand for legal assistance for those experiencing financial difficulties continues to increase, long-term and substantive funding increases are important to ensure access to justice for the vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our community. Your valued membership allows the Law Society to provide this ongoing support to Law Access.

## Thank You

The Law Society is a purpose-driven organisation with a clear strategic focus to continue its standing as the respected voice of the legal profession in Western Australia. This year, I have seen what can be achieved when a single purposeful focus is applied to the organisation at all levels and what results can be obtained when members are placed at the heart of the organisation.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Chief Executive Officer David Price for his valued support and guidance. The countless volunteer hours and contributions made by the Law Society's Executive and Council, as well as the members of our committees should also be acknowledged and applauded. I also thank the dedicated Law Society staff for their tireless efforts and valued contribution.

Following a successful year for the Law Society, I am confident we are building the organisation for the future and creating enduring value for our members and the wider legal profession.



# Chief Executive Officer's Report

*David Price*

The past financial year was another strong year for the Law Society, continuing to effectively deliver relevant and valued services, as reflected in our record membership number of 4,825 members (including 13 Honorary, 39 Life members and 36 On Leave members) in 2022/23.

This pleasing result reflects a 3.7% increase in overall membership numbers for the year ending 30 June 2023 and continues the steady solid membership growth which has been occurring in previous years.

## Your Membership Matters

The Law Society continues to support its members by providing access to invaluable support and resources to keep our members informed, equipped and empowered.

### **1. Continuing Professional Development**

**CPD Freedom** was again included at no additional cost to those eligible members who joined or renewed their membership subscriptions by 31 July. CPD Freedom provides unlimited attendance at live CPD seminars and webinars as well as access to seminar papers from our archive for free. CPD Freedom has also grown to a record number of over 3,600 members.

### **2. Staying informed and connected**

One of the key benefits of Law Society membership is having access to the latest important information and resources for the legal profession. Our digital communication performances reflect consistent high open rates of over 45% for our email newsletters, exceeding industry benchmarks.

### **3. Find a Lawyer Referral Service**

There is an ongoing high demand for the Law Society's Find a Lawyer Referral Service, which provided close to 500 referrals per week to members of the public seeking access to legal services in 2022/23 (22,616 total referrals). This referral service is a member only benefit where listed firms receive referrals from the Law Society when members of the public contact the Law Society to seek this information.

### **4. LawCare WA**

The Law Society is committed to supporting lawyers and fostering a legal profession built upon a strong foundation of positive health and wellbeing. Law Society members are offered access to free, independent and confidential professional counselling to provide support for a range of personal or work-related issues.

## Events with Impact – Inaugural Gala Dinner and Annual Awards Celebration

A highlight of 2022/23 was the inaugural Law Society's Gala Dinner 2022 - Annual Awards Celebration for the Legal Profession on Friday, 30 September 2022 at Crown Towers Perth. It was an unforgettable evening, with over 370 members of the legal community socialising and celebrating the award winners of the Attorney General's Community Service Law Awards and the Law Society's Lawyer of the Year Awards. For the first time, it brought together the two awards, and we look forward to hosting the event again in 2023.





### A Strong Advocacy Voice

The Law Society has been active in its role as 'the voice of the legal profession in Western Australia' in many ways over the last 12 months. We have spoken out in the media (especially regarding the Government's unlawful management of children and young people in detention centres at Banksia Hill and Unit 18, Casuarina); and our committees have worked tirelessly in responding to issues and requests to review and comment on matters affecting the law both at a local level and at a national level via Law Council of Australia. Through the hard work of our Committees, 35 submissions were prepared in 2022/2023.

### Financial Performance

The 2022/23 financial year resulted in an operating surplus of \$235,603.

The Law Society remains committed to operating efficiently and effectively to ensure that members' funds are used to provide value to members and support the initiatives and responsibilities of the legal profession's peak membership body.

The Law Society ended the financial year with net assets of \$3,977,187 and cash reserves of \$2,571,435.

The Law Society's Income Statement and Statement of Financial Position are included at the end of this year's Annual Report.

### Law Mutual (WA)

#### ***Broad Cover and Relatively Stable Cost***

The Law Mutual insurance arrangements again provided broad professional indemnity cover for over 1,100 law practices during the 2022/23 financial year. The cost of cover increased marginally from the previous year due a smaller subsidy from surplus capital.

#### ***Law Mutual Risk Management Workshops and Seminars***

The 2022/23 programme of 29 seminars and webinars attracted 1471 attendees. The programme provides a hybrid approach to risk management training with a mixture of webinars and seminars throughout the year to focus on the need of different categories of practitioners and law practices.

### ***Claims Numbers Continue at Historically Low Levels***

The expected ultimate number of claims for the 2022/23 insurance year is in the range of 45 to 50 in line with the expected number for the 2021/2022 year. This ongoing reduction in claims numbers over the last few years has been a significant factor in the stabilisation in the cost of cover and favourable consideration by underwriters when negotiating the ongoing coverage.

### **National Chief Executive Officer Meetings**

At a national level in 2022/23 Chief Executive Officers of all of the Law Societies in Australia met regularly via Zoom to discuss a range of issues effecting the legal profession.

This important forum enables initiatives to be shared amongst the Law Societies and to facilitate a uniform approach to a range of important things affecting the legal profession.

### **Conference of Law Societies**

The Conference of Law Societies (COLS) is a coalition of Australian Law Societies which works collaboratively on a range of issues of national and jurisdictional interest.

Law Society Presidents and Chief Executive Officers from around the country held quarterly meetings of COLS in 2022/23. Important issues were discussed, ranging from Legal Profession Uniform Law, mandatory reporting, diversity and inclusion, sexual harassment and bystander training, raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility, anti money laundering, professional standards schemes, member engagement, continuing professional development and the Voice to Parliament.

### **Law Council of Australia**

The Law Society of Western Australia is one of 16 Constituent Body members of the Law Council of Australia which comprises Australian Bar Councils, Law Institutes, Law Societies and Law Firms Australia.

The President of the Law Society is a Director on the Law Council of Australia. The Law Council of Australia represents the Australian legal profession in Australia and internationally. It advocates on legal and policy matters of national and international importance to uphold the rule of law, to support the administration of, and to promote access to justice.

The Law Council is a federal organisation representing 95,000 Australian lawyers through their bar associations, Law Societies and Law Firms Australia (the Constituent Bodies).

In 2022/23 the President attended four meetings of the Law Council of Australia.

### **Looking Ahead**

Following the completion of the Law Society's current Strategic Plan on 30 June 2023, the Council adopted a new 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

The new Strategic Plan retains its current vision as "the essential membership for the legal profession" and its purpose as "the voice of the legal profession in Western Australia." The Society's vision is supported by the introduction of a mission statement "To deliver strong advocacy for the West Australian legal community through the delivery of high-value networking, CPD and support services" and ultimately delivered through the achievement of three new strategic imperatives:

1. To be an influential voice, enabling members and community to stay informed and represented
2. To be an essential support to legal professionals, empowering them to do their best work
3. To be a central point for connections across the profession, industry and community

The implementation of this plan will ensure a robust focus on being the essential membership for the legal profession.



## Thank You

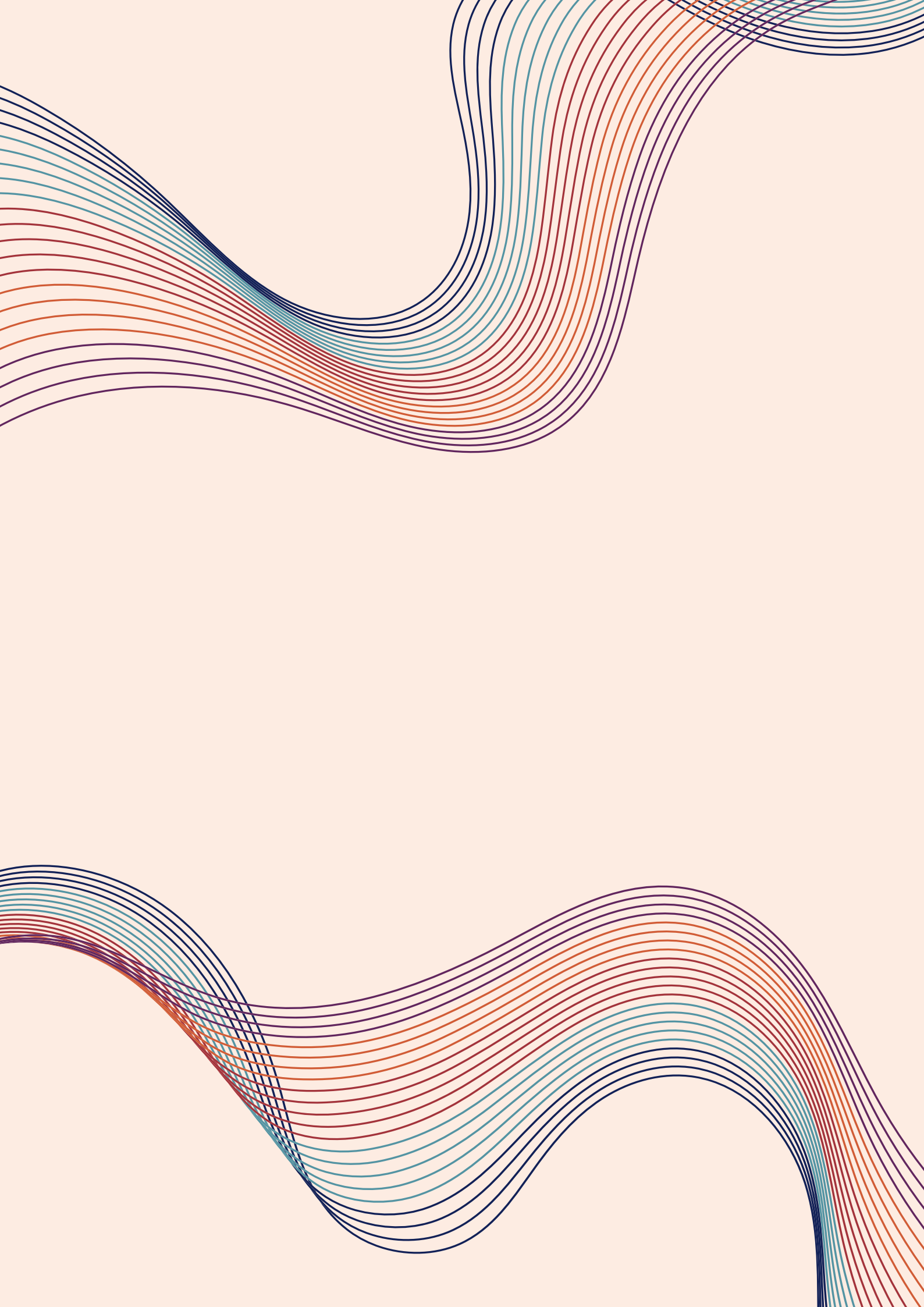
The success of the Law Society can be attributed to the exceptional service and loyal commitment provided by our Council Members, Executive, Committee Members and Law Society staff.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Immediate Past President Rebecca Lee, current President Ante Golem, and both their Executive teams in 2022/23 for their dedicated and ongoing support

Thank you also to the Law Society Council Members of 2022 and 2023 and our many Committee Members, all of whom volunteer many hours of their time and make invaluable contributions to the work of the Law Society.

This year, I would especially also like to thank the Law Society's staff members for their continued commitment and hard work.

I look forward to the year ahead and am excited about what we can achieve together.





# Our Council

In accordance with the Law Society of Western Australia's constitution, the Law Society Council comprises 17 Members and is made up of 16 elected members and the Immediate Past President. The composition and tenure of the Council is as follows:

- President – 1 Year
- Senior Vice President – 1 Year
- Junior Vice President & Treasurer – 1 Year
- Immediate Past President – 1 Year
- 9 Ordinary Members – 2 Years
- 1 Country Member – 2 Years
- 3 Junior Members – 1 Year

The Law Society appoints its Council through an annual election process which facilitates the election of those positions which are deemed vacant in that year. The nomination and voting processes are conducted in line with the Law Society's Constitution and overseen by the Law Society's Chief Executive Officer.

The Law Society's Council is responsible for the leadership, strategy and governance of the Law Society and includes the setting of the Strategic Plan and oversight of the Law Society's operational and financial performance. The Council does this in part by delegating responsibility of the day to day operations of the Law Society to the Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer who, supported by the Senior Management Group (SMG), have the authority to carry out these responsibilities in accordance with the Law Society's constitution and policies established by the Council.

Council members are provided with governance and media training to support them in the execution of their duties. Council members also attend a strategic planning day each year with the Chief Executive Officer and the SMG to support and enhance the delivery of the Law Society's overall Strategic Plan. The Council is dedicated and committed to the strong representation of the Law Society, its members, and the legal profession generally.

## Council Subcommittees

Council has the power to create Committees. Committees are bound by the relevant By-Laws with their purpose to consider and make recommendations to the Council for consideration.

The Council operates three subcommittees which directly support the Council with the day to day operation of the Law Society:

1. **Executive Committee** – The Executive Committee comprises the President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President & Treasurer, the Immediate Past President and one Ordinary Member of the Council who is appointed by the Executive for up to 6 months in each calendar year. The Committee considers and makes decisions on both regular and ad-hoc executive, operational and strategic matters.
2. **Finance and Audit Committee (FAC)** – The Finance and Audit Committee is Chaired by the Junior Vice President & Treasurer and in addition to the Chair, comprises the President, Senior Vice President, and a member of the Law Society with financial expertise to be nominated by Council. The FAC supports the Council with the oversight of key financial responsibilities including but not limited to the annual financial budget and audit processes.
3. **The Professional Indemnity Insurance Management Committee (PIIMC)** – The Professional Indemnity Insurance Management Committee provides the Council with advice and recommendations regarding the Law Mutual (WA) insurance arrangements and associated matters. It is comprised of three independent members with specific expertise in relevant areas and four current Council members.

# Law Society Council 2022

The Council of the Law Society of Western Australia for 2022  
1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022



**Rebecca Lee**  
President  
Francis Burt Chambers



**Ante Golem**  
Senior Vice President  
Herbert Smith Freehills



**Paula Wilkinson**  
Junior Vice President  
& Treasurer  
Kim Wilson & Co



**Jocelyne Boujos**  
Immediate Past  
President  
Boujos Legal

## Council Ordinary, Country and Junior Members



**Ben Bullock**  
Ordinary Member  
Steedman Stagg Lawyers



**Rebecca Bunney**  
Ordinary Member  
Cullen Macleod Lawyers  
(resigned October 2022)



**Dr Brett Davies**  
Ordinary Member  
UWA Law School



**Angie Gimisis**  
Ordinary Member  
Hall & Wilcox



**June Kenny**  
Ordinary Member  
JDK Legal Services



**Gary Mack**  
Ordinary Member  
Abacus Legal and Mediation



**Judy McLean**  
Ordinary Member  
Fremantle Community Legal  
Centre



**Kellie Woods**  
Ordinary Member  
Dentons



**Terry Palmer SC**  
Ordinary Member  
Quayside Chambers



**Michael Ryan**  
Country Member  
Mortlock Ryan & Co



**Thomas Camp**  
Junior Member  
Butcher, Paull & Calder



**Selina Gates**  
Junior Member  
Taylor Smart  
Lawyers & Noteries



**Hamish Glenister**  
Junior Member  
William Gerard Legal Pty Ltd

# Law Society Council 2023

The Council of the Law Society of Western Australia for 2023  
1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023



**Ante Golem**  
President  
Herbert Smith Freehills



**Paula Wilkinson**  
Senior Vice President  
Kim Wilson & Co



**Gary Mack**  
Junior Vice President  
& Treasurer  
Abacus Legal and Mediation



**Rebecca Lee**  
Immediate Past  
President  
Francis Burt Chambers

## Council Ordinary, Country and Junior Members



**Ben Bullock**  
Ordinary Member  
Steedman Stagg Lawyers



**Thomas Camp**  
Ordinary Member  
Butcher, Paull & Calder



**Dr Brett Davies**  
Ordinary Member  
UWA Law School



**Angie Gimisis**  
Ordinary Member  
Hall & Wilcox



**June Kenny**  
Ordinary Member  
JKLS



**Judy McLean**  
Ordinary Member  
Fremantle Community Legal  
Centre



**Kim Morrison**  
Ordinary Member  
O'Sullivan Davies



**Terry Palmer SC**  
Ordinary Member  
Quayside Chambers



**Kellie Woods**  
Ordinary Member  
Dentons



**Michael Ryan**  
Country Member  
Mortlock Ryan & Co



**Daniel Dyer-Smith**  
Junior Member  
Jackson McDonald



**Tyler Greatrex**  
Junior Member  
Palisade Corporate



**Robert Jamieson**  
Junior Member  
Smiddy-Brown Legal  
(resigned May 2023)



**Demi Swain**  
Junior Member  
Bennett  
(from May 2023)



# Committees



## Access to Justice

**Gary Mack** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Maryse Aranda, Eli Bernstein, Rebecca Davey, Alana Dowley (ex officio), Lara Gotti, Greg McIntyre SC, Jenny McKenzie, Chelsea McKinney, Gemma Mitchell, Gregory Mohen (Deputy Chair), Nicholas Snare, Rosaline Tan, Garth Tinsley



## Accreditation

**Elizabeth Hynes** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Rod Hooper SC, Natalie Kam, Denby Kerr, Peter Milevski, Kim Morrison (Deputy Chair), Trevor O'Sullivan, Paula Wilkinson



## Administrative Migration Law

**Crawford Yorke** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Anthony Coates, Hamish Glenister, Thomas Griffiths, Amanda Kailis, Janette McCahon, Rajesh Saharan, Martin Udall



## Alternative Dispute Resolution

**Scott Ellis** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Mark Blundell, Graham Castledine, Maha Chaar, Nicoletta Ciffolilli, Tracy Cole, Ante Golem, Pamela Hass, Amanda Kailis, Roselina Kruize, Nathan Landis, Robert Lilley, Karene Primrose, Marcus Pullen, Pat Saraceni, Steven Standing, His Honour Chris Stevenson



## Brief Editorial

**Jason MacLaurin SC** (Editor)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Gregory Boyle, Ben Bullock, Thomas Camp, Tracy Cole, Patricia Femia, Jessica Henderson, Anlee Khuu, Roselina Kruize, The Hon John McKechnie KC, Grace Ritter (resigned January 2023), Dr Pat Saraceni, Robert Sceales, Andreas von Altenstadt



## Commercial Law

**Shane Stewart** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Andreas von Altenstadt, Michael Berkeley-Hill, Christopher Booth, Ben Bullock (Council Ex Officio), Andrew Crean, Jenny Cutri (LCA), Paul Evans, Tony Fifield, Robert French (Deputy Chair), Emma Garlett, Maggie McGuinn, Bruce Meredith, Gemma Nugent, Terry Palmer SC (Council Ex Officio) Steven Pynt, Rhian Richards (Observer), Trina Storm, Rachel Webber (LCA)

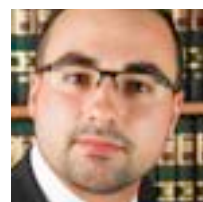


## Construction and Infrastructure

**Adrienne Parker** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Dan Dragovic, Elisabeth Edwards, Scott Ellis, Basil Georgiou, James Healy, Nathan Landis, Richard Lilly, Stephen McComish, Chris Ryder, Amanda Sinclair, Greg Steinepreis



## Costs

**Fraser Robertson** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Daniel Coster, Sandra Costopolous, David Davidson, Tony Fifield, David Garnsworthy, Richard Graham, Anthony Hevron (observer) Peter Lochore, Amy Pascoe (Deputy Chair), Libby Smith, Milos Suplkeglav, Murray Thornhill, Kellie Woods (ex officio)



## Country Practitioners

**Michael Ryan** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Peter Brindal, Amelia Englert (Deputy Chair), Jenna Hampton, Jessica Henderson, Carolyn Riley, Yolanda Schuurmans



## Courts

**Edward Greaves** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Charmian Barton (ex officio), Rebecca Collins, Rick Cullen, Shonelle Duthie, Paul Evans, Patricia Femia, Principal Registrar Leonie Forrest (ex officio), Angie Gimisis (Council ex officio), Angelina Gomez, Richard Graham (Deputy Chair), Fiona Halsey, Nathan Landis, Aaron McDonald, Acting Principal Registrar Danielle Davies (ex officio), Principal Registrar Brenda McGivern (ex officio), Martyn Plummer (ex officio), Pat Saraceni, Jonathon Slack-Smith, District Registrar Russell Trott (ex officio) Dora van der Westhuyzen, Alexander Ward-Noonan, Deputy Chief Magistrate Elizabeth Woods (ex officio)

Note: Where "LCA" appears against a committee name the committee member is a member of an LCA specialist Section (Tax, Construction etc) or standing committee and provides the Law Society committee with a link with work being undertaken at a federal level.



## Criminal Law

**David Davidson** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Ryan Arndt, Avril Bartlett, Lisa Boston (Observer), Nicola Bradshaw, Clare Brennan, Michael Cashman, Anthony Elliot (Observer), Karen Farley SC (Deputy Chair), Patricia Femia, Hamish Glenister, Teck John Ling, Judy McLean (ex officio), Miranda Millward, Carly Price, Claire Rossi, Kirsten Scott, Nicholas Snare, Registrar Whitbread, Laura Willox



## Education

**Adam Levine** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Ryan Arndt, Robert Bathurst, Thomas Coltrona, Karen Farley SC, Angelina Gomez, Fiona Halsey, Pamela Hass, Dr Andrew Lu AM, Glen McLeod (Deputy Chair), James McMillan, Julian Misso, Kim Morrison, Dr Pat Saraceni



## Elder Law and Succession

**Anthony Durand** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Sally Bruce (Deputy Chair) Michael Bowyer, Rob Durey, Daniel Gill, Elizabeth Heenan, John Hockley, Amanda Liston, Ross Mendonca, Bruce Meredith, Robert Nash, Peter Nevin, Michaela Speering, Gabriel Wong



## Employee Relations

**Cory Fogliani** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Elaine Buchanan, Robert French, Matthew Giles, Giacomo Giorgi (Deputy Chair), Kendra Hagan, Michael Jensen, Stephen Kemp, Hannah Penwarden, Rajesh Saharn, Daniel Stojanoski, Isabella Wilson



## Environment, Town Planning and Local Government

**Denis McLeod** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Andrew Carr, Steven Halls, Eve Lynch, Alex McGlue, Glen McLeod (Deputy Chair), Belinda Moharich, Matthew Pudovskis, Linda Rowley, Craig Clarke, Stephen Willey (ex officio)



## Ethics

**Fiona Stanton** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Michael Cashman, Professor Brett Davies, Paul Donovan, Paul Evans (Deputy Chair), Karen Farley SC, Dr Andrew Lu AM, Ashley Macknay (PEC), Alain Musikanth SC, Craig Slater, Glen Scott



## Joint Form of General Conditions for the Sale of Land

**Frank Poeta** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Jolene Ashworth, Peter Beekink, Hendrik Bendtsen, Murray Broadbent, Damian Collins, Anthony Davis, Marcus Easthope, Cath Hart, Meagan Johnston, Ross McCallum (REIWA), Simon Moen, Joe White, Peta Whyte



## Human Rights and Equal Opportunity

**Greg McIntyre SC** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Coraline De Zilwa (YLC), Juanita King, Sara Pearson, Ilse Petersen, Kristen Scott (LCA EO Committee representative), Rabia Siddique (Deputy Chair), Carolyn Tan, Grace Ward, Katrina Williams



## Indigenous Legal Issues

**Greg McIntyre SC** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Kelsi Forrest, Aparna Jayasekera, June Kenny (ex officio), Juanita King, Jenny McKenzie (Deputy Chair), Judy McLean (ex officio), John Ralph, His Honour Kevin Sleight



## In-house/Government Lawyers

**Pamela Hass** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*

Elizabeth Edwards, Amanda Kailis, Ilse Petersen (Deputy Chair), Zoran Vukojevic

## Committees



### Insolvency & Restructuring

**Chris Pearce** (Chair)



**Nirupa Manoharan** (Co-Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
Philip Blaxill, Dr Rebecca Collins, Michelle Dean, Sam Dundas, Rebecca Hanrahan, James Healy, Tom Langdon, Rob McKenzie, Chris McLeod, Nino Odorisio, Anika Sadler



### Intellectual Property and Technology

**Eli Bernstein** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
Samuel Fiddian, Iain Freeman, Angelina Gomez, Lauren Gore, Joshua Hunt, Jessie Rosaleen Jonergan, Nadia Mansour, Clare Mould, David Stewart (Deputy Chair), Christa Queern



### Joint Law Society (LS)/ Women Lawyers (WLWA)

**Libby Fulham** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
Leanne Allison (WLWA), Karess Dias (Deputy Chair), Rachel Eaton (LSWA), Lisa Guagliardo (WLWA), Isabel Inkster (LSWA & YLC), Farah Mehta (WLWA), Menka Orellana (WLWA), Sara Pearson (WLWA), Elisha Wayner (WLWA), Kirsten Scott (SLWA & LCA), Maya vanden Driesen (LSWA)



### Mental Health and Wellbeing

**Michael Berkeley-Hill** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
David Davidson, Coraline De Zilwa, Libby Fulham, Angie Gimisis (ex officio), Nicholas Snare, Julia Sutherland, Stacey Wellings (Deputy Chair & FLPWA), Melissa Wishart (ex officio)



### Personal Injuries and Workers' Compensation

**Joel Trigg** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
Mark Civitella (Deputy Chair), Daniel Coster, Asanka Gunasekera, Vidal Hockless, Ian Murray, Sophie Nauwelaers, Gray Porter, Eleanor Scarff, Kerry Wood



### Professional Indemnity Insurance Management

**Dudley Stowe** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
Jocelyne Boujos, Rebecca Bunney (resigned October 2022), Thomas Camp, Robert Evans, Peter Forbes, Gary Mack, Paula Wilkinson



### Professional Standard Scheme Committee

**Vidal Hockless** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
Erin Blight (resigned March 2023), Jocelyne Boujos, Benjamin Luscombe, Carolyn Moss, Kelly Zhang



### Property Law Committee

**Marcus Easthope** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
Andreas von Altenstadt, Mark Atkinson, Peter Beekink (Deputy Chair), Christopher Booth, Murray Broadbent, Anthony Davis, Susan Dukes (ex officio), Meagan Johnston, Peta Whyte, Gabriel Wong



### Quality Practice Standard

**Craig Slater** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
Erin Blight, Kevin Chalklin, Peter Liron, Andrew McGuinness, Julie Ots



### Taxation Law

**David Murphy** (Chair)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
Jocelyne Boujos, Matthew Crowley, Humphry Faas (Deputy Chair) (LCA), Adrian Hanrahan, John Hockley (LCA), Rebecca Lee (ex officio), Alain Musikanth SC, Robert Sceales (LCA), Daniel Taborsky (LCA), Zoran Vukojevic, Grahame Young (LCA)



### Young Lawyers

**Chris Taylor-Burch** (Chair – July 2022 to September 2022)

**Demi Swain** (Chair – October 2022 to June 2023)

*The Law Society acknowledges and thanks the Chair and:*  
Emma Boogaardt, Milo Bronleigh, Tom Camp, Thomas Coltrona, Coraline De Zilwa, Anthony Dique, Tom Durkin, Daniel Dyer-Smith (Council ex officio), Heidi Gan, Stephanie Gan, Garrick Garvey, Selina Gates (Council ex officio), Hamish Glenister (Council ex officio), Tyler Greatrex (Council ex officio), Lea Hiltkamp, Isabel Inkster, Robert Jamieson (Council ex officio), Mary-Kate Ledger, Aleksandra Miller, Nicholas Mountain, Tom Oliver, Matthew Petriwskyj, Jessica Sheppard, Katherine Swann, Dora van der Westhuyzen, Larissa Welms, Briony Whyte, Isabella Wilson





# A STRONG VOICE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

The Law Society's Committees contributed to 35 Policy paper submissions on key issues affecting the profession and advocating on the rule of law.

## 2022

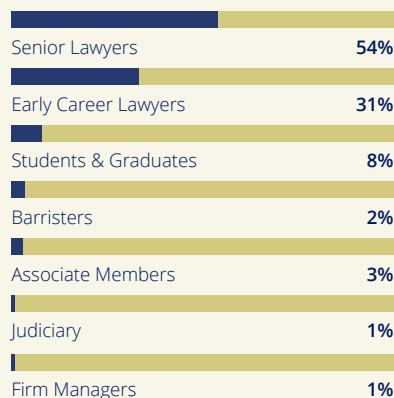
- Commercial Tenancies (Retail Shops) Statutory Review
- Legal Practice Board of Western Australia Sexual Harassment Reporting
- Mandatory Registration on the Sex Offenders Register
- Pre Action-Mediation for Estate Disputes
- Discussion Paper – Australia's Humanitarian Program 2022-2023 Comments
- Derivative Actions in Deceased Estate Matters
- Consultation Paper on Conditional Costs Agreements
- Feedback to District Court – COVID 19 initiatives and psychological, psychiatric, or neuropsychological report requirements
- Establishment of a Federal Parole Authority: Consultation on preferred model
- Joint Costs Advisory Committee Inquiry 2022
- Costs Assessments Out of Time
- Confidential: Future Review of Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2022 and the Legal Profession Uniform Law (WA)
- Review of Model Defamation Provisions – Stage 2 Part B
- Confidential – Availability and Use of Authorised Reports
- Stage 2 Review of the Model Defamation Provisions: Part A: Liability of internet Intermediaries for Third Party Content
- Exemptions for Litigation Funding Schemes
- Review of Australia's Modern Slavery Act
- Draft National Principles to Address Coercive Control
- Confidential – Draft Family Law Amendment (Information Sharing) Bill 2022 and Supporting Document
- Proposed Reformulation of Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rule 38 (Returning Judicial and Court Officers)
- Workers Compensation and Injury Management Bill 2022
- Review of the Best Practice Guide for Legal Practitioners in relation to Elder Financial Abuse

## 2023

- Federal Judicial Commission
- Portal Probate Matter Search Facility
- Statutory Review of the Mandatory Testing (Infectious Diseases) Act 2014
- Legal Costs Committee – Review of Non-Contentious Business Determinations
- Banksia Hill Detention Centre and Unit 18 Casuarina Advocacy
- Inquiry into the Operation of the National Redress Scheme
- Costs in Anti-Discrimination Matters – Australian Government Consultation
- New Practice Direction – Criminal Proceedings in the Children's Court
- Youth Justice and Child Wellbeing Reform Across Australia
- Statutory Review of Intestacy Legacy Amounts under Section 14B(2)(A) of the Administration Act 1903 (WA)
- Review of the Costs Disclosure Thresholds in the Uniform Law: Consultation Paper
- Law Society Response to the Law Council of Australia for Guidance Materials for the Legal Profession on Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- Confidential – Crimes Amendment (Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence) Bill 2023



**4,825**  
Members



**Includes 13 honorary, 39 life members and 36 on leave members.**



**350+**

Members shaped the Law Society's advocacy by sitting on over 31 committees and contributing submissions to Council

## Engagement with the Legal Profession



Registrations for the Law Society's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) offering.

**10,601**

Total CPD attendances



**99** Face-to-face seminars/webinars



**47**

On-Demand Seminars



**3,662**

CPD Freedom Members

CPD Programme sponsor **legalsuper**



**1,471**

Participants attended **29** Law Mutual Risk Management Workshops and Seminars



**2,281**

People attended **18** Society events



**55**

Accredited Family Law Specialists



**43**

Firms accredited through the Quality Practice Standard



**74**

Mentees paired with mentors within in our **3** mentoring programmes



**1**

Awareness raising Campaign  
**100 Years of Women in the Law**  
100 years since women won legislative change, removing barriers to practice law in Western Australia



**35**

Policy paper submissions produced on key issues affecting the profession and advocating on rule of law



**220+**

Volunteers supported the Law Society



**12,882**

Attendances at CPD and Social events

## Engagement with the Community



**500 per week**

The average number of members of the public helped with a referral via our "Find a Lawyer" service was just over **22,600** for the year



**6,355**

Educated on the legal profession by participating in the Francis Burt Law Education Programme



**7,467**

Total visitors to the Old Court House Law Museum



**1,190**

Mock Trial student participants

**85** School teams competed  
**100+** Legal Professionals volunteered  
**559** Students gained WACE accreditation



**257**

Students from metro and regional schools participated in the Lawyer Visits to Schools Network

### Cluedunnit Kids



**468**

Students from 31 metro and regional schools



### Broader engagement with the community



Facebook: **3,000+**  
LinkedIn: **6,600+**  
Twitter: **1,500+**



Facebook: **2,100+**  
LinkedIn: **3,200+**  
Instagram: **480+**



Old Court House Law Museum: **400,000+** views on Google Maps



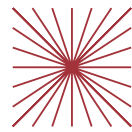
Website visitors: **125,000+**  
Visits **225,000+**





# 2022/2023 A Year in Review

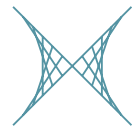
The Law Society of Western Australia delivered a wide ranging programme of advocacy, support, professional development, events, education, community focus and more. This year we explore those efforts as they apply to five pillars:



## Strong Voice

### Influencing Positive change

The Law Society proactively engages with a variety of key stakeholders to inform its voice in driving positive change for the legal profession and rule of law.



## Vital Support

### Providing Information, Professional Development and Professional Support Services

The Law Society supports members by delivering targeted, relevant and highly valued information, aimed at supporting their careers, expertise and businesses.



## Supported Future

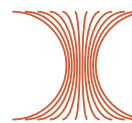
### Helping Equip the Profession with the Tools to Succeed

The Law Society maintains a forward-thinking approach to develop programmes and services that keep the profession abreast of change to pursue a sustainable future.



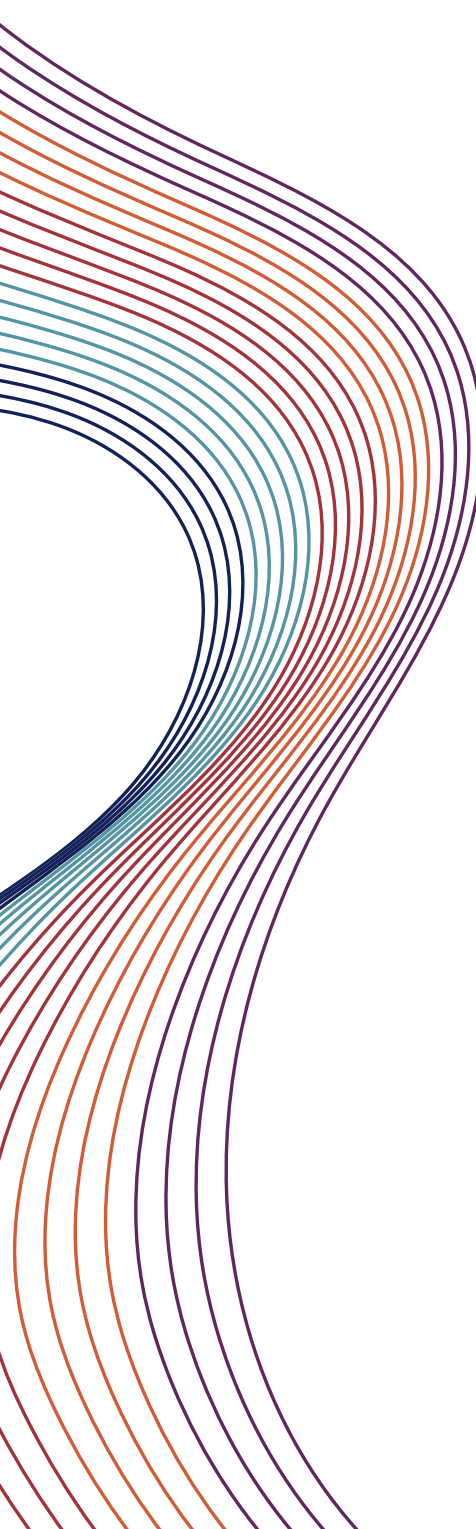
## Forward Thinking

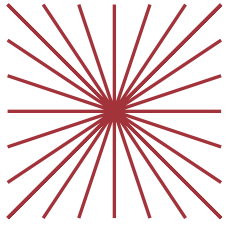
The Law Society is recognised as an engaged, sustainable, and forward-thinking organisation where Council and Committee Members and staff are aligned with its vision and purpose.



## Connecting as a Community

The Law Society brings people together through a range of engaging fora to connect and support the legal profession.





# Strong Voice

## Influencing Positive change

The Law Society proactively engages with a variety of key stakeholders to inform its voice in driving positive change for the legal profession and the rule of law, and the provision of legal education for the community.

### Law Society Committees

Our voice is informed by members of the profession who share specific expertise, experience and perspectives. The Law Society's Council is supported by 31 standing Committees and 350+ members covering many areas of legal practice, Law Society business and issues relevant to the legal profession and the rule of law at a State and Federal level.

Committee membership provides an opportunity for practitioners to develop networks within their area of practice, develop an understanding of the area of law (a junior practitioner commencing practice in a particular area) and have ready access to areas of law reform within areas of practice.

Every two years, the four-year terms of Law Society's Committee members expire. At this time, members can re-apply for a further term, and join Committees to contribute to reviewing and preparing submissions on law reform initiatives as well as developing the policy position on a range of access to justice and rule of law issues for the Law Society. This process, known as the 'Spill', accords with best practice corporate governance in ensuring continuity on Committees while also allowing the opportunity for new members with fresh ideas and perspectives to become involved. The next 'Spill' will occur in September 2023 with Council recommending Committee appointments that will commence on 1 January 2024.

The flexibility of being able to attend meetings in person or online has resulted in stronger than ever attendance at Committee meetings. It is particularly encouraging that Committees are actively involved in developing topics and content for the Law Society's CPD programme to keep the profession up to date with

developments in specific practice areas.

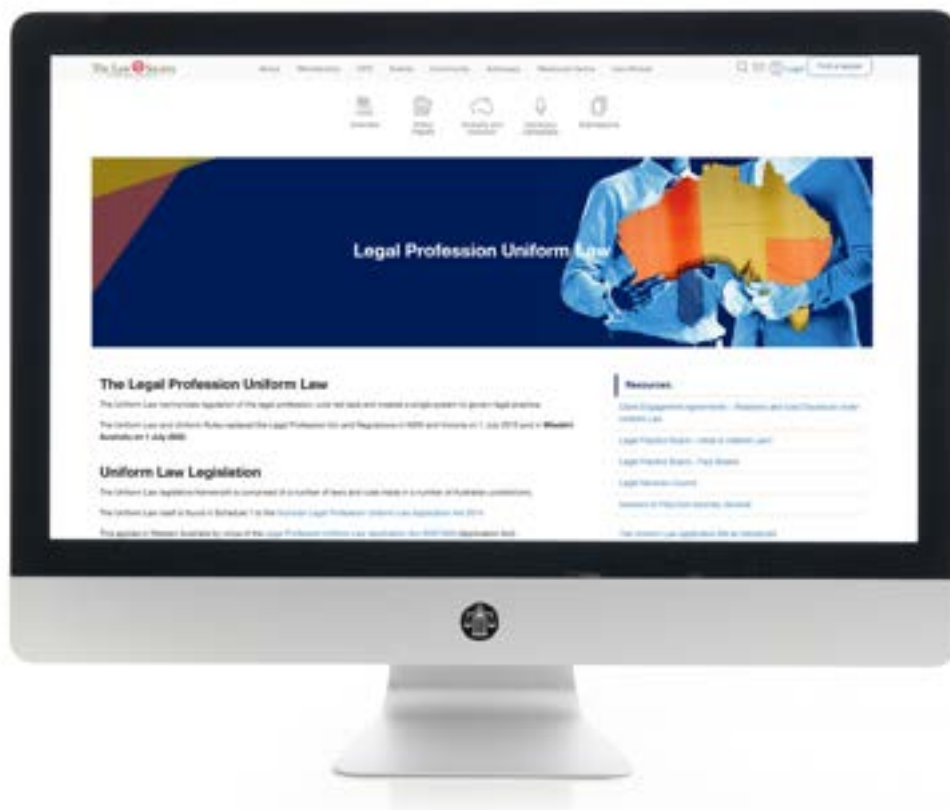
The Law Society acknowledges and thanks all members who applied for Committee membership and thanks all outgoing members for their contribution. It remains strongly placed as the 'voice of the legal profession' with Committees comprised of passionate members who are responsive, diligent and focused on improving legal practice in Western Australia and ensuring the legal profession is heard on relevant issues.

### Legal Profession Uniform Law

Western Australia officially joined the Legal Profession Uniform Law Scheme on 1 July 2022 (Uniform Law). The Law Society worked to ensure our members were informed and prepared for the significant changes brought about by the Uniform Law and has continued to provide ongoing support and education to the profession.

A dedicated information hub on our website continues to provide valuable updates and resources, including Fact Sheets, Uniform Law Cost Requirements and Billing Requirements.

In addition to this, the Law Society and Law Mutual (WA) continue to provide templates for Client Engagement Agreements to assist with costs disclosure obligations and the Law Society has delivered CPD seminars on topical Uniform Law matters, including the new regulatory framework, Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules, and contentious and non-contentious cost determinations.



*The Law Society Uniform Law online hub*

## 100 Years Celebration of Women in the Law:

2023 marks 100 Years milestone of when women won legislative change removing barriers to being admitted and to practise law in Western Australia. This significant milestone would not have been possible without the courageous work of pioneering women who have gone before including Edith Cowan, as Western Australia's first female parliamentarian who led this legislative change in 1923 .

The Law Society joined forces with Women Lawyers Western Australia to mark this milestone at the Long Table Lunch Live event to close Law Week. Welcoming over 250 of the legal community at Frasers State Reception Centre in Kaarta Koomba (Kings Park), the afternoon heard from some strong and insightful voices who shared their personal insights on what it is to be a woman in the law today.

We are grateful to these speakers in order of appearance, Meriel Steadman, Partner at Piper Alderman; Belinda Wong, Corporate Counsel at Laing O'Rourke; Sophie Coffin, Principal Associate to the Hon Chief Justice Peter Quinlan; Elspeth Hensler, Barrister,

Francis Burt Chambers; Her Honour Judge Kate Glancy, Deputy President, State Administrative Tribunal; Funmi Adesina, Principal Lawyer/ FDRP. Gosnells Community Legal Centre; and Her Honour Antoinette Kennedy AO. Each set a spirited tone for the afternoon with a diverse range of inspirational reflections on being women in the law.

## #100faces100years

As a means of celebrating the 100 years anniversary across the year, the Law Society also launched the #100faces100years project. The 100 years campaign aims to capture a visual snapshot of the many faces of women in the law today with over 100 photos received to date and counting, which will be used to launch photo gallery to promote the diversity and talent of women lawyers who have provided a voice and contributed to the legal profession.





*Pictured L-R: Her Honour Antoinette Kennedy AO, Elspeth Hensler, Belinda Wong, Funmi Adesina, Her Honour Judge Kate Glancy, Meriel Steadman, Sophie Coffin*

**100**  
**WA**YRS



## Law Week

Weeks that advocate and raise awareness are critical in educating our community on issues that affect society but which may not be in everyone's consciousness. Law Week 2023 presented by the Law Society is such a week. Taking place annually, it brings diverse voices together to share an understanding of how the law supports and intersects with a civil and just society. Branded Justice, Inclusion and Community, Law Week presented diverse events connecting participants to ideas and issues where greater engagement can make a difference to advocate for change. There were 20 events presented by the legal profession and the Law Society across the week.

Law Week opened with Book Club Forum, which was a powerful medium to igniting discussions, asking questions and looking at global trends in the law. The book *How Many More Women?* exposing how the law silences women, provided a compelling platform to bring together Western Australian lawyers with co-author and well-known human rights advocate Jennifer Robinson for a great discussion on issues highlighted in the book. This event was followed by the annual fundraising event Walk for Justice run by Law Access, the pro bono arm of the Law Society. This resulted in \$172,000 raised in total including support from corporate sponsorship and the McCusker Charitable Foundation for pro bono services to the community.

Adding to the conversation our Young Lawyers Committee struck a responsive chord with an enthusiastic audience with their Law Week panel *Multidimensional Discrimination in the Workplace: The question of intersectionality*. This forum created space for discussing the multifaceted nature of discrimination, how intersectionality impacts people differently and how it presents itself in the workplace. Topics included the importance of diverse voices, forms of discrimination that may be overt or discrete, as well as how

diversity brings a better representation to workplaces. The dynamic panel of speakers included Chair Milo Bronleigh – Member of the Young Lawyers Committee; Louise Holding – Head of the People (Social Impact) Portfolio, Minderoo Foundation; Felicia Chan – Projects, Energy Transition and Lawyer at Ashurst and Events Chair of the Asian Australian Lawyers Association; and Tom Durkin – Solicitor, Legal Aid Western Australia and LGBTIQ+ Advocate.

Law Week came to a grand finale with the Long Table Lunch Live on Friday 19, May. Presented in collaboration with Women Lawyers Western Australia to mark the 100 Years milestone of when women won legislative change removing barriers to being admitted and to practise law in Western Australia, this event honoured women in the profession, from those who pioneered the way, to those in law today.

From social, educational, and fundraising events to free legal assistance clinics and informative webinars, the legal profession provided a great festival of ideas and information from which to engage with each other and the community. Thank you to all the volunteers who generously gave their time to make this week a success and always



*Pictured L-R: Young Lawyer Committee members Milo Bronleigh and Aleksandra Miller; and panellists for the YLC Law Week Panel, Felicia Chan, Louise Holding and Tom Durkin*



## The Law Society's Flagship Journal: Brief



Published since 1974, Brief is the official journal of the Law Society and fulfills an important and public purpose. It informs members about the Law Society's activities, and functions and publishes articles of interest to all sectors of the Western Australian legal profession.

Six bi-monthly editions of Brief were published in the past financial year. Each edition was themed with a special feature, including:

- **August 2022:** Listening to First Nations Voices
- **October 2022:** Mind, Body & Environment in the Legal Profession – A Focus on Mental Health
- **December 2022:** The Gratitude Edition – Reflecting with Thanks and Gratitude on the Positive Contributions Made by Members of the Legal Profession
- **February 2023:** Stepping Up – Social Justice for All
- **April 2023:** Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Law (For this edition, Brief proudly

featured its first AI-generated cover.)

- **June 2023:** It's Time to Act on Climate Change

The Law Society is grateful to the Brief Editorial Committee for its significant input and work on each edition and would also like to thank all those who contributed submissions for publication.

## First Nations Action Plan

The Law Society's First Nations Action Plan sets out a strategy to achieve a profession where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law students, graduates and practitioners feel valued and respected. The Law Society promotes a community in which staff and members understand and show respect for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures through building relationships and laying the foundation for increased opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

During the reporting period the Law Society held a National Reconciliation Week breakfast and joined the virtual breakfast broadcast live from the WA Museum Boola Bardip. The breakfast was well attended by staff and Council members. The Law Society also continued its annual subscription for the Reconciliation Week Street flag displayed on St Georges Terrace during Reconciliation Week. A further initiative has been the permanent placement of the Acknowledgement of Country banner on the entrance doors to the Law Society office.



Law Society Council Members and staff gathered for National Reconciliation Week virtual breakfast.



## The Law Society in the Community

Being part of the community is an important element of the Law Society's work. It engages with community in several ways to provide support, education and access to justice.

The Law Society is present in the community through Law Access, the Public Purposes Trust Fund, the Mock Trial Competition, the Francis Burt Law Education Programme, the Old Court House Law Museum and through provision of high-demand information services such as Find a Lawyer services.

### Law Access Limited

In July 2022 the Law Society was pleased to enter a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with its wholly owned subsidiary Law Access Ltd (Law Access). This would see the Law Society continue to provide both financial and in-kind support to Law Access.

This on-going support helps Law Access, as the pro bono arm of the Law Society, continue its important role in providing pro bono clearing house services to the public. During 2022/23 the Law Society also donated \$40,000 to Law Access, in addition to providing key support services such as administration, accounts, financial reporting, payroll, advertising, marketing and insurance arrangements.

### Public Purposes Trust Fund

The Law Society of Western Australia is the trustee of the Law Society Public Purposes Trust Fund. The Trust's financial and administrative functions are undertaken by the Corporate Services team. This financial year \$2,500,000 was paid out in grants from the Trust as authorised by the Attorney General. In addition, grants totalling \$2,500,000 have also been approved for payment in the 2023/24 year.

Funding enables successful recipients to provide vital services to the community. An example of this year's grant recipients include The Pilbara Community Legal

Service Inc to provide legal services and legal education to the low income, low literacy and disadvantaged of the community in the Pilbara region; Southwest Community Legal Centre for an Outreach Program to rural and regional locations in the entire South West region which provides delivery of face to face legal advice and advice, and community legal education assistance sessions; and Welfare Rights & Advocacy Services for the provision of access to specialist welfare rights legal advice and assistance for those escaping family and domestic violence.

Note: The Law Society of Western Australia is the trustee of the Law Society Public Purposes Trust Fund. However, it does not decide which applicants are to receive funding. Applications are assessed through an independent three-stage process with the final decision being made by the Attorney-General.

## 2022/23 Mock Trial Competition

The 2023 Mock Trial Competition was a great success with 1,190 students in 116 teams from 57 schools participating. Thanks to our equity of access partnership with Francis Burt Chambers, 85 students in 8 teams from 5 schools benefited from the Student Access Program.

With some COVID restrictions still in place, two complete rounds of mock trials were held in the Supreme Court courtrooms. At the end of three rounds, the team at the top of the table was Aquinas Red and in second place, Duncraig Senior High School.

The 2023 Mock Trial Competition has been supported by over 100 lawyers from private and government legal practice who volunteered their time to act either as advocacy coaches, mock trial judges

or helped to prepare case materials. The Competition would not be possible without the support of the legal profession.



Pictured L-R: Alain Musikanth SC, Aquinas College students, Ante Golem

## Reviews and Ratings for the Mock Trial Competition

### Rating

**4.4**  
Average Rating



*Has had a positive impact on me (both academically and personally) – Student Rating*

**4.8**  
Average Rating



*The Mock Trial Competition creates an important and valuable link between the community, the courts and the legal profession – Teacher Rating*

**4.7**  
Average Rating



*Meeting students and facilitating their engagement with Western Australian courts and the legal profession has had a positive impact on me (both professionally and personally) – Volunteer Rating*

### Visitor Quotes

*"I think the competition is a great way for students who might want to study law to get a taste for what it's like, and encourage people to pursue this career, because they will be confident having had somewhat of an experience in court" (Student quote).*

*"Great fun and useful in helping my advocacy skills, and to appreciate what it is like to be a consumer of advocacy as judicial officers are. This has assisted my in making my submissions to judicial officers more persuasive and succinct" (Volunteer Lawyer).*

As part of the Law Society in the Community our Education and Community Services consist of the Francis Burt Law Education Programme (FBLEP), Cluedunnit Kids Competition and the Old Court House Law Museum (the Museum). The service attracted over 15,000 total participation in 2023.

## Francis Burt Law Education Programme

The first quarter of the reporting period saw the resumption of the FBLEP school and community group tours returning to normal and being able access to the Supreme, District and Magistrates Courts again post the COVID restrictions. Demand for the FBLEP tours and other programmes remained high with total FBLEP participation reaching 6,355. In 2023 94% of total groups visits were school groups.

Equity of access to community legal education is a key principle that underlies the FBLEP as evidenced by the Subsidised School Visits Programme (SSVP) with 68

students from 3 schools participating in tours thanks to our partnership with Curtin Law School. Demand for access to the SSVP is expected to increase in 2023/24.

## Cluedunnit Kids

This competition was a great success with 495 students at 31 metro and regional schools taking part. Year 6 and Year 5/6 student teams investigated a fictional criminal offence with the goal of identifying the prime suspect. A brief of evidence provided clues and students asked questions to get further evidence to identify the prime suspect and eliminate the other suspects. Each team created and submitted their findings in a creative way of their choosing.

The 2023 winning submission was Blood Moon Agents, Harrisdale Primary School. The 2023 runner-up submission was Sacred Heart Sleuths, Sacred Heart School – Mundaring. The 2023 Ambassador School Award Winner was St Anthony's School – Greenmount.



Cluedunnit Kids Judges (L to R): Sergeant Garry Corker, Claire Rossi, Paula Wilkinson, Professor Robert Cunningham, Judge Hylton Quail, Chief Magistrate Steven Heath and St Anthony's School – Greenmount students





*Pictured L-R: Natasha Fenner, Associate Professor Pamela Henry, Estelle Blackburn, Bret Christian, John Button, Jonathan Davies, Dr Clint Hampson, Christie Strauss*

## The Old Court House Law Museum

The Museum, situated in Stirling Gardens, is open to the public four days per week Tuesday to Friday. Free to enter, people can spend time exploring three galleries; The Judge's Chambers, Past to Present and People and the Law. The Museum has a collection of over 2,000 objects relating to the social, civic and legal history of the Old Court House and the law in Western Australia. This year visitation to the Museum was at an all-time high with 7,467 total visitors. April 2023 was the busiest month hosting 2,327 visitors across regular opening hours, the school holidays and three heritage festival open day weekends. 45% of Museum visitors were local with 29% and 26% coming from international and interstate respectively.

In November 2022, The Old Court House Law Museum hosted a sold-out panel discussion event, When Justice Goes Wrong: The Lived Experience of John Button. John and his daughter, Naomi Button, opened the evening with their reflections about the far-reaching and long-lasting impact that John's wrongful conviction had on their family. Panel members included investigative journalists Bret Christian OAM and Estelle Blackburn OAM, key figures in John Button's successful conviction appeal; Associate Professor Pamela Henry,

Criminology and Justice Postgraduate Coordinator at ECU; and Dr Clint Hampson, a specialised criminal defence lawyer and forensic scientist. Having the stage set by John and Naomi's discussions, criminal lawyer Jonathan Davies then hosted the expert panel in a fascinating and lively discussion around the many facets that can lead to a miscarriage of justice, as well as thoughts about potential change and the need to review how victims are compensated.

At the beginning of April 2023, the Museum opened an exciting new temporary exhibition, "Audrey Jacob: Trial by Public Perception". The exhibition explores the notorious trial of Audrey Jacob, the young woman who shot and killed her ex-fiancé on the dancefloor at a Government House charity ball in 1925. The exhibition compares newspaper reports and evidence from the trial with behind the scenes documents from the defence and prosecution case files. Audrey Jacob's trial has generated a mass of critical discourse around gender stereotypes and public perception; the exhibition explores how these factors may have influenced the trial outcome. The Audrey Jacob exhibition includes a short film, a new interactive museum flip book, documents from the Old Court House Law Museum Collection and chilling evidence from the trial on loan from the State Records Office.

I was about half an hour on the bed & sobber  
 I then decided to undress & go to bed  
 I partly undressed & then on opening  
 one of the drawers of my chest of  
 drawers, I happened to notice the  
 revolver  
 I picked it up & it seemed to fascinate  
 me







Audrey Jacob's diary entry, featured in the 'Audrey Jacob: Trial by Public Perception' exhibition at the Old Court House Law Museum



Pictured L-R: Dean Curtis, Olivier David and Mark Fatharly viewing the Audrey Jacob: Trial by Public Perception exhibit at the Old Court House Law Museum Fundraising Launch Event



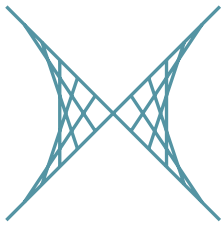
## Reviews and Ratings for the Old Court House Law Museum

Rating	Visitor Quotes
<p><b>4.8</b> Average Rating </p>  <p><i>The Museum provided me with new or different perspectives on Western Australia's legal and social history</i></p>	<p><i>"Learnt heaps. Very well presented. Impressed with the explanation of how Indigenous &amp; British Law differed - important to know how this led to grave injustices for the people who were here first. True history, but hopefully lessons for today can be learned".</i></p> <p><i>"Very few contemporary examples of early colonial settlement - it is our heritage and deserves protection in perpetuity".</i></p> <p><i>"Really important Museum in Perth. This place needs to be more widely known; it's a treasure!"</i></p>
<p><b>4.7</b> Average Rating </p>  <p><i>The Museum facilitates important conversations about past and contemporary justice and injustice in Western Australia</i></p>	
<p><b>4.5</b> Average Rating </p>  <p><i>The Museum encouraged me to consider the enduring impact of colonisation in Western Australia</i></p>	

## Find a Lawyer

Find a Lawyer is the Law Society's free online database comprised of Law Society members from throughout the state. The database enables the public to search for a lawyer by location and practice area. The public can also access the database by calling the Law Society where they are helped with their search and provided with the names of lawyers the search provides. The database's search results are randomly selected based on the criteria provided and is an efficient way for the public to access information easily and quickly. This year over 22,000 members of the public were helped with a referral through our Find a Lawyer Service.





# Vital Support

## Providing Information, Professional Development and Professional Support Services

The Law Society supports members by delivering targeted, relevant and highly valued information, aimed at supporting their careers, expertise and businesses.

### Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Law Society's focus remains on providing an outstanding educational experience tailored to the needs of local practitioners. CPD seminars attracted record numbers of attendees due to seminars being presented concurrently in person and online.

The Programme consisted of 99 events in which 690 people attended in person and 9,911 attended virtually.

The CPD Online platform launched in 2021 delivers on demand professional development content with a focus on increased availability of flexible options and ease of use. The platform consists of 47 courses, spanning the four Competencies.

Seminars of note this year include: **50 Shades of Meaning:** Legislative Drafting and Statutory Interpretation (February 2023); **Advanced Evidence and Proof:** An Overview (March 2023); **Australian Solicitors' Conduct Rules** – What You Need to Know (Part 2) (February 2023); **Social Media and the Law** (March 2023); **The New Advance Health Directive Form:** What You Need to Know (August 2022); Uniform Law: What You Need to Know About the New Regulatory Framework (July 2022); and Lawyer X: Lessons for Every Practitioner (September 2022). With stand-out speakers addressing current and topical issues, a high number of CPD seminars experienced record attendance of over 200 attendees.



*A View from the Bench Seminar, pictured L-R: Magistrate Andrew Maughan, Registrar Danielle Davies, Her Honour Judge Belinda Lonsdale, His Honour Judge Henry Jackson SC, The Hon Justice Craig Colvin*

## Elevate your membership with **CPD Freedom**



### CPD Freedom – a highly valuable Membership benefit

Again this year, Members who renewed before 31 July received CPD Freedom subscription free of charge. This financial year saw a record number of 3,662 CPD Freedom members. This subscription offered Members unlimited access to CPD seminars across multiple platforms and gives members the freedom to undertake as much learning as they desire, at no extra cost\*. Members who joined after 31 July had access to CPD Freedom at a small annual cost which provided the same benefits, representing high value for money for individual members and those seeking CPD with the Law Society.

CPD Freedom is one of the Law Society's most valuable benefits for members and organisations. This year the Society welcomed new members from the State Solicitors Office (SSO). This resulted in the SSO becoming the organisation holding the biggest membership cohort with the Law Society.

The benefits of CPD Freedom for these Government lawyers included the flexibility to attain their professional development through channels that suit their personal preference i.e., face-to-face, live on line or on-demand virtual learning. In the first year of membership, there was a very positive take-up of our CPD Programme by SSO practitioners and their engagement will assist the Law Society in continuing to grow its CPD offering for government lawyers.

(\*Terms & Conditions applied to this offer.)

### Fair, Safe and Inclusive Legal Workplaces | Guidelines for the Employment of Law Clerks, Graduates and Lawyers

In September 2022, the Law Society of Western Australia's Young Lawyers Committee (YLC) launched a valuable resource for the legal profession titled Fair Safe and Inclusive Legal Workplaces: Guidelines for the employment of clerks, graduates and lawyers (Guidelines). These Guidelines directed towards legal practices were drafted with the aim of promoting fair access to employment in the legal profession and to support the health and wellbeing of legal practitioners and other employees engaged in the legal profession.

The Guidelines are voluntary and serve as a resource to assist the legal profession to self-regulate on issues affecting law clerks, graduates and lawyers. They further the work already undertaken by the Law Society in the areas of addressing sexual harassment and informing junior members of the profession about their employment rights and entitlements.







*The Law Society's Young Lawyer Committee at the YLC Black Tie Ball*

## Young Lawyers Committee wins the 2022 LCA award for Australian Young Lawyer Organisation of the Year

At the National Golden Gavel and Australian Young Lawyer Awards held in the ACT on 18 October 2022, the YLC was awarded the 2022 Australian Young Lawyer Organisation Award. Presented by the Law Council of Australia for the Society's work supporting early-career legal professionals, YLC Chair, Demi Swain, was proud to accept the award on behalf of the YLC and the Law Society. The YLC felt honoured and grateful to be recognised for the work they have undertaken to support young lawyers, students and graduates. The Committee will continue to create helpful resources and guides and advocate in this space.

## Professional Standards Scheme

During 2022/23 the Law Society submitted the first Annual Professional Standards Report (APSR) to highlight key initiatives

being undertaken to minimise professional liability risk and increase consumer protection. The new APSR format was developed by the Professional Standards Councils (PSC) to replace the Professional Standards Improvement Program which was submitted annually.

With the Law Society's current Professional Standards Scheme (the Scheme) concluding on 30 June 2024, significant work has been undertaken on completing the Scheme Application Framework for submission to the PSC in sufficient time to allow for a review of the application, as well as the public consultation period before the commencement of the new Scheme on 1 July 2024. The Law Society has worked closely with the PSC during this time.

The Scheme closed the year with 2,288 participants as at 30 June 2023 with 95 new participants joining during the year.



## Client Engagement Agreements

Legal Profession Uniform Law stipulates compliance with costs disclosure obligations. To assist legal practitioners, the Law Society and Law Mutual (WA) drafted generic templates for Client Engagement Agreements, in the form of client engagement letters, for litigated and transactional matters. These represent good practice management and should also comply with costs disclosure obligations.

The June edition of Brief included a special feature on Legal Profession Uniform Law, providing comprehensive information about the new regulatory framework.

## Search Inside Yourself Leadership Course July 2022

In the interests of assisting lawyers to have increased access to mental health and wellbeing tools and support, the Law Society ran an interactive two-day training session originally developed at Google. Search Inside Yourself Leadership Course was hosted at the College of Law and run by Certified Trainer, Cathryn Urquhart. An engaged

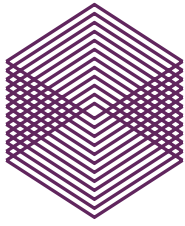
group of attendees immersed themselves in the opportunity to reflect, learn mindfulness practices and grow in greater self-awareness. The course demonstrated how to apply various tools in stressful situations as a means of building confidence and resilience.

## Inter-Profession Sundowner Helping Young Professionals to Connect and Stay Connected

The opportunity to make new connections and catch up with colleagues in person has never been so valuable. The YLC organised an opportunity for a dynamic group of young lawyers and young professionals came together on Thursday, 23 February to kick off the first networking event for 2023, the YLC Inter-Profession Sundowner. This sold-out event was held in an inviting space upstairs at Market Grounds and was a big hit for over 100 young professionals who had the opportunity to network within and outside their profession with like-minded people. Partnering bodies included Perth Young Professionals (PerthYP), CPA Australia, RSM Australia, Young Quantity Surveyors and Lighthouse Club Western Australia.



Attendees of the YLC Inter-Profession Networking Sundowner



# Supported Future

## Helping Equip the Profession with the Tools to Succeed

The Law Society maintains a forward-thinking approach to develop programmes and services that keep the profession abreast of change to pursue a sustainable future.

### Quality Practice Standard

The Law Society's Quality Practice Standard (QPS) certification reflects excellence in legal practice management. QPS recognises firms that have developed and adhere to documented internal processes designed to provide a consistent approach to management and to improve client satisfaction.

QPS accredited firms are audited each year to ensure they comply with standards which go above the minimum requirements set out by legislation. Firms complying with QPS have the added benefit of being able to use the QPS logo and branding on their marketing material to promote their excellence in practice management.

The QPS has been updated to align with the new Uniform Law Scheme and the assessment of audits against the new QPS have commenced. 43 firms are currently accredited through QPS.

### Accreditation

The Law Society offers specialist accreditation in Family Law. The Family Law Specialist Accreditation Programme is conducted on a national basis and provides family law practitioners with the opportunity to be formally recognised throughout Australia as having a high level of competency in their field. Accredited

Specialists have the added benefit of being able to use the Family Accredited Specialist logo and branding on their marketing material to promote their high standing in the area.

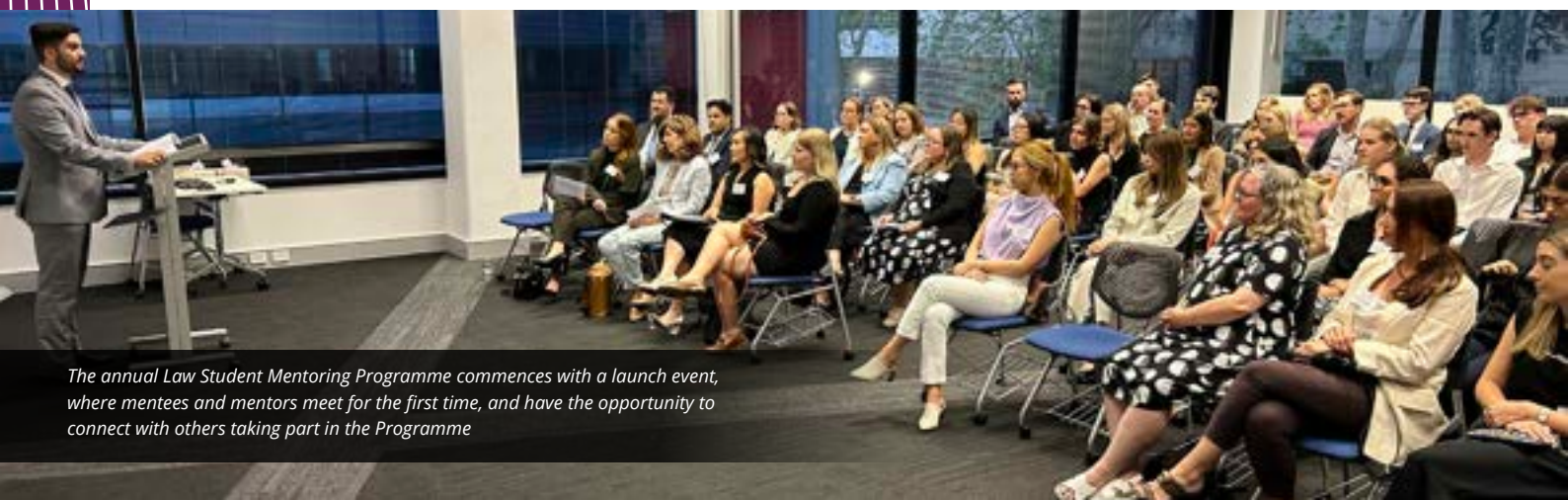
The Law Society conducted the Family Law Specialist Accreditation Programme which comprises of 3 parts: a mock file, a written examination, and a simulated client interview.

This attracted nineteen candidates of which fifteen currently remain subject to the programme which will conclude on 30 August 2023. The next exam is scheduled for 2025. There are currently 55 Family Law accredited specialists in Western Australia.

### Offering Support and Sharing Knowledge Through the Power of Mentoring

Mentorship can be powerful and the Law Society understands the value of facilitating both mentor and mentee opportunities for the legal profession. To provide the right mentorship, the Law Society has developed three targeted mentoring programmes:

- Law Student Mentoring Programme;
- Practitioner Mentoring Programme; and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Law Students' Programme.



*The annual Law Student Mentoring Programme commences with a launch event, where mentees and mentors meet for the first time, and have the opportunity to connect with others taking part in the Programme*



The Annual Law Student Mentoring Programme pairs emerging practitioners with current law students to provide guidance and support for students' transition to law graduate and then to lawyer. Students have the valuable opportunity to gain insight into the profession, seek advice, gain new skills and support during their studies and as they prepare to graduate. It is not only designed to assist law students with the graduate application process, but it also provides law students with meaningful insights into legal practice and the various options open to them after completion of their degree. This year's programme had the highest number of law student applications resulting in 74 pairings of student mentees with junior practitioner mentors. Once again, the Programme was run in partnership with the law schools of Curtin University, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, the University of Notre Dame Australia and The University of Western Australia.

The success of the Law Student Mentoring Programme relies on the investment of the Young Lawyers Committee in matching the mentor-mentee pairings, so that mentors and mentees are not only matched on areas of law, but also personal interests such as hobbies.

The Mentoring Programme for Practitioners is available to practitioners of all levels of practice post admission. This programme runs from May to February each year and utilises the services of an independent coordinator with a background in training, facilitation, mentoring and coaching. The coordinator runs the annual introductory sessions for new mentors and mentees and keeps in touch with them throughout the programme. With busy workloads and often competitive and pressured environments, the opportunity for lawyers of all levels to take time out with a mentor for one to two hours every four to six weeks is invaluable.

Time to engage in confidential conversations, receive advice from someone who understands the environment and perhaps have introductions to other networks are some of the benefits of being in a mentor/mentee relationship. This year, 10 mentees participated in the programme.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Law Students' Programme is a bespoke mentoring programme open to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander law students in any year of their study of law. Students can apply to the Law Society where they are matched with a suitable mentor.







## Attendance at University Career Fairs

The YLC and Law Society Staff attended two careers expos for university law students which provided a unique opportunity to interact directly with Juris Doctor and pre-law students in a casual networking environment.

The Beyond Commercial Law Careers Fair held on 13 September 2023 at the University of Western Australia's Winthrop Hall was a wonderful opportunity to engage with students who were interested in alternatives to the large commercial law firms with structured recruitment and clerkship programs. Students enjoyed hearing about the variety of employers and diverse opportunities in the legal profession from our young lawyers.

The Perth Law Careers Fair 2023 held on 14 April 2023 at Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre provided another opportunity to connect with law students and the next generation of lawyers and Law Society members. This well organised and well attended expo provided the Law Society an opportunity to promote the benefits of membership to interested students with members of the YLC speaking to attendees about the work of the Committee and important initiatives being undertaken.

## Careers Uncut

The popular Careers Uncut was hosted by the YLC at the heritage Melbourne Hotel in the heart of Perth City on 2 November 2022. This important event showcases the many diverse pathways in the law and showcases opportunities outside of the traditional commercial law and clerkship trajectory. An engaged group of keen law students, young lawyers, graduates, and others from the legal progression were inspired by the diversity and individuality of this year's speakers. Speakers provided very engaging insights reinforced by personal stories and words of career advice. Key themes included being brave and finding your unique passions to guide your journey; and the path may not always be conventional but sometimes taking 'the scenic route' will take you exactly to where you need to be.



*Careers Uncut presenters, pictured L-R: Alexander Gibson, Jamie Davidson, Daniel Sutherland, Tom Pontré, Thomas Coltrona, Catherine Fletcher, Emily Purvis, Jasmine Sims*



*Representatives from the Law Society's Young Lawyers Committee attending a High School Careers Expo*

## Young Lawyers Committee Connect with Students at High School Careers Expos

With community outreach in mind, the YLC participated in three valuable High School Career Expos to engage with keen future members of the legal profession. Eager students and parents took the opportunity to hear first-hand what the different career pathways are in the law and what life is like as a lawyer. It was a rewarding experience for the YLC who had the pleasure to meet the enthusiastic students, staff and volunteers from the various schools.

Schools attended were the Hale School Expo in July 2022, St Mark's Anglican Community School & Sacred Heart Catholic College Combined Careers Expo in May 2023 and St Stephen's School Careers Expo on 17 May 2023.

## Practical Advocacy Weekend - Simulated Training in Real Courtrooms

Practical Advocacy Weekend is the Law Society's leading annual professional development event which provides

attendees with the unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience by performing as an advocate in an actual courtroom environment supported by Western Australia's leading barristers and judicial officers. In late October 2022, a group of future advocates immersed themselves in this weekend. It commenced with voice and performance coaching sessions before participants broke up into their allocated court rooms to present a civil injunction application, examination, cross-examinations and closing address for a mock murder trial. The aim of the Practical Advocacy Weekend is to provide participants with an opportunity to improve their advocacy skills in a non-threatening environment. The workshop method is intended to let participants set their own goals with each exercise, with coaches providing constructive criticism to develop their skills.

Held at the Children's Court of Western Australia, this bespoke intensive course provided 19 legal practitioners with immersive practice, learning from the best and observing peers within small groups. Students were in the capable hands of 12 highly respected coaches for two days of intensive hands-on training.





# Forward Thinking

## An engaged, sustainable, and contemporary organisation

This year the organisation undertook several initiatives to ensure it is planning and utilising the right tools and technology to assist the Law Society to keep up with contemporary practices, all which are reflected in its Strategic Plan.

### New Strategic Plan for the Law Society

In late 2022 the Law Society contracted external Marketing Agency 3BY2 to undertake discovery for the development of the organisation's new Strategic Plan for 2023-26, having previously completed a Brand, Marketing and Communications Roadmap for the Law Society. They undertook to align the Strategic Plan with key indicators of success and methods of measuring these. This was to ensure they are genuine and provide true insight into the Law Society's objectives around membership size, growth, churn and satisfaction and ensure engagement in the process with the Law Society's Council, Executive and Senior Management Group.

The result was a new 2023-2026 Strategic Plan which retains the current vision as "the essential membership for the legal profession" and the purpose as "the voice of the legal profession in Western Australia".

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, with a mission statement To deliver strong advocacy, high-value networking, education and support services for the West Australian legal profession, will deliver through the achievement of the following three (3) new strategic imperatives:

- To be an influential voice, enabling members and community to stay informed and represented;
- To be an essential support to legal professionals, empowering them to do their best work;
- To be a central point for connections across the profession, industry and community.

In addition, the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan is

one that:

- Reflects key stakeholders' needs and expectations;
- Provides a clear focus and direction for the future; and
- Aligns to the "Brand Pillars" in the Brand, Marketing and Communications strategy being:
  - **Supporting members** and legal professionals to stay informed and educated.
  - **Connecting members** and legal professionals with their industry peers.
  - **Empowering members** and legal professionals to do their best work.
  - **Equipping members** and legal professionals with the tools to succeed.







## New Website Project

Post a request for proposal process the Law Society contracted the preferred provider to embark on planning and building a brand new website. The aim of this new website was to enhance navigation, improve customer engagement, and provide a seamless ecommerce service for the profession. A considerable amount of time was allocated towards discovery in order to allow the Law Society to truly reflect on the requirements of its broad audience groups, as well as focusing on functionality and the development of best-practice and accessible user experience (UX) to encourage valuable interactions with the Law Society and services provided on the site. The project is due to be completed next financial year 2023/24.

## Information Technology

The Law Society is committed to using technology for the development,



implementation, and enhancement of our services and has invested in the following projects in 2022/23.

**1. Infrastructure Upgrade:** An extensive modernisation project was undertaken in relation to our on-premises footprint, as

well as a migration to SD-WAN for internet services, allowing for full site survivability in the event of disruption to an internet service.

### 2. Financial Management System

**Upgrade:** The latest version of the financial management system was installed to provide additional functionality and improve processes. A business intelligence and data warehouse tool was introduced to provide financial dashboards, insights and reporting.

### 3. Enhanced Audio-Visual Equipment:

With the increased use of virtual and hybrid meetings, the Law Society upgraded the Judy Eckert meeting room to include a permanent audio-visual setup.

### 4. Customer Relationship Management

**Systems (CRM) Discovery:** With the current CRM approaching end-of-life, the Law Society undertook a discovery process to explore the current use and desired functionality for a new CRM. This included a market review of potential systems; and their capacity to meet key requirements and cost.



## Cyber Security Strategy

The Law Society continues to implement the Cyber Security Strategy 2022-24 to improve our approach to cyber security governance and ensure IT systems and infrastructure remain resilient in the face of increasing cyber-attacks. The following cyber security projects were undertaken in 2022/23:

### 1. Security Awareness Training and

**Education:** An online training platform was deployed to conduct security awareness training with all Law Society staff to improve cyber capability.

This includes quarterly phishing campaigns, online videos and training modules, as well as knowledge assessment and tracking of results.

**2. Multi-factor Authentication:** MFA was enabled for external access, to ensure that any Law Society staff member accessing internal resources had been appropriately verified and authorised.

**3. Risk Management Framework:** The Law Society's Risk Management Framework was updated to include Cyber Risk. This resulted in the record deletion project detailed below.

**4. Home Address Deletion:** The Law Society deleted the home addresses stored in the CRM for all individual members and non-members to reduce the risk associated with a cyber-attack if the CRM is compromised.

The Law Society is now conducting regular ongoing vulnerability assessment across its digital footprint and working with its partner to address items quickly and efficiently.



## Social Impact and Cost Benefits Analysis Initiative

The Law Society's Education and Community Services worked with Impact Seed from April 2022 – July 2023 to improve the management and communication of its social impact data with a particular focus on the Old Court House Law Museum and the Francis Burt Law Education Programme. This project had the following key focus areas:

- Mapping and communicating Education and Community Services outcomes – taking the Education and Community Services Program Logic and mapping it

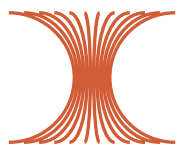
to outcome areas in other relevant local, national and international frameworks.

- Revising current measurement tools, upgrading and translating that practice into a Power BI platform.
- Research on potential funders and what specific social impact data and information is important to those funders, in order to support the fundraising effort of the Museum.
- Cost benefit analysis for the Museum and the Francis Burt Law Education Programme.



## New Working Arrangements and Conditions

The COVID Pandemic period was a catalyst for a significant shift to working arrangements and the possibilities technology could provide. The Law Society was in a strong position to introduce flexible working arrangements during COVID and this year has introduced hybrid working arrangements to create a more agile and responsive workplace for the future. With the use of essential infrastructure such as MS 360, telecommunication networks, the CPD Online platform and webinar technology, the Law Society continues to deliver services that meet the needs of members in a seamless and efficient manner. In addition, new working arrangements have placed the Law Society in a strong position to attract diverse talent and to continue being a workplace of choice.



# Connecting as a Community

## Opportunities That Connect and Forge Lasting Relationships

The Law Society brings people together through a range of engaging fora to connect and support the legal profession.

### Social Occasions That Connect and Forge Lasting Relationships

Building networks helps boost social wellbeing and professional confidence. Yet again the Law Society provided valuable opportunities for members and the wider profession to connect at a range of diverse Society events which were well attended and positively received.

### Social Justice Career Opportunities Evenings

The Law Society's Young Lawyers Committee held two careers events which shone a spotlight on diverse career and volunteering opportunities that exist in the social justice and human rights space. Held on 28 July 2022 and 1 June 2023 at the College of Law, these popular information and networking events were a big hit with an enthusiastic audience of students, graduates, young lawyers and those wishing to find out more about this area of law.

A range of passionate speakers spoke from the heart in sharing their personal experiences about how they are making a difference in their respective practice areas focusing on social justice. Overwhelmingly, the theme repeated throughout all presentations was ensuring justice is accessible for everyone and removing potential barriers to justice. Guests were also encouraged to consider the many rewarding ways they could give back to community via pro-bono and volunteering opportunities, and not being scared to take alternative pathways to follow your dreams.

### Golden Gavel Competition

Over 300 young lawyers celebrated a night of great fun, food and quick wit for the very popular Golden Gavel Competition brought back by the YLC to the glamorous Ritz-Carlton Perth in August 2022. Congratulations to this year's winner, Calvin Rokich from Herbert Smith Freehills who entertained the sold-out crowd and was ultimately crowned the 2022 winner for his highly entertaining speech on the topic "Boomer Law vs Zoomer Law". The night was adjudicated by a panel of eminent judges, including Law Society President Rebecca Lee, the Hon Peter Quinlan, Chief Justice of Western Australia, and Simon Freitag SC.



*Izzy Wilson, Master of Ceremonies for the 2022 Golden Gavel Competition*





*The 2022 Golden Gavel finalists and judging panel pictured L-R: Isabella Bynevelt, Rebecca Lee, The Hon Peter Quinlan, Calvin Rokich, Zachary Heim, Aarahnan Raguragavan and Simon Freitag SC.*

## FQ Forum – Considering the value of financial intelligence or quotient?

August's forum titled How Developed is Your Financial Intelligence or Quotient (FQ) raised awareness about the importance of FQ. Guest speakers provided a very engaging evening, presenting various aspects of how people think of money, are emotionally engaged with money and how this affects their financial wellbeing. Presenters included Grace Mugabe, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Financially Empowered; Ross Hickman, Strategic Client Partnership Manager, Life & Investments, Zurich Financial Services Australia; Ruth Livingstone, Special Counsel - Commercial & Succession Planning, Cullen Macleod Lawyers; Matthew Reece, Private Wealth Adviser, Entrust Wealth Management and Sue-Ellen Soulie, Client Service Manager, legalsuper. Post event refreshments were held giving the audience further opportunities to speak directly to presenters and to continue discussion on this fascinating topic.

## Gala Dinner and Awards Night – Annual Awards Celebration for the Legal Profession

This new event format combining the Law Society Annual Lawyer of the Year Awards

and the Attorney General's Community Service Law Awards, was held for the first time in September. This gala night welcomed over 370 members of the legal community gathered at Crown Towers Perth, to celebrate, socialise and hear the much-anticipated announcement of award winners. It was a sophisticated night that celebrated, inspired and delivered entertainment, fine dining, collegiality and fun.

Congratulations to Funmi Adesina, Gosnells Community Legal Centre, the winner of the Law Society's Lawyer of the Year Award 2022 and to Monica Vu, MDC Legal, winner of the Law Society's Emerging Lawyer of the Year Award 2022. The night highlighted and celebrated the valuable work being carried out by so many in the legal profession and provided an opportunity to connect with colleagues and meet new people. Feedback about the new event format was overwhelmingly positive with guests enjoying a wonderful night celebrating their peers and leaders in the profession. As a result of positive feedback, the celebratory gala awards night will now be an annual event on the Law Society calendar.





2022 Lawyer of the Year, Funmi Adesina; 2022 Law Society President, Rebecca Lee; 2022 Emerging Lawyer of the Year, Monica Vu



Guests enjoying the 2022 Gala Dinner and Awards Night – Annual Celebration for the Legal Profession





*Clayton Utz's winning team at the 2022 Mixed Netball Tournament*

## Biggest Mixed Netball Tournament Yet

The YLC Netball Tournament is one of the most popular young lawyer events of the year and 2022 was no exception. Held in November at Gold Netball Centre in Jolimont, young lawyers left their offices in the city behind to gather for a night of friendly

competition and connection at this impressive sporting facility. An outstanding 16 teams and over 160 players battled it out over both indoor and outdoor courts. It was a fierce competition and the final between Allens and Clayton Utz drew an enthusiastic crowd for an intense match. For the fifth year straight, Clayton Utz took home the trophy. The evening was fun and fast-paced with five rounds being played over eight courts at once. Following on from a very busy night of playing, the participants enjoyed wood fired pizza from our favourite supplier Pizza Panache.

## Young Lawyers Wind Down with an End of Year Sundowner

Canton Hall provided the perfect vibe for young lawyers to wind down from a busy year. Held in early December over 70 young lawyers, students and members gathered to celebrate a successful year with delicious canapés, good vibes, conversation and a few laughs. The event highlighted the importance of connecting with others and sharing stories and shared experiences.



*Guests at the End of Year Celebration pictured L-R: The Hon Rene Le Miere, Maryann McKenna, Tom Camp*





*Cuban quartet, De Cuba Son, delivering Afro-Cuban rhythms at the End of Year Celebration*

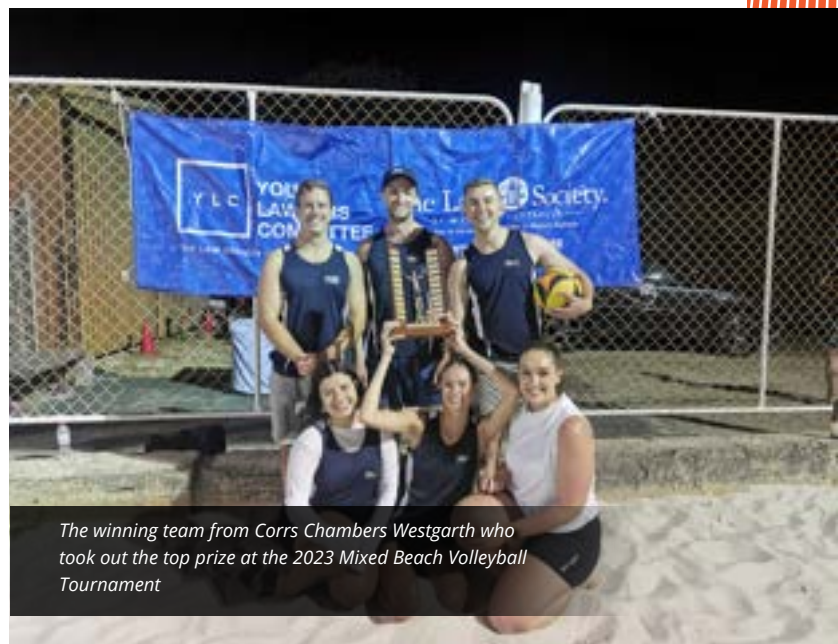
## End of Year Celebration

The Law Society's last big social gathering for 2022 was held at ANZAC House in early December. With amazing views of Government House gardens and the Swan River, over 200 guests from the legal profession helped create the perfect atmosphere to get into the festive spirit. Guests enjoyed fabulous canapés, refreshments and Afro-Cuban rhythms of popular Perth Cuban quartet De Cuba Son. The night also saw the recognition of practitioners of 50 and 60 years of service with certificates presented by the Legal Practice Board of Western Australia. The vibrant evening was the perfect end to bid farewell to a busy and successful year for a large cross-section of the legal profession including members of the judiciary, members and non-members from a range of law firms and organisations.

## Mixed Beach Volleyball Tournament Still a Favourite

It was another great social event for the YLC on Friday, 17 March 2023 at Sand Sports Australia in Nedlands. This annual competition brought 11 eager teams together on the sand to battle it out for a winning place on the coveted trophy. After four fast-paced

rounds and a cool breeze keeping players on their toes, Corrs Chambers Westgarth and Allen & Overy faced off in the exciting grand finale. Corrs Chambers Westgarth emerged victorious to take home the important win. This popular event was a resounding success with a fun sporting atmosphere suitable for players of all abilities, and a special mention to Bennett and MinterEllison who made it to the semi-finals.



*The winning team from Corrs Chambers Westgarth who took out the top prize at the 2023 Mixed Beach Volleyball Tournament*





Attendees at the 2023 Welcome to the Profession Breakfast



Pictured L-R: The Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM, Catherine Stokes, Ante Golem, Demi Swain, Matthew McGuire



## Welcome to the Profession Breakfast for our Newest Lawyers

The Law Society understands that joining the profession after years of intense study is a very special moment for new lawyers. In April 2023 the YLC attracted over 220 guests to the Westin Hotel for Welcome to the Profession Breakfast to welcome our newest members and to show support for their journey ahead. This new cohort were treated to an address by The Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM, President of the Mental Health Tribunal who offered some inspiring and valuable advice including the importance of finding a community and preferably a diverse community, and as lawyers we all have a platform, pointing out that minorities within minority groups need their voices amplified by those of us with a platform. A standout piece of advice struck a chord with the engaged audience – ‘Remember not to take yourself too seriously in an industry that is very serious, deals with lots of weighty issues and exposes us to vicarious trauma every day.’ The event was well received and created a great sense of community and joy as our newest lawyers embark on their careers.

## Old Court House Law Museum: Launch as a Charitable Entity

The oldest building in Perth, which houses the Old Court House Law Museum, came alive on 17 May 2023 with VIP guests and dear friends to launch its new status as a charitable entity. This 1836 building, located on Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar, is a clear manifestation of the doctrine of terra nullius upon which the colony was founded. Situated within the building that first amalgamated the colony's judicial system, the Old Court House Law Museum is uniquely positioned to interrogate Western Australia's legal and social history and to engage with the Western Australian legal profession and courts to reflect on the rule of law in Western Australia, past and present.

The evening launched the Museum's fundraising campaign and set the vision for taking the Museum from a hidden gem to a must-see Western Australian cultural heritage site. It presented its three key fundraising goals and set out our vision for expanding accessibility and digitising the Museum collection. The evening hosted by the Museum's Foundation Committee was a great success.



*The Old Court House Law Museum curator, Megan Shaw, walking guests through the exhibits at the Museum's Fundraising Launch Evening.*



Thank you to all the generous donors on the night who kickstarted the fundraising campaign with over \$41,000 raised this financial year.

In addition to raising funds through private donation, the Museum was excited to receive news of a very generous donation of \$100,000 from the Wright Burt Foundation to focus on the conservation and digitisation of the Burt Family Collection which forms one of the most valuable elements of the Museum's collection which consisting of over 2,000 objects.

We are grateful to the founding members of the Old Court House Law Museum Foundation Committee who act in a private capacity as advocates and champions for the Museum:

- Sandy Anghie
- Dr Toni Church
- Catherine Fletcher
- Ante Golem
- The Hon Lindy Jenkins
- The Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM

## A Focus on Country Practitioners

This annual CPD Day for Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR) Legal Practitioners, at the close of Law Week in May 2023, provided an important opportunity for RRR practitioners, often isolated by distance, to come together to engage with colleagues and share experiences and support.

The programme consisted of a variety of informative and interesting seminars. The day commenced with a keynote presentation on the Digital Treechange Initiative. The seminars ranged from procedural and practical guidance, and advocacy and skills in the areas of family and domestic violence and criminal law; to the advisory practice of immigration law and the process for migrants wishing to work in the regions; and the vitally important implementation of technology for the eCourts Portal as well as addressing cyber threats and risks within practice management wherever the location. The programme concluded with 'A View from the Bench'.



*Pictured L-R: The Old Court House Law Museum Foundation Committee, Sandy Anghie, Dr Toni Church, The Hon Lindy Jenkins, The Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM, Catherine Fletcher, Ante Golem; and Matthew McGuire*

All presenters gave generously of their time to impart valuable, timely and excellent presentations to support our country members.

## Making connections through Committee work

Being on a Law Society Committee provides an opportunity for practitioners to develop networks within their area of practice, learn from more senior practitioners and connect with activities outside of the workplace. With over 25 Committees, an opportunity to be involved in a committee opens the door to influencing law reform and policy development as well as an opportunity to learn about the area of law you practise.

## Past Presidents Sundowner Event

A special function was held in June 2023 to recognise the achievements of past presidents of the Law Society after an absence of this event due to COVID disruption. Past presidents recognised were:

- Greg McIntyre SC;
- Nicholas van Hattem;
- Jocelyne Boujos and;
- the Immediate Past President (2022), Rebecca Lee

It was uplifting to recognise and thank our past presidents on behalf of the Western Australian legal profession for their valued and important work during their tenure as President of the Law Society.



Past and current president of the Law Society at the Past Presidents Sundowner, pictured L-R: Nicholas Van Hattem, Ante Golem, Greg McIntyre SC, Jocelyne Boujos and Rebecca Lee



# Thank You!

We couldn't do the important work we do supporting the legal profession without the support of our wonderful sponsors, advertisers and partner organisations. You are all important.

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Bennett

Cancer Council Western Australia

Cat Haven

Child Cancer Research Foundation

Criminal Lawyers Association of Western Australia

Curtin University School of Law

Department of Justice

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Dog's Refuge Home

Francis Burt Chambers

Glen McLeod Legal

Hall & Wilcox

Herbert Smith Freehills

Initiative Media

Jackson McDonald

Leap Legal Software

legalsuper

Legal Funding Australia

Legal Home Loans

Legal Practice Board of Western Australia

Leo Cussen Centre for Law

Lotterywest

McKenna & Associates Legal Recruitment

MDC Legal

MinterEllison

Notre Dame University

Pragma Legal

Public Purposes Trust

RSM Australia

Shearn HR Legal

Notre Dame University

Pragma Legal

The College of Law

UWA Law School

Workhorse Advertising





# Thank You from the Old Court House Law Museum

Thank you to our generous donors who helped kickstart the fundraising campaign with over \$91,000 raised this financial year.

Donations to the Museum are tax-deductable and enable the Museum to realise its goals. Any donation, large or small, helps to improve accessibility to the Old Court House Law Museum and its collection.

## 2022/23 Founding Donors

### Foundation Donors

Wright Burt Foundation

### Law Firm Donors

Herbert Smith Freehills

### Individuals:

#### Founding Champions:

- Sandy Anghie
- Ante Golem
- The Hon Dr Andrew Lu AM

#### Founding Donors:

- Henry Boston OAM
- Peter Brindal
- Tony Chong
- Professor Brett Davies
- Danielle Davies

- Olivier David and Dr Bennie Ng
  - Karen Farley SC
  - Catherine Fletcher
  - The Hon Nicholas Hasluck AM
  - Stephen Josland
  - Pino and Christine Monaco
  - Dr Narrelle Morris
  - Jodie Moffat
  - Gavin Ryan
  - Carolyn Thatcher SC
  - Benn Wallace
  - Aine Whelan
  - Anonymous x 2
- 



# Corporate Governance



## General Meeting

A general meeting was held on Thursday, 14 July 2022 – the purpose was to review the size of the Council.

## Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 15 November 2022.

## Councillor Meeting Attendance

1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022

Member	Council (Total 4)	Trustee of Law Mutual Fund (Total 3)	Trustee of the Public Purposes Trust (Total 3)	Trustee for the Old Court House Law Museum Trust (Total 2)	Trustee of the Chief Justice's Law Week Youth Appeal Trust (Total 3)
Rebecca Lee	4	3	3	2	3
Ante Golem	1	1	1	1	1
Paula Wilkinson	3	2	2	1	2
Jocelyne Boujos	2	2	2	1	1
Ben Bullock	3	3	3	2	2
Rebecca Bunney (Resigned October 2022)	2	2	2	2	1
Dr Brett Davies	4	3	3	2	3
Angie Gimisis	3	2	2	1	2
June Kenny	3	2	2	1	2
Gary Mack	3	2	2	2	2
Judy McLean	2	2	2	2	1
Terry Palmer SC	1	0	0	0	1
Kellie Woods	3	2	2	1	2
Michael Ryan	1	1	1	1	1
Thomas Camp	4	3	3	2	3
Selina Gates	3	2	2	2	2
Hamish Glennister	3	3	3	2	2

# Councillor Meeting Attendance

1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023

Member	Council (Total 4)	Trustee of Law Mutual Fund (Total 4)	Trustee of the Public Purposes Trust (Total 3)	Trustee for the Old Court House Law Museum Trust (Total 1)
Ante Golem	4	4	3	1
Paula Wilkinson	3	3	2	0
Gary Mack	4	4	3	1
Rebecca Lee	3	3	2	1
Ben Bullock	3	3	2	1
Thomas Camp	4	4	3	1
Dr Brett Davies	3	3	2	0
Angie Gimisis	4	4	3	1
June Kenny	3	3	2	1
Judy McLean	4	4	3	1
Kim Morrison	3	3	2	0
Terry Palmer SC	3	3	3	1
Kellie Woods	4	4	3	1
Michael Ryan	2	3	2	1
Daniel Dyer-Smith	2	2	2	0
Tyler Greatrex	3	3	3	1
Robert Jamieson (Resigned April 2023)	0	0	0	0
Demi Swain (from June 2023)	0	0	0	0

## Constitution: Rule 57

There is an Executive of the Council consisting of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Immediate Past President and one ordinary member of the Council who is to be appointed by the Executive for up to 6 months in each calendar year.

## Executive Appointed Councillors 2022

Gary Mack  
1 June to 30 September 2022;

June Kenny  
1 October to 31 December 2022

## Executive Appointed Councillors 2023

June Kenny  
9 February to 31 May 2023;

Judy McLean  
1 June to 30 September 2023

## Associations Incorporation Act 2015

Section 42 – Disclosure of material personal interest.

In accordance with part (2) *A member of the management committee of an incorporated association who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at a management committee meeting must disclose the nature and extent of the interest* – the following disclosure was made in the 2022-2023 year.

Name of Member	Date of Meeting/Item No.	Description of interest
Gary Mack	Executive Meeting 28 September 2022 Item D.3 Letter to the Editor of Brief from Steven Penglis SC 1 August 2022 – Re: Delay in the Handling of Complaints by the Legal Services Complaints Committee	Member of the Legal Services Complaints Committee
Ante Golem	Council Meeting 26 October 2022 Item E6 Confidential – Life Membership Nominations – 2022 Annual General Meeting	One of the nominations was a former member of his firm and he was involved in the nomination for Life Membership
Thomas Camp	Council Meeting 30 November 2022 Item A5 Appointments and Resignations	Resigned from the Young Lawyers Committee
Thomas Camp	Council Meeting 30 November 2022 Item E.2 Confidential – Appointment of Professional Indemnity Insurance Management Committee Members	Nominated as a member of the PIIMC
Paula Wilkinson	Council Meeting 30 November 2022 Item E.2 Confidential – Appointment of Professional Indemnity Insurance Management Committee Members	Nominated as a member of the PIIMC
Daniel Dyer-Smith	29 March 2023 – Item PPT.4 Confidential Review of Panel Solicitor Rates	Employed by a company on the Panel of Solicitors



## Executive & Stakeholder Meetings

### Executive Meetings

#### 2022

Acting Director of Public Prosecutions for Western Australia

Chairperson, Board Members and Chief Executive Officer - Law Access Board

The Chief Justice of Western Australia

Assistant Director, Perth Office,  
Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions

### Other Stakeholder Meetings 2022

Chief Justice of Singapore  
Shadow State Attorney General

#### 2023

President of the Children's Court of Western Australia

Chief Judge of the District Court of Western Australia

The Chief Justice of Western Australia

### Other Stakeholder Meetings 2023

The Chief Justice Federal Court of Australia

Legal Aid Western Australia

The Minister for Corrective Services

## Nominations to External Boards

The Law Society nominated members to represent the profession on the following external boards and committees:

Steering Committee of the Western Australian Human Rights Act Campaign

Legal Aid Committee 2022-2023

Western Australian Reproductive Technology Council – Deputy Member

Law Council of Australia – Rural, Regional and Remote Lawyers Committee

Law Council of Australia – AML/CTF Working Group

## Life Members

2022	2014	2005
The Hon Rene Le Miere KC	Dudley Stow	The Hon Judge John Chaney
Greg McIntyre SC		Rick Cullen
The Hon John McKechnie KC	2013	
Ted Sharp	Her Hon Antoinette Kennedy AO	2003
Craig Slater	The Hon Robert Nicholson AO	The Hon Sir John Lavan
2020	2012	2002
Mr Denis McLeod	His Excellency Malcolm McCusker	Gregory Boyle
2019	AC CVO QC, Governor of WA	Judy Eckert
John Ley SC	The Hon Chief Justice Wayne Martin AC	The Hon Robert French
2018	The Hon Michael Murray QC	The Hon Chief Justice David Malcolm AC
Kevin John Edwards	The Hon Daryl Williams AM QC	Robert Meadows QC
Cav. Maria Saraceni		Her Hon Judge Kate O'Brien
His Honour Judge Hylton Quail		John Syminton
	2010	
	John Fiocco	
2017	Laurie Shervington	1998
Robert Kronberger		The Hon Sir Francis Burt AC
		The Hon P Durack QC
2016	2009	The Hon John Toohey AC
Susan Fielding	Elizabeth Heenan	The Hon Ian Medcalf AO
The Hon Kevin Parker AC RFD QC		
Chris Zelestis QC	2008	
	John Gillett	1996
2015	David Garnsworthy	The Hon Barry Rowland QC
The Hon Justice Carmel McLure		The Hon John Wickham QC
Steven Penglis	2007	Rory Argyle
Clare Thompson	Michal Lewi	

# Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023



## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	NOTE	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue and Income	5	4,760,099	4,831,030
Investment income		23,317	-
Gain on the revaluation of properties		-	246,500
Governance expenses		(633,296)	(649,007)
Member services expenses		(2,103,969)	(1,788,106)
Advocacy and community programmes expenses		(353,389)	(944,680)
Interest expenses		(734)	(858)
Finance and administration expenses		(1,456,425)	(1,361,802)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>235,603</b>	<b>333,077</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>235,603</b>	<b>333,077</b>

The above Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2023

	NOTE	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	13	2,571,435	1,995,372
Trade and other receivables	6	89,206	83,548
Other assets		88,944	88,347
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>2,749,585</b>	<b>2,167,267</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	3,817,675	3,956,002
Right-of-use asset	16	12,946	21,576
Intangible assets	8	19,580	14,277
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>3,850,201</b>	<b>3,991,855</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>6,599,786</b>	<b>6,159,122</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	9	535,305	574,292
Provisions	10	306,305	320,916
Lease Liability		8,774	8,629
Revenue in advance		1,744,380	1,466,488
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>2,594,764</b>	<b>2,370,325</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Borrowings	11	10,000	10,000
Provisions	10	13,393	23,997
Lease Liability		4,442	13,216
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>27,835</b>	<b>47,213</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>2,622,599</b>	<b>2,417,538</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>3,977,187</b>	<b>3,741,584</b>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained surplus	12	3,977,187	3,741,584
<b>Total members' funds</b>		<b>3,977,187</b>	<b>3,741,584</b>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	RETAINED SURPLUS \$	TOTAL \$
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2021</b>	3,408,507	3,408,507
Surplus for the year	333,077	333,077
Total comprehensive income for the year	333,077	333,077
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2022</b>	3,741,584	3,741,584
Surplus for the year	235,603	235,603
Total comprehensive income for the year	235,603	235,603
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2023</b>	3,977,187	3,977,187

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



## Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	NOTE	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Member subscriptions		3,003,321	2,742,499
Interest received		21,255	-
Receipts from other operating activities		2,674,231	2,789,865
Payments to suppliers and employees		(5,051,988)	(5,072,786)
<b>Net cash generated by operating activities</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>646,819</b>	<b>459,578</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(53,959)	(179,745)
Payments for intangible assets		(7,434)	-
<b>Net cash (used in)/generated by investing activities</b>		<b>(61,393)</b>	<b>(179,745)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Interest expenses		(435)	(415)
Payments for right-of-use leases		(8,928)	(8,928)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<b>(9,363)</b>	<b>(9,343)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>576,063</b>	<b>270,490</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>		<b>1,995,372</b>	<b>1,724,882</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,571,435</b>	<b>1,995,372</b>

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. General Information

In the opinion of the Council, the Law Society of Western Australia Inc. (Law Society of Western Australia) is not publicly accountable. These financial statements are Tier 2 general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards –Simplified Disclosures adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA).

The Law Society of Western Australia is an incorporated association registered in Western Australia.

The Law Society of Western Australia is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements under the Australian Accounting Standards.

### 2. Application of new and revised accounting standards

The Law Society of Western Australia has not adopted any new or revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australia Accounting Standards Board (the AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for an accounting period that begins on or before 1 July 2022.

### 3. Accounting policies

#### 3.1 Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except:

- a) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- b) for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is included as part of payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is classified within operating cash flows.

#### 3.2 Revenue recognition

##### 3.2a Revenue recognition policy for revenue from contracts with customers (AASB 15)

AASB 15 requires revenue to be recognised when control of a promised good or service is passed to the customer at an amount which reflects the expected consideration.

Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

1. Identify the contract with the customer
2. Identify the performance obligations
3. Determine the transaction price
4. Allocate the transaction price
5. Recognise revenue

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability (revenue in advance).

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 3.2 Revenue recognition (continued)

The following revenue streams were identified as having performance obligations over time.

- Member Subscriptions
- Finance and administration services

The following revenue streams were identified as having performance obligations at a point in time.

- Member services and activities
- CPD programme and education
- Marketing and promotion
- Other revenue

None of the revenue streams of Law Society of Western Australia have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

#### 3.2b Revenue recognition policy for revenue streams which are either not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations (AASB 1058)

##### Grant income

Assets arising from grants in the scope of AASB 1058 are recognised at their fair value when the asset is received. These assets are generally cash but may also be property which has been donated or sold to the Law Society of Western Australia at significantly below its fair value.

Once the asset has been recognised, the Law Society of Western Australia recognises any related liability amounts (e.g. provisions, financial liabilities). Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any difference between the recorded asset and liability.

### 3.3 Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they are incurred.

### 3.4 Employee benefits

A liability is recognised for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave, and sick leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

Liabilities recognised in respect of short-term employee benefits, are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Liabilities recognised in respect of long term employee benefits are measured as the present value for the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the Law Society of Western Australia in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

### 3.5 Taxation

The Law Society of Western Australia is exempt from income tax under section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act (1997).

### 3.6 Property, plant and equipment

Land and buildings held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, or for administrative purposes, are stated in the statement of financial position at their revalued amounts, being the fair value at the date of revaluation, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. Revaluations are performed with sufficient regularity such that the carrying amounts do not differ materially from those that would be determined using fair values at the end of each reporting period.



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 3.6 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Any revaluation increase arising on the revaluation of such land and buildings is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated within equity, except to the extent that it reverses a revaluation decrease for the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss, in which case the increase is credited to profit or loss to the extent of the decrease previously expensed. A decrease in the carrying amount arising on the revaluation of such land and buildings is recognised in profit or loss to the extent that it exceeds the balance, if any, held in the properties revaluation reserve relating to a previous revaluation of that asset.

On the subsequent sale or retirement of a revalued property, the attributable revaluation surplus remaining in the properties revaluation reserve is transferred directly to retained earnings. No transfer is made from the revaluation reserve to retained earnings except when an asset is derecognised.

Fixtures and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives, using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each reporting period, with the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant or equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in profit or loss.

### 3.7 Intangible assets

#### Intangible assets acquired separately

Intangible assets with finite lives that are acquired separately are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation is recognised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. The estimated useful life and amortisation method are reviewed at the end of each reporting period, with the effect of any changes in estimate being accounted for on a prospective basis. Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives that are acquired separately are carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses.

#### Derecognition of intangible assets

An intangible asset is derecognised on disposal, or when no future economic benefits are expected from use or disposal. Gains or losses arising from derecognition of an intangible asset, measured as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset are recognised in profit or loss when the asset is derecognised.

### 3.8 Leases

At inception of a contract, the Law Society of Western Australia assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains a lease, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, the Law Society of Western Australia uses the definition of a lease in AASB 16.

*Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets.*

There are no short-term or leases of low-value assets for the year ending 30 June 2023.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 3.9 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Law Society of Western Australia has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Law Society of Western Australia will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the end of the reporting period, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. When a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows (where the effect of the time value of money is material).

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be recovered from a third party, a receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

### 3.10 Financial instruments policy

#### *Recognition and initial measurement*

Trade receivables are initially recognised when they are originated. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Law Society of Western Australia becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

#### *Financial assets – Classification.*

On initial recognition, a financial asset is classified as measured at amortised cost. Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

#### *Financial assets – subsequent measurement and gains and losses.*

##### *Financial assets at amortised cost*

These assets are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The amortised cost is reduced by impairment losses. Interest income and impairment are recognised in profit and loss. Any gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit and loss.

#### *Impairment*

The Law Society of Western Australia recognises loss allowances for expected credit losses (ECLs) on financial assets measured at amortised cost. The Law Society measures loss allowances at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and when estimating ECLs, the Law Society of Western Australia considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis, based on the Law Society of Western Australia's historical experience and informed credit assessment and including forward-looking information.

The Law Society of Western Australia assumes that the credit risk on a financial asset has increased if it is more than 30 days past due.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 3.10 Financial instruments policy (continued)

#### *Measurement of ECLs.*

ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Credit losses are measured as the present value of all cash shortfalls (i.e. the difference between the cashflows due to the trust in accordance with the contract and the cashflows that the trust expects to receive).

ECLs are discounted at the effective interest rate of the financial asset.

#### *Write-off*

The gross carrying amount of a financial asset is written off when the Law Society of Western Australia has no reasonable expectations of recovering a financial asset in its entirety or a portion thereof.

#### **Derecognition of financial assets**

The Law Society of Western Australia derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when it transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset to another party. If the Law Society of Western Australia either transfers or retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership and continues to control the transferred asset, the Law Society of Western Australia recognises its retained interest in the asset and an associated liability for amounts it may have to pay. If the Law Society of Western Australia retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of a transferred financial asset, the Law Society of Western Australia continues to recognise the financial asset and also recognises a collateralised borrowing for the proceeds received.

On derecognition of a financial asset in its entirety, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable and the cumulative gain or loss that had been recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity is recognised in profit or loss.

On derecognition of a financial asset other than in its entirety (e.g. when the Law Society of Western Australia retains an option to repurchase part of a transferred asset), the Law Society of Western Australia allocates the previous carrying amount of the financial asset between the part it continues to recognise under continuing involvement, and the part it no longer recognises on the basis of the relative fair values of those parts on the date of the transfer. The difference between the carrying amount allocated to the part that is no longer recognised and the sum of the consideration received for the part no longer recognised and any cumulative gain or loss allocated to it that had been recognised in other comprehensive income is recognised in profit or loss. A cumulative gain or loss that had been recognised in other comprehensive income is allocated between the part that continues to be recognised and the part that is no longer recognised on the basis of the relative fair values of those parts.

### 3.11 Financial liabilities

The financial liabilities of the Law Society of Western Australia including borrowings and trade and other payables, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs.

Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or (where appropriate) a shorter period, to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 3.11 Financial liabilities (continued)

#### Derecognition of financial liabilities

The Law Society of Western Australia derecognises financial liabilities when, and only when, the Law Society of Western Australia's obligations are discharged, cancelled or they expire. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability derecognised and the consideration paid and payable is recognised in profit or loss.

### 3.12 Fair value measurement

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date, regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique. In estimating the fair value of an asset or a liability, the Law Society of Western Australia takes into account the characteristics of the asset or liability if market participants would take those characteristics into account when pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. Fair value for measurement and/or disclosure purposes in these financial statements is determined on such a basis, except for share-based payment transactions that are within the scope of AASB 2, leasing transactions that are within the scope of AASB 117, and measurements that have some similarities to fair value but are not fair value, such as net realisable value in AASB 2 or value in use in AASB 136.

In addition, for financial reporting purposes, fair value measurements are categorised into Level 1, 2 or 3 based on the degree to which the inputs to the fair value measurements are observable and the significance of the inputs to the fair value measurement in its entirety, which are described as follows:

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Law Society of Western Australia can access at the measurement date;
- Level 2 inputs are inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

## 4. Critical accounting judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Law Society of Western Australia's accounting policies, which are described in note 3, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

Estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods in the revision affects both current and future periods.

### 4.1 Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below or elsewhere in the financial statements:

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 4.1 Key sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)

#### Useful lives of property, plant and equipment

As described above, management reviews the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment at the end of each reporting period. There has been no change to the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment in the current financial year.

#### Valuation of building

The Law Society of Western Australia's premises on 160 St Georges Terrace are measured and reported at fair value.

In October 2022, Council approved a change to the revaluation policy whereby an independent financial reporting valuation of the building will now be conducted every four years provided that the annual consideration of property market conditions does not indicate any significant change.

The last valuation of the premises was undertaken by Opteon Property Group Pty Ltd on 30 June 2022, in accordance with applicable financial reporting standards, namely *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*.

Based on an assessment of current property market conditions at 30 June 2023, no indication of impairment was found.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 5. Revenue and Income

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue from contracts with customers</b>		
Member subscriptions	2,574,547	2,385,976
Membership services and activities	197,586	234,867
CPD programme and education	344,761	349,112
Marketing and promotion	251,136	245,200
Finance and administration services	723,296	676,465
<b>Total revenue from contracts with customers</b>	<b>4,091,326</b>	<b>3,891,620</b>
<b>Other revenue</b>		
Other revenue	459,528	455,393
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>4,550,854</b>	<b>4,347,013</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Grants	209,245	484,017
<b>Total income</b>	<b>209,245</b>	<b>484,017</b>
<b>Total revenue and income</b>	<b>4,760,099</b>	<b>4,831,030</b>

### 6. Trade and other receivables

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Trade debtors	43,405	39,607
Accrued income	21,755	43,594
Other receivables	24,046	347
	<b>89,206</b>	<b>83,548</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements

## 7. Property, plant and equipment

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Carrying amounts of:</b>		
Building	3,510,000	3,600,000
Plant and equipment	307,675	356,002
	<b>3,817,675</b>	<b>3,956,002</b>

	Building at fair value	Plant and equipment at cost	Total
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>			
Cost or valuation	3,600,000	2,230,912	5,830,912
Accumulated depreciation	-	(1,874,910)	(1,874,910)
	<b>3,600,000</b>	<b>356,002</b>	<b>3,956,002</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>			
Cost or valuation	3,600,000	2,281,354	5,881,354
Accumulated depreciation	(90,000)	(1,973,679)	(2,063,679)
	<b>3,510,000</b>	<b>307,675</b>	<b>3,817,675</b>

The following useful lives are used in the calculation of depreciation.

- Plant and Equipment 4-11 years
- Buildings 40 years

Reconciliation of Property, Plant and Equipment	Building at fair value	Plant and equipment at cost	Total
Balance as at 1 July 2022			
Cost or valuation	3,600,000	2,230,912	5,830,912
Write Off	-	(3,517)	(3,517)
Acquisitions	-	53,959	53,959
Elimination of accumulated depreciation on asset revaluation	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>3,600,000</b>	<b>2,281,354</b>	<b>5,881,354</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>			
Balance as at 1 July 2022	-	(1,874,910)	(1,874,910)
Depreciation	(90,000)	(98,769)	(188,769)
Elimination of accumulated depreciation on asset revaluation	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>(90,000)</b>	<b>(1,973,679)</b>	<b>(2,063,679)</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 7. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

#### 7.1 Measurement techniques of revalued amounts

Based on an assessment of current property market conditions at 30 June 2023, no indication of asset impairment was found. As such, the fair value as at 30 June 2023 of the Law Society of Western Australia's premises remains consistent with the value determined by Opteon Property Group Pty Ltd for 30 June 2022, less depreciation. This valuation was prepared using the income approach – capitalisation method in accordance with the International Valuation Standards 2018 and AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*.

### 8. Intangibles

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Carrying amounts of:</b>		
Trademark	19,580	14,277
	19,580	14,277
	<b>Trademark</b>	
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>		
Cost	67,483	
Accumulated amortisation	(53,206)	
	14,277	
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>		
Cost	74,916	
Accumulated amortisation	(55,336)	
	19,580	

Trademarks are amortised over an estimated useful life of 10 years.

### 9. Trade and other payables

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Current</b>		
Trade creditors	35,907	103,651
Accrued expenses	16,167	31,333
Other payables	483,231	439,308
	535,305	574,292

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 10. Provisions

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Current</b>		
Employee benefits	306,305	320,916
<b>Non-current</b>		
Employee benefits	13,393	23,997
	319,698	344,913

### 11. Borrowings

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>Non-current</b>		
Bank loan secured at amortised cost	10,000	10,000
	10,000	10,000

The Law Society of Western Australia's loan facility is secured by level 4 and part of level 5, 160 St Georges Terrace, PERTH WA 6000 and a general security interest over the assets and undertakings of the Law Society of Western Australia. This loan facility was renewed in December 2019 for a further 5 years to December 2024. The loan facility limit was varied in December 2022 to reduce the limit to \$500,000 (30 June 2022: \$1,831,500). The interest expense on the facility for the year ending 30 June 2023 is \$435 (30 June 2022 was \$416).

The Law Society of Western Australia has a letter of credit totaling \$160,000 (30 June 2022: \$160,000) of which \$150,000 (30 June 2022: \$150,000) has been used as at 30 June 2023, for a Transaction Negotiation Authority (TNA) guarantee provided by the bank to all other banks, that payroll related payments will be met.

### 12. Retained Surplus

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	3,741,584	3,408,507
Surplus for the year	235,603	333,077
<b>Balance at the end of year</b>	<b>3,977,187</b>	<b>3,741,584</b>



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 13. Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in banks, net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows can be reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	2,571,435	1,995,372
	2,571,435	1,995,372

#### 13.1 Reconciliation of profit for the year to net cash flows from operating activities

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Surplus for the year	235,603	333,077
(Gain) on the revaluation of properties	-	(246,500)
Interest expenses	734	858
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	203,047	181,950
	439,384	269,386
Movements in working capital		
Decrease/(increase) in trade receivables	(5,658)	(67,063)
(Decrease)/increase in other assets	(597)	(6,059)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	(38,988)	97,236
(Decrease)/Increase in provisions	(25,214)	55,987
(Decrease)/increase in revenue in advance	277,892	110,092
Cash (used in) operations	207,435	190,193
<b>Net cash generated by operating activities</b>	<b>646,819</b>	<b>459,579</b>

#### 13.2 Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

Changes in the Law Society of Western Australia's liabilities arising from financing activities are shown in the table below. Liabilities arising from financing activities are those for which cash flows were, or future cash flows will be classified in the statement of cash flows as cash flows from financing activities.

	Balance as at 1 July 2022	Financing cash flows	Balance as at 30 June 2023
Borrowings (note 11)	10,000	-	10,000
	10,000	-	10,000

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 14. Financial instruments disclosures

#### (a) Financial instruments

The financial instruments of the Law Society of Western Australia comprise:

- Cash and cash equivalents;
- Term deposits;
- Trade and other receivables;
- Trade and other payables.
- Borrowings

#### (b) Fair value of financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the financial instruments have been presented within the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2023.

In the opinion of Management, the carrying amount of financial instruments not measured at fair value closely approximate their fair value.

#### (c) Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that the financial institutions (for cash and cash equivalents) and counterparties (for trade and other receivables) may default on their obligations to honour their commitments.

The maximum exposure to credit risk is limited to the carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents, and trade and other receivables noted in the statement of financial position at 30 June 2023.

The Law Society of Western Australia does not consider credit risk to be significant on account of the following factors:

- Cash and cash equivalents are held with the banking institutions that are subject to prudential regulations; and
- A significant portion of income relates to receivables from membership income which is paid upfront with no risk of default;

#### (d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Law Society of Western Australia would not be able to meet its obligations to trade and other payables on account of the lack of available cash balance. The Law Society of Western Australia manages the risk through preparation of periodic budgets and holding cash reserves to meet those obligations on time.

The maturity profile of the Law Society of Western Australia's trade and other payables and borrowings are:

	2023 Up to 6 months	2023 > 12 months	2023 Total	2022 Up to 6 months	2022 > 12 months	2022 Total
Trade and other payables	535,305	-	535,305	574,292	-	574,292
Borrowings	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>535,305</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>545,305</b>	<b>574,292</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>584,292</b>

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 14. Financial instruments disclosures (continued)

#### (e) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risks refer to the variability in future cash flows of the Law Society of Western Australia on account of the changes in market interest rates. The following financial instruments are impacted by interest rate risks:

- Cash and cash equivalents items;
- Borrowings;

The sensitivity of the financial instruments to 0.25% change in market interest rate are:

	2023 Carrying amount	2023 Sensitivity	2022 Carrying amount	2022 Sensitivity
Cash and cash equivalents	2,571,435	6,429	1,995,372	4,988
Borrowings	10,000	25	10,000	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,581,435</b>	<b>6,454</b>	<b>2,005,372</b>	<b>5,013</b>

### 15. Related parties disclosures

During the financial year, and in the periods specified below, the following members served in the Council of the Law Society of Western Australia.

<b>Members who served 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023</b>	<b>Members who served 1 July 2022 to 31 December 2022</b>
Ante Golem	Rebecca Lee
Paula Wilkinson	Ante Golem
Gary Mack	Paula Wilkinson
Rebecca Lee	Jocelyne Boujos
Ben Bullock	Ben Bullock
Thomas Camp	Rebecca Bunney
Brett Davies	Brett Davies
Angie Gimisis	Angie Gimisis
June Kenny	June Kenny
Judy McLean	Gary Mack
Kim Morrison	Judy McLean
Kellie Woods	Kellie Woods
Terry Palmer SC	Terry Palmer SC
Michael Ryan	Michael Ryan
Daniel Dyer-Smith	Thomas Camp
Tyler Greatrix	Selina Gates
Robert Jamieson (resigned 5 May 2023)	Hamish Glenister
Demi Swan (appointed 10 May 2023)	



### Notes to the Financial Statements

#### 15. Related parties disclosures (continued)

##### Transactions between the Law Society of Western Australia and councillor related entities

Other than the President who receives a presidential honorarium, no member of Council receives directly or indirectly any fees, bonuses or other remuneration. The total honorarium paid in the financial year ending 30 June 2023 was \$132,253. (30 June 2022: \$128,066).

During the reporting period, legal services were provided to the Law Society of Western Australia, under normal commercial terms and conditions. For the period ending 30 June 2023 nil fees for legal services were paid to firms of which Councillors were partners, employees and consultants (30 June 2022: nil).

The Law Society of Western Australia received income from firms of which Council members are partners, employees and consultants. The following types of fees were received from all parties under the same terms and conditions as other members of the Law Society of Western Australia:

- membership fees;
- registration fees for Continuing Professional Developments and membership events.

##### Transactions between the Law Society of Western Australia and Law Mutual (WA)

During the current financial year, Law Mutual (WA) paid the Law Society of Western Australia administration, consulting and management services on a cost recovery basis amounting to \$377,565 (30 June 2022: \$345,260) which includes the recovery of a percentage of certain key management personnel's compensation paid by the Law Society of Western Australia. Law Mutual (WA) also paid the Law Society of Western Australia rent and outgoings on normal commercial terms and conditions amounting to \$169,680 (30 June 2022: \$167,900).

At 30 June 2023, Law Society of Western Australia had a receivable from Law Mutual (WA) of \$2,285 (30 June 2022: payable to Law Mutual (WA) of \$44,187).

##### Transactions between the Law Society of Western Australia and Old Court House Law Museum

During the current financial year, Old Court House Law Museum paid the Law Society of Western Australia administration as on charge expenses for curator's employment costs \$72,206.

At 30 June 2023, Law Society of Western Australia had a receivable from the Old Court House Law Museum of \$11,756.

##### Transactions between the Law Society of Western Australia and the Law Society Public Purposes Trust Fund

In the 2022-23 financial year, the Law Society of Western Australia received grants payments from the Public Purposes Trust Fund for the following activities:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Francis Burt Law Education Programme	157,000	240,000
Law Week	20,000	20,000
	177,000	260,000

The Public Purposes Trust Fund paid \$167,276 (2022: \$166,196) to the Law Society of Western Australia for administration, consulting and management services on normal commercial terms and conditions.

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 15. Related parties disclosures (continued)

At 30 June 2023, no monies were owed by the Public Purposes Trust Fund to the Law Society of Western Australia (30 June 2022: \$Nil).

### Key management personnel compensation

The key management personnel at the Law Society of Western Australia comprise the senior management group. The gross compensation including statutory superannuation paid to these key management personnel during the year ending 30 June 2023 was \$923,906 (30 June 2022: \$950,246).

### 16. Leases

See accounting policy in Note 3.8.

The Law Society of Western Australia leases a photocopier for a period of 4 years, expiring in December 2024.

### Amounts recognised in profit or loss

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Expenses relating to short term leases	-	-
Interest on lease liabilities	299	442
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	8,630	8,630
Total amount recognised in profit and loss	8,929	9,072

### Right-of-use assets

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Opening Balance	21,576	30,207
Additions to right-of-use assets	-	-
Depreciation charge for the year	(8,630)	(8,631)
Closing balance at end of year	12,946	21,576

### 17. Remuneration of auditor

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Audit of the financial statements - KPMG	23,250	22,800
	23,250	22,800

### 18. Subsequent events

There has not been any matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2023 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect, the operations of the Law Society of Western Australia, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Law Society of Western Australia in future financial years.

## Statement by Council


In the opinion of the Council of the Law Society of Western Australia

- a. The Law Society of Western Australia is not publicly accountable;
- b. The financial statements and notes that are set out in pages 2 to 21 are in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* and the Law Society of Western Australia's Constitution, including
  - i. Giving a true and fair view of the Law Society of Western Australia's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance, for the financial year ended on that date; and
  - ii. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Requirements.
- c. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Law Society of Western Australia will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed on behalf of and in accordance with a resolution of the Council.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ante Golem  
President

25/10/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Mack  
Junior Vice President/Treasurer

25/10/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





## Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of the Law Society of Western Australia

### Opinion

We have audited the **Financial Statements** of the Law Society of Western Australia (the Association).

In our opinion,

- the accompanying Financial Statements gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Association as at 30 June 2023, and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with *Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures Framework* and the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA).

The **Financial Statements** comprise:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023
- Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, Statement of changes in equity, and Statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- Notes including a summary of significant accounting policies
- Statement by Council.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards*. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report.

We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the *Financial Report* in Australia. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

### Other Information

Other Information is financial and non-financial information in the Law Society of Western Australia's annual reporting which is provided in addition to the Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report. The Association's Council members are responsible for the Other Information.

Our opinion on the Financial Statements does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the Financial Statements, our responsibility is to read the Other Information. In doing so, we consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the

## Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2023



Financial Statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

We are required to report if we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information, and based on the work we have performed on the Other Information that we obtained prior to the date of this Auditor's Report we have nothing to report.

### Responsibilities of the Association's Council members for the Financial Statements

The Association's Council members are responsible for:

- preparing Financial Statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures Framework and the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA).
- implementing necessary internal control to enable the preparation of Financial Statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern and whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate. This includes disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Statements

Our objective is:

- to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error. They are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the Financial Statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Statements is located at the *Auditing and Assurance Standards Board* website at:

[http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our Auditor's Report.



KPMG

Matthew Hingeley

Partner

Perth

26 October 2023



## Auditor's Independence Declaration under Division 5 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)

To the Council of the Law Society of Western Australia

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA) in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'KPMG'.

KPMG

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Hingeley'.

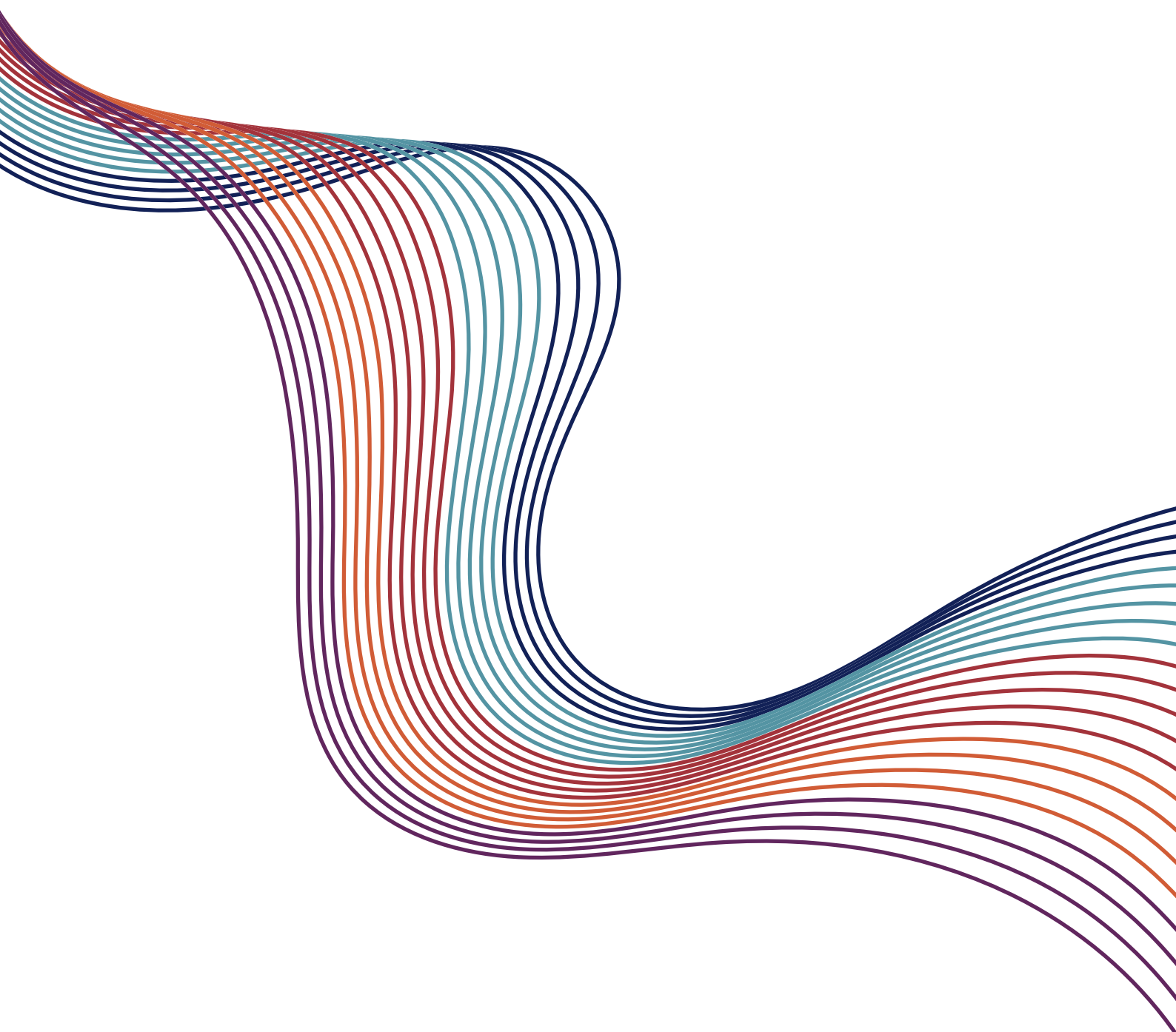
Matthew Hingeley

Partner

Perth

26 October 2023





The voice of the legal profession in Western Australia

**The Law Society of Western Australia**

Level 4, 160 St Georges Terrace, Perth Western Australia 6000

**Postal Address:** PO Box Z5345, Perth WA 6831

**Phone:** (08) 9324 8600 **Fax:** (08) 9324 8699

**Email:** [info@lawsocietywa.asn.au](mailto:info@lawsocietywa.asn.au) **Website:** [lawsocietywa.asn.au](http://lawsocietywa.asn.au)