



2015 Justice AWARDS

Thursday 15 October 2015
Strangers' Dining Room
Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney



LAW AND JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

OF NEW
SOUTH WALES

Welcome to the 2015 Justice Awards

The Law and Justice Foundation's annual Justice Awards recognise the contributions of individuals and organisations to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

The Awards presentation is a unique opportunity for the Foundation to highlight the achievements of so many, and for our guests to celebrate and congratulate them.

Program for the evening

- 6.30pm Welcome
 Welcome to Country by Aunty Norma Ingram
- Entrée*
- Presentation of the LIAC Centre of Excellence Award
 Presentation of the Community Legal Centres NSW Award
 Presentation of the Law Society President's Award
 Presentation of the Law and Justice Volunteer Award
- 7.45pm *Dinner*
- 8.15pm 2015 Law and Justice Address by the Hon. Catherine Branson QC
- Dessert*
- 9.00pm Presentation of the Pro Bono Partnership Award
 Presentation of the Aboriginal Justice Award
 Presentation of the Justice Medal
- 10.20pm Closing remarks

Your host this evening

The Hon. Paul Stein AM QC

Chair, Board of Governors, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW



The Hon. Paul Stein has been the chair of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales since 2005. He became a judge in 1983 and was appointed to the Land and Environment Court in 1985. In 1997, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal where he remained until his retirement in 2004.

Paul has undertaken a number of reports and reviews for the NSW government and is the former chair of the board of the Environmental Protection Authority. He has chaired numerous committees and associations, in particular the Council of the Community Justice Centres and the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council. He has written extensively on environmental law, administrative law and consumer law, as well as on human rights and discrimination.

The 2015 Law and Justice Address

The Hon. Catherine Branson QC



The Hon. Catherine Branson has made a significant contribution to law in Australia as an educator, barrister, Federal Court judge and human rights advocate.

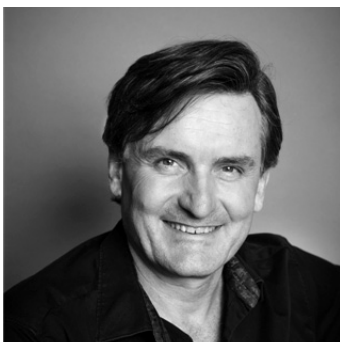
Catherine graduated from the University of Adelaide and taught at the Adelaide Law School for two years before entering private practice. In 1976, she joined the public service, and in 1984 Catherine held the positions of Crown Solicitor of South Australia and Secretary of the Attorney General's Department simultaneously.

Catherine was made a Queen's Counsel in 1992. She was appointed to the Federal Court bench in 1994 where she served until 2008. Catherine was the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission until her retirement in 2012.

Catherine is a board member of the Human Rights Law Centre, the Public Law and Policy Research Unit at the Adelaide Law School and the South Australian Cancer Council.

Your MC this evening

Richard Glover



Richard Glover presents the top rating Drive show on 702 ABC Radio in Sydney and he has published a weekly column in the Sydney Morning Herald for more than 20 years.

Richard has been with 702 ABC Sydney since January 1996, before which he worked for 12 years as a print journalist at the Sydney Morning Herald including stints as news editor, arts editor and European correspondent.

Richard is the author of over a dozen books including *George Clooney's Haircut and Other Cries for Help*, the bestseller *Desperate Husbands* and most recently his memoirs entitled *Flesh Wounds*.

Richard has been associated with the Justice Awards since 2008.

LIAC Centre of Excellence Award



STATE LIBRARY™
NEW SOUTH WALES

Presented by:

Dr Alex Byrne

NSW State Librarian and
Chief Executive
State Library of NSW

Sponsored by:

Legal Information Access
Centre (LIAC)
State Library of NSW

LIAC manages the Find Legal Answers service, which provides free access to legal information online, in NSW public libraries and through partnerships. It is a joint initiative of the State Library of NSW and the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales.

The Centre of Excellence Award recognises innovative and creative projects that increase community awareness of and access to the Find Legal Answers service.

legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au

The winners are:

Gunnedah Shire Library

Gunnedah Shire is a regional local government area with a population of 12,000. Gunnedah Shire Library's Law Week 2015 outreach to non-library members achieved great success in raising awareness of plain language legal information. The program targeted, among others, people who are unable to visit the library.

Gunnedah Shire Library distributed packages of plain language legal information to housebound people, local community groups and clubs, and youth and Indigenous groups. In a unique initiative, the library distributed information to 'shop-bound' people – those who run small businesses which they are unable to leave to visit the library. The program succeeded in increasing knowledge and driving use of the Find Legal Answers service.

Fulfilling their commitment to providing access to legal information to all segments of the community, the library's Toddler Time had a focus on the law, with books and activities about the role the police play in society. Gunnedah Shire Library also partnered with Gunnedah Shire Council to send packages of plain language legal information to 1,000 local residents.

Sutherland Shire Libraries

Serving a local government area of more than 220,000 people, Sutherland Shire Libraries has brought high quality, plain language legal information to the community through two strategies: a partnership with the Sutherland Local Court and a Law Week initiative.

Sutherland Shire Libraries participates in the local courts / public libraries project run by Courts and Tribunal Services, Department of Justice and LIAC. This project promotes public libraries and the Find Legal Answers website as sources of legal information and encourages court staff to make referrals. Sutherland Library communicates regularly with Sutherland Local Court, sharing new legal resources, providing promotional material and arranging legal information training for court staff. Sutherland Library's commitment to the project has seen an improvement in client service for people attending court.

In a second strategy to improve access to plain language legal information, Sutherland Library used Law Week to raise awareness of the legal resources available in the library among non-library members including people from CALD backgrounds at a local community centre.

Community Legal Centres NSW Award

Community
Legal Centres
NSW

Presented by:

Nassim Arrage
Chairperson
Community Legal
Centres NSW

Sponsored by:

Community Legal
Centres NSW

The Community Legal Centres NSW Award this year is presented to an individual or a group of individuals who, in a voluntary capacity in a NSW community legal centre, has demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people. This may have been demonstrated in a range of activities over an extended period, or in a single significant activity.

Community Legal Centres NSW provides secretariat support to NSW community legal centres working for the public interest, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalised people and communities.

www.clcnsw.org.au

The nominees are:

Sherif Alam

Law student Sherif Alam has been volunteering at Mount Druitt and Area Community Legal Centre for nearly three years. Sherif's regular duties include drafting legal documents, researching complex areas of law and providing information services to clients. He also helped write factsheets to inform the community about their legal rights and the practical steps they can take to solve their legal problems.

Sherif's exceptional attention to detail, his strong research skills and his initiative make him an outstanding volunteer. His practical approach to providing assistance significantly improves access to justice for disadvantaged people in the local community.

Criminal Justice Support Network volunteers, Intellectual Disability Rights Service

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS) has recruited and trained more than 100 volunteers to provide support for people with intellectual disability through its Criminal Justice Support Network (CJSN). At police stations, volunteers provide support for people with intellectual disability who are victims or witnesses of crimes or who are suspected of a crime, assisting with communication with the police, and organising referrals or follow-up support at court if required.

CJSN volunteers also support parents with intellectual disabilities at court in care and protection matters, attending meetings with solicitors beforehand, explaining what to expect in court, liaising with court staff and explaining the implications of outcomes. It is thanks to the commitment of the volunteers that people with disability are heard and can exercise their civil rights to participate in the justice system as victims, witnesses or defendants.

Lynn Flanagan

Since 2014, Lynn Flanagan has been volunteering as a solicitor at Hunter Community Legal Centre, dedicating many hours of her time to providing telephone advice, conducting research and drafting documents.

Lynn assists with the Hunter Community Legal Centre's AVO Duty Service, accompanying duty solicitors when they attend Newcastle Local Court and providing help to law students completing their practical legal training. She identifies clients that need assistance, carries out conflict checks, takes the client's instructions and makes appearances when needed. Thanks to Lynn's involvement, students gain experience in dealing with clients and learn about the court system, and clients have a greater understanding of how their matters will be dealt with in court.

Tom Hakkinen

A volunteer at the Arts Law Centre since 2013, Tom Hakkinen devoted many hours of his time to improving access to justice for Australian artists, often working 40 hours a week. Starting at the centre as a student volunteer, Tom liaised with clients, drafted instructions and file notes, undertook conflict checks and observed advice sessions.

When he became an intern in February 2014, Tom took on responsibility for coordinating the pro bono lawyer panel. Tom also coordinated the Document Review Service, prepared content for the website, wrote numerous case studies and contributed to the development of the Disability Action Plan.

Community Legal Centres NSW Award nominees *(continued)*

Inner City Legal Centre front desk student volunteers

Since 2010, a weekly roster of 25 student volunteers has managed the Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC) front desk. Providing the first point of contact for clients with ICLC, these volunteers have attended to more than 30,000 enquiries over the past five years.

Without the front desk student volunteers, ICLC's capacity to deliver legal advice and casework services to its communities would be reduced and many people would be turned away. The volunteers also provide paralegal and administrative support, and assist with projects such as the Sex Workers Legal Service, the Family Relationships Centre Service and the Safe Relationships Project.

Redfern Legal Centre volunteers

The 300-strong team of volunteers at Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) is a vital resource for the centre. Volunteers attend to clients, make appointments with solicitors, handle administrative and research duties, contribute to community legal education and make referrals to government and community agencies. Volunteers also help prepare and deliver RLC's legal training workshops for community workers.

RLC volunteers play a key role in community engagement by staffing stalls at community events to distribute legal information, advice and materials to the public. This is an integral part of RLC's strategy to improve access to justice for disadvantaged people in the community.

Peter Uniacke

A volunteer for the Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) for the past 15 years, Peter Uniacke is experienced in NSW, Victorian and Commonwealth law, and is a keen teacher, guide and mentor to new solicitors.

Despite the demands of his private practice and a young family, Peter continues to volunteer at HRCLS. Peter holds a regular place on the roster, fills in when other lawyers are unable to attend and mentors law students during advice sessions. Peter has extensive knowledge of other services where clients can be referred, enabling HRCLS to provide a holistic service.

Volunteer program, Australian Centre for Disability Law

The volunteer solicitor, paralegal and law student program at the Australian Centre for Disability Law has been running since 1994. Currently there are eight members of the program who perform a variety of tasks such as conducting client interviews, undertaking research, providing legal advice, filing court documents and attending conciliations.

Around 90 per cent of the legal work undertaken in the disability discrimination practice and the human rights practice is performed by the participants in the volunteer program. During the 2014/15 financial year, volunteers provided 4,600 hours of legal work to 199 clients. This included legal representation in ongoing court cases and conciliations in the Australian Human Rights Commission and Anti-Discrimination Board.

Law Society President's Award



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Presented by:

Michael Tidball
Chief Executive Officer
The Law Society of
New South Wales

Sponsored by:

The Law Society of
New South Wales

The Law Society President's Award is presented to an individual solicitor for pro bono work through the Law Society Pro Bono Scheme. The Scheme aims to increase access to justice by accepting applications from disadvantaged people and referring them to solicitors prepared to act on a pro bono basis.

The Law Society of NSW is the professional association for the solicitors' branch of the legal profession, representing more than 27,000 lawyers in New South Wales. The Law Society encourages its members to undertake pro bono legal assignments as part of their wider community responsibility as legal practitioners, and to demonstrate that pro bono work continues to be part of legal practice.

www.lawsociety.com.au

The nominees are:

Eric Butler

Armstrong Legal

Admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW in 1968, Eric Butler is a member of the Law Societies of NSW, Victoria and Queensland. He is head of the wills and estates division at Armstrong Legal. A long-standing supporter of the Law Society's Pro Bono Scheme, Eric's dedication to pro bono work is evidenced by his willingness to take on matters at short notice. Eric readily assists with matters affecting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, consistently demonstrating professionalism and compassion.

Gerard Haffner

Haffner Legal

The principal at Haffner Legal, Gerard Haffner was admitted in 2007 and specialises in family law, criminal law, conveyancing and litigation. Working in the Orange area where there are few solicitors, Gerard registered with the Law Society Pro Bono Scheme in 2013. Gerard has assisted with a number of challenging cases including criminal law matters involving domestic violence and has achieved excellent results for many clients.

Sarah Hendry

Foulsham & Geddes

After graduating from ANU with a BA LLB (Hons), Sarah Hendry was admitted in 2013 and joined Foulsham & Geddes. Her practice areas are family law, civil litigation and commercial law. A strong supporter of the Pro Bono Scheme since she joined in early 2014, Sarah has assisted with difficult and ongoing family law matters and care and protection matters. Sarah has demonstrated great patience and understanding when providing advice and representation to applicants.

Paul Francis Taylor McGirr

McGirr Lawyers

Paul Francis Taylor McGirr was admitted in 1971, and is the principal at McGirr Lawyers, a boutique law firm in Sydney specialising in litigation, commercial law, criminal law and property law. Paul has been a member of the Law Society's Pro Bono Scheme since 1997. Paul readily takes on complex and challenging matters, often at the last minute, including debt and credit matters, and employment law matters. Paul's extensive legal experience coupled with his professionalism has secured outcomes for applicants they may not have otherwise achieved.

Law and Justice Volunteer Award



The New South Wales Bar Association

Presented by:

Jane Needham SC
President
The New South Wales
Bar Association

Sponsored by:

The New South Wales
Bar Association

The Law and Justice Volunteer Award is presented to an individual or group of individuals who, in a voluntary capacity, has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to improving access to justice, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people. This may have occurred in a range of activities over an extended period, or in a single significant activity. Nominees must not be current legal practitioners.

The New South Wales Bar Association is a voluntary association of practising barristers. Its aims include promoting the administration of justice and making recommendations with respect to legislation, law reform, rules of court, and court business and procedure. It has a strong commitment to pro bono work through its Legal Assistance Referral Scheme, and through the pro bono work carried out informally by members.

www.nswbar.asn.au

The nominees are:

Leonie Duroux

**Nominated by Helen Duroux
Moombahlene Local Aboriginal Land
Council**

Leonie Duroux has been nominated for her 23 year-long fight for justice for the Aboriginal community following the murders of three Aboriginal children in Bowraville on the Mid North Coast in the early 1990s. It culminated in a Committee of Inquiry and the subsequent report tabled in parliament in December last year made recommendations for improving access to justice for Indigenous people.

Leonie took on the fight on behalf of her partner Marbuck, whose brother was one of the children murdered and who has since died of motor neurone disease. Her efforts contributed to the creation of a taskforce to continue the investigation into the unsolved murders, and she also influenced the decision to amend the 'double jeopardy' legislation in 2006. Leonie's lobbying led to a parliamentary inquiry and the subsequent report published in December 2014 recommended reforms to policing policy, procedures and training in relation to Aboriginal people and culture.

Barry Gobbe JP

**Nominated by Max Caddis ASM
NSW Ambulance Service (retired)**

Barry Gobbe has been nominated for his more than 20 years of voluntary community work to improve access to justice, including participation in the support program for young people run by the Parramatta and Castle Hill Police Local Area Command, and his extensive work with the homeless including the establishment of the charity Western Sydney Homeless Connect.

Since 1994, Barry has volunteered his services at the Parramatta and Castle Hill Police Local Area Command, providing support and assistance to young people and adults, many of whom are Indigenous or have mental health

problems. Barry is also involved in the delivery of the traffic offenders program in Sydney's western suburbs.

Barry is one of the founders of Western Sydney Homeless Connect, a volunteer-run annual event that brings together 50 organisations to help homeless or at risk people by providing information and advice on food, mental health and community housing. Drawing on his many years of experience working for the ambulance service, Barry also provides medical assistance at The Blue House, a support service for the homeless and rough sleepers in Parramatta.

Tom Puffett

**Nominated by Ella Hogan
St Vincent de Paul Society**

Tom Puffett has been nominated for his advocacy on behalf of the residents of the Rosemeadow housing estate in Sydney's Campbelltown area including his key role in the formation of the Rosemeadow Seniors Group in 2012, and for his work supporting an Indigenous youth mentoring program set up by Aboriginal elder Uncle Dave Bell.

For the last six years, Tom has been a mentor with the Young Spirit Mentoring Program, which is similar to the Clean Slate without Prejudice Program in Redfern. Targeting young Indigenous people who are at risk of offending, awaiting sentencing or have been released back into the community, the program focuses on building life skills and promoting education as the path to employment.

Tom also supports the Campbelltown Animation Project, the long-running innovative community development and education project auspiced by St Vincent de Paul. He is the resident bus driver for many social activities, including the Midnight Basketball tournament, which is a national social inclusion program for at risk youth.

Jeanette Suttie OAM

**Nominated by Greg Piper MP
Member for Lake Macquarie**

A remarkable 83-year-old woman, Jeanette Suttie has been nominated for nearly 30 years of work in the community, in particular her coordination of the Westlakes Youth Action Committee (Toronto West Youth Group) and her membership of the Toronto Aboriginal Community Justice Group. Frequently asked by members of the community and the police for advice, or to attend police interviews or court appearances, Jeanette is highly regarded for her knowledge and experience.

Jeanette is often called upon to provide cell support to Aboriginal people, many of whom who have low literacy or mental health issues and no one to turn to. She is available any hour of the day or night to go to the police station, and she often attends court to support community members. Jeanette mentors people under community service orders or on probation or parole, and supports family and friends of people who are in prison.

An active member of the West Lakes Domestic Violence Committee, Jeanette has been a strong advocate for victims of domestic violence over many years. She set up a women's refuge and is currently involved in Sister Speak, Toronto High School's leadership program for Aboriginal girls.

Victims and Witnesses of Crime Court Support

**Nominated by Pieta Thornton OAM
Victims and Witnesses of Crime Court
Support**

The Victims and Witnesses of Crime Court Support (VWCCS) team of volunteers has been nominated for providing information and support at four main locations across NSW to around 2,000 people per year who attend court to give evidence, and members of the public who attend court. Many VWCCS clients are unfamiliar with the court environment and come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

VWCCS was founded in 2007 in response to the need for help to navigate the court process. From its early days with six volunteers, VWCCS has grown to a team of more than 140 today, providing services in the Parramatta Justice Centre, the Downing Centre and Supreme Court, and Orange Local Court. Court support volunteers attend court with clients, explaining court terminology and procedures in plain English, and their entitlements under the Charter of Victims' Rights. Reception and information volunteers assist about 20,000 people annually, providing general information to members of the public, and a referral service for victims and witnesses.

Women In Prison Advocacy Network

**Nominated by Lana Hutchison
Women In Prison Advocacy Network**

The 62 volunteer mentors from the Women In Prison Advocacy Network (WIPAN) have been nominated for their dedication to and work with disadvantaged women who are making the difficult transition to the community following their release from prison.

Since it began in May 2010, WIPAN has attracted volunteers from many different professional backgrounds, who commit to provide one-on-one mentoring for a minimum of 12 months. The volunteer mentors seek to build relationships with the women based on trust and encourage them to engage with key agencies. Having a mentor lessens the feeling of isolation that many women experience after being released from prison.

The vast majority of participants in the program have had a minimum of three to five previous custodial sentences. Recent data reveals that 93 per cent of the women who were matched to a WIPAN mentor did not re-offend or return to custody.

Pro Bono Partnership Award



AUSTRALIAN
PRO BONO CENTRE

Presented by:

John Corker
Director
Australian Pro Bono
Centre

Sponsored by:

Australian Pro Bono Centre

This award is presented to private law firms, community organisations and/or community legal centres that have developed an outstanding pro bono legal assistance relationship resulting in improved access to justice for disadvantaged people in the community.

The Australian Pro Bono Centre is an independent, non-profit organisation committed to supporting and promoting pro bono legal services in Australia. The centre plays a unique leadership and coordination role as advocate, broker, coordinator, researcher and resource provider.

www.nationalprobono.org.au

The nominees are:

Hunter Community Legal Centre *with* McCullough Robertson

Established in 2012, the partnership between Hunter Community Legal Centre and McCullough Robertson provides advice on employment law matters such as unfair dismissal, discrimination in the workplace and unpaid entitlements. The partnership was driven by high demand for employment law advice in the Hunter area, with many of the workers seeking help being young and employed in low-paid jobs in hospitality, health services, retail, construction and mining.

McCullough Robertson provides two employment law specialists who travel to the Hunter Community Legal Centre each week to provide advice face-to-face and over the phone. Since the partnership began, 163 people have received direct individual assistance with legal advice about their matter, and a further 103 people have received information and referral to another service.

Marrickville Legal Centre *with* Corrs Chambers Westgarth

In 2006, Corrs Chambers Westgarth was providing ad hoc assistance to Marrickville Legal Centre when it became clear that the centre needed assistance with its youth law practice. They set about establishing the Youth Legal Service partnership, which each year helps more than 500 children and young people aged up to 24 across a wide range of areas including fines, victim support and family law.

Two Corrs Chambers Westgarth solicitors work one day a week for a six-month period, providing advice and representation as well as assistance with outreach services. The secondee program has improved access to justice for young people, increasing their knowledge of the legal system and improving their ability to seek help for legal problems.

Redfern Legal Centre and Marrickville Legal Centre *with* Clayton Utz

Established in 2011, the partnership between Redfern Legal Centre (RLC) and Clayton Utz through their Employment Law Advocacy Scheme provides advice and representation at Fair Work Commission conciliations to low-income people who are not eligible for legal aid. The scheme was expanded to include clients with general protections claims in 2014. Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC) joined the scheme at the start of 2015.

Clients are referred to the scheme by RLC and MLC and they meet with a Clayton Utz lawyer who offers a comprehensive service through to the resolution of the matter. A joint training program has been developed for the lawyers, who gain invaluable experience in negotiation, advocacy and client management. There are 15 lawyers on the roster who participate in the scheme.

Refugee Advice & Casework Service and Asylum Seekers Centre *with* Gilbert + Tobin

The partnership between Gilbert + Tobin, the Refugee Advice & Casework Service (RACS) and the Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC) began in May 2014, and provides a weekly legal clinic for asylum seekers in NSW. The partnership recognises the interconnected nature of legal, social, health and financial problems experienced by asylum seekers and draws on the strengths of each partner to provide a holistic service.

ASC workers refer clients to the ASC Legal Service. The ASC Legal Service, which is managed by a lawyer seconded from RACS, provides referrals to the clinic. Eighteen Gilbert + Tobin lawyers are on the roster, with two attending the clinic each week. All work undertaken by Gilbert + Tobin is overseen by RACS lawyers who are experienced in refugee law, policy and practice.

The clinic benefits asylum seekers by providing them with access to lawyers who understand their needs, and they are able to combine their legal appointment with other ASC services such as English classes.

Salvos Legal Humanitarian *with* Salvos Legal

This partnership, which started in 2010, features a unique model where income from the corporate firm (Salvos Legal) funds a free legal service for disadvantaged and marginalised people (Salvos Legal Humanitarian). In 2012 the partnership became financially self-sustaining.

Annually, Salvos Legal Humanitarian provides more than 32,000 hours of pro bono services in eight locations across Sydney and via telephone for people living in rural and remote communities. Besides offering free advice and assistance, Salvos Legal Humanitarian also provides full-time representation, running around 300 cases at any one time. The service is holistic, with clients offered referrals to counselling, drug and alcohol programs, and employment services.

This partnership has similar objectives to its predecessor Courtyard Legal, which sought to help people who are on low incomes, ineligible for legal aid and unable to afford legal representation.

Aboriginal Justice Award



Presented by:

Andrew Cappie-Wood
Secretary
Department of Justice NSW

Sponsored by:

Department of Justice NSW

The Aboriginal Justice Award is presented to an Aboriginal individual or group of individuals who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people in NSW. This may have occurred in a range of activities over a long period, or in a single significant activity.

The Foundation acknowledges the support of the Department of Justice NSW.

www.justice.nsw.gov.au

The nominees are:

Alistair Ferguson

Nominated by Joanna Lunzer
Just Reinvest NSW

Alistair Ferguson, a proud Ngemba man, has been nominated for his work of more than 20 years in the Bourke community. More specifically, his nomination relates to his decade-long contribution as chair of the Bourke Aboriginal Community Working Party (BACWP) and his leadership of the Maranguka Justice Reinvestment Project in Bourke, which seeks to bring about systemic change to achieve a reduction in Aboriginal youth offending and incarceration rates.

Established in April 2014, the Bourke Justice Reinvestment Project focuses on building cross-sector partnerships to build a new framework to address Aboriginal disadvantage. Alistair has been the driving force behind creative collaboration between government and NGOs including Father Chris O'Reilly's Youth Off The Streets, Eternity Aid, Bourke Aboriginal Health Service, St Vincent de Paul, Jesuit Social Services and the National Adult Literacy Campaign 'Yes I Can' Bourke.

Alistair also started the Wangkumarra language program, which paved the way for the first Aboriginal language program in the NSW high school curriculum.

Barry Hoskins

Nominated by Michelle Flanders
Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council

A Gumbaynggirr elder, Barry Hoskins has been nominated for his work of more than 26 years supporting Aboriginal community members who come into contact with the police on the North Coast of NSW, and in particular his work with young people who are at risk of imprisonment or reoffending. Uncle Barry has not only helped to steer many young people away from jail, but has also provided advice and training to many Aboriginal liaison officers.

As Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer for Coffs Harbour, Uncle Barry maintains strong communication between police and the Aboriginal community by sitting on the community sentencing board, coordinating Aboriginal community liaison meetings and providing advice on cultural protocols.

Uncle Barry's work with young people at risk of reoffending extends beyond his work – he and his wife having been foster carers for more than 25 years.

Terry McGivern

**Nominated by Amanda Josling
Corrective Services NSW**

Terry McGivern has been nominated for teaching Aboriginal men at the John Morony Correctional Centre at Windsor in north-west Sydney. Since 2007, Aunty Terry has worked with more than 330 Aboriginal men, teaching literacy and instilling in them pride in their culture, with the aim of improving their employment opportunities and reducing recidivism. Aunty Terry is committed to developing her students into the Aboriginal elders of the future.

Through her focus on adult teaching methods, Aunty Terry creates a two-way learning environment, where the students' histories, knowledge and experiences are welcomed. Coupled with the 'unlearning' of negative attitudes stemming from poor educational experiences, Aunty Terry has been successful in engaging many young Aboriginal men in education.

While not all students stay long enough to gain certification, they leave the correctional centre with a stronger sense of culture, better literacy skills and inspiration to continue learning.

Phil Naden

**Nominated by Kane Ellis
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)**

A Wiradjuri man, Phil Naden has been nominated for his work over more than 20 years in the Aboriginal community, particularly his role in improving access to justice during his 10-year tenure with the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS). Throughout his career, Phil has been a passionate advocate for the Indigenous community, from his early years as a police liaison officer working in Mount Isa through to his time at Barnados Australia working with homeless Aboriginal youth, and also serving as the chair of the Dubbo Aboriginal Community Justice Group.

Phil started at the ALS as a senior field officer before becoming the manager of the Prisoner ThroughCare unit. Appointed the CEO in 2012, Phil secured the delivery of additional ALS services in the ACT and lobbied for justice targets to be included in the Closing the Gap strategy.

Phil was named CEO of the Bourke Aboriginal Health Service in February 2015 and was recently appointed chair of the State Aboriginal Advisory Council with Corrective Services NSW.

Arthur Wellington

**Nominated by Kerry Wright
Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre**

Well-respected elder and Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) worker Arthur Wellington has been nominated for helping community members with their legal issues for more than 22 years, and in particular for the impact of his work with young people and Aboriginal men. Uncle Arthur is a positive Aboriginal male role model and a father figure to many in the Shoalhaven community.

Uncle Arthur played a major role along with the late Uncle Keith Smith and Edward Newman in establishing the first regional ALS on the south coast. Today, Uncle Arthur continues to work closely with the ALS as their Aboriginal field officer in Nowra.

As part of his work with Aboriginal men and youth, Uncle Arthur participates in two mentoring programs: one through the Doonooch Self Healing Indigenous Corporation which mentors men released from prison with an emphasis on Aboriginal culture, and the other through the Nimbal Program, which provides mentoring for Aboriginal children aged 10 to 17.

Justice Medal



LAW AND JUSTICE
FOUNDATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Presented by:

**The Hon. Gabrielle Upton
MP**

Attorney General
of New South Wales

Sponsored by:

Law and Justice
Foundation of NSW

The Justice Medal is presented to an individual for outstanding achievement in improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people. This may have been demonstrated in a range of activities over an extended period or work over a shorter period but of exceptional impact.

www.lawfoundation.net.au

The nominees are:

Robyn Cotterell-Jones

**Nominated by Ariel Marguin
Justice for Children Australia**

Robyn Cotterell-Jones has been nominated for her 20-year commitment to the Victims of Crime Assistance League (VOCAL) where she has led a needs-based, positive victim support program, while also seeking to address systemic issues affecting victims of crimes and the community.

A publican until she became a victim of an attempted murder, Robyn joined VOCAL in 1994 which at the time was a little known, unfunded support group. Robyn's perseverance, hard work and commitment transformed VOCAL into a community support organisation that provides a vast range of services to victims of serious crime. Over time, Robyn developed a holistic, inclusive program which culminated in the opening of the Victim Support Centre in Newcastle.

Robyn's contribution to improving access to justice for victims includes advocating for The Charter of Victims' Rights and Victim Impact Statements. She has been active in law reform, lobbying for the changes introduced by the Family Law Legislation Amendment (Family Violence and Other Measures) Act 2011 among other legislative changes. Robyn instigated the Reclaim the Night march in Newcastle, part of the international movement to raise awareness of sexual assault and domestic violence against women.

Superintendent Robert Critchlow

**Nominated by the Hon. David Elliott
MP**

Member for Baulkham Hills

A NSW Police officer of 25 years' standing, Robert Critchlow has been nominated for his work protecting vulnerable people in Sydney's Hills District area, in particular older people, women and youth. For many years Rob has championed the cause of elder abuse, first at the North Shore Local

Area Command and now at The Hills Local Area Command. An important link between the NSW Elder Abuse Helpline and the police, Rob supports the helpline's activities by providing advice and policing support to older people, many of whom are from CALD backgrounds.

Rob devised the Vulnerable Community Support Officer (VCSO) role to better support people such as those with age-related problems or mental health issues. Focusing on ensuring people receive the services they need, the officer employs a case management model with an emphasis on linkages between police, health, housing and NGO services.

Rob is also committed to reducing domestic violence in the community. His work has increased the number of arrests for assaults and improved reporting. The rate of domestic violence has fallen by 10 per cent in the two years since he has been at The Hills. Rob helped secure a house to be used as a refuge for domestic violence victims, filling a major gap in service provision in The Hills.

Sarah Dale

**Nominated by Heather Sare
NSW Bar Association**

Sarah Dale has been nominated for providing unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in Australia with legal advice and representation. As a direct result of her work, some 130 boys whom Sarah represents are living in the Australian community while she continues working to secure temporary protection visas for them.

After joining the Refugee Advice and Casework Service (RACS) in 2013, Sarah began working with a group of boys on Christmas Island, where they were detained pending transfer to Nauru. Sarah managed to defer the transfer by lobbying, advocating and lodging a complaint to the UN Human Rights Council. Prior to that, Sarah worked for the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH) where she was the driving force

in the development of the Offshore Asylum Seekers Project, coordinating the judicial review assistance for asylum seekers.

In addition to her legal representation work, Sarah has established guidelines and co-authored a draft handbook on working with refugee children, and spends time coordinating the RACS community legal education program, which involves liaising with Settlement Services International and the Red Cross to roll out information sessions for vulnerable unrepresented asylum seekers.

Judge Joe Harman

**Nominated by Helen Miedzinski
H A Miedzinski Lawyers**

Judge Joe Harman has been nominated for his 30-year commitment as a lawyer and judge to ensuring that disadvantaged people can gain access to justice and have their voice heard. A strong advocate for Aboriginal rights, Joe has helped thousands of people directly through his family law work, and indirectly through training, mentoring and teaching.

In 1990, Joe helped establish Barnardos Legal Service in Penrith, which gives free legal advice to disadvantaged community members. He also helped establish a volunteer duty solicitor service at Penrith Local Court to represent women in ADVO matters. Both of these services still exist today.

For more than 10 years, Joe was engaged with the Burnside Father's Support Service as well as working with Western Sydney Refuges and Court Support Services assisting separated parents to navigate the court process. Joe also worked as a trainer for Independent Children's Lawyers and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners.

Since joining the Federal Court Circuit in 2010, Joe has continued his commitment to improving access to justice as a member of the Court's Aboriginal Access and Community Welfare Liaison

Committees. An active member of the Greater Sydney and Albury-Wodonga Family Pathways Networks, in 2013 Joe established the Aboriginal Family Pathways Sub-Committee. He has been working with the Aboriginal Legal Service since 2013, providing training, participating in community education programs and championing the service.

Detective Inspector Gary Jubelin

**Nominated by the Hon. Catherine Cusack MLC
NSW Legislative Council**

Detective Inspector Gary Jubelin has been nominated for his transformational role in the 18-year investigation into the deaths of three Aboriginal children in Bowraville on the North Coast of NSW. Gary's work contributed to the establishment of a parliamentary inquiry and set new standards in dealing with Indigenous Australians and Aboriginal cultural issues.

Gary led the police reinvestigation of the murders of three Aboriginal children who were murdered in Bowraville in 1990 and 1991. The trauma of the families' loss was compounded by the lack of cultural sensitivity during the original investigation and led to mistrust of the justice system.

Gary's work culminated in a parliamentary inquiry which resulted in a report that recommended reforms to policies, procedures and training programs for police about Aboriginal people and culture. He also succeeded in restoring trust in the police and the justice system among the Bowraville community.

Dr Ghena Krayem

**Nominated by Maha Abdo OAM
United Muslim Women Association**

Dr Ghena Krayem has been nominated for her work over the last 15 years to improve access to legal information and services for the Australian Muslim community, and to increase understanding of Islam, Muslim families and Muslim women in Australia.

Ghena developed a mediation model specific to Muslim families which is used by the United Muslim Women Association and is the first of its kind. This model has been vital in ensuring that women experiencing domestic and family violence can obtain a solution in a culturally and religiously appropriate manner.

Launched in May 2014, Ghena's book *Islamic Family Law in Australia: to recognise or not to recognise* addresses the place of sharia law in the Australian legal context. Previously President of the United Muslim Women Association, Ghena is also a certified Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner.

Jenny Lovric

**Nominated by Karen Bowley
Hume Riverina Community Legal Service**

Jenny Lovric has been nominated in recognition of her 25-year commitment to improving access to justice for disadvantaged people in NSW, but particularly for her work since 2007 managing and driving the Cooperative Legal Service Delivery (CLSD) Program and Regional Outreach Clinic Program (ROCP) at Legal Aid NSW.

Jenny manages 11 CLSD Program regional partnerships and 13 ROCP clinics, significantly increasing the availability of legal services for people in rural, regional and remote areas through improved coordination. Using data collected through the CLSD Program, Jenny has advocated for services where they are lacking and has instigated new programs in Legal Aid NSW such as using

Justice Medal nominees (continued)

local solicitors as outreach solicitors to provide legal aid clinics.

Under Jenny's leadership, the CLSD Program has secured extra funding for expansion and has consistently addressed the legal needs of disadvantaged people in a range of innovative ways.

Lee Purches

**Nominated by Johanna Pheils
Office of the Director of Public
Prosecutions**

Lee Purches has been nominated for her work over the last 17 years in improving access to justice for victims and witnesses in NSW courts, and in particular her commitment to the Witness Assistance Service (WAS). She has received national recognition for developing best practice policies and procedures to support people giving evidence in court, such as children, women who have experienced domestic violence and/or sexual violence, Aboriginal people and people from CALD backgrounds.

From 1998 to 2015, Lee managed the WAS which is the human face of prosecution in NSW. NSW was the first state to develop a WAS that was integrated into the prosecution service. Following her submission to the Samuels Inquiry in 2003, WAS underwent significant expansion growing to 33 officers across NSW who assist more than 5,500 witnesses a year.

Lee has developed a practice and policy for social workers and psychologists working in a legal environment, and shares her knowledge through training and consulting to other agencies, prosecution services and government departments nationally and internationally.

Dr Belinda Russon

**Nominated by Kim Naden
Tranby Aboriginal College**

Dr Belinda Russon has been nominated for her 16-year-long commitment to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people and their families. As a duty solicitor at Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre for six years, Belinda advocated for women experiencing domestic violence. A passionate adult education activist, Belinda joined Tranby Aboriginal College in 2007 where she has employed creative and new ways to empower Indigenous people through education.

Belinda was responsible for managing the National Indigenous Legal Advocacy (NILA) Diploma for nearly seven years. The only course of its kind in Australia, it has been demonstrated to improve Indigenous people's access to and understanding of the justice system. More than 300 Indigenous people have graduated with the diploma, returning to their communities with legal knowledge to help themselves and others. Belinda is currently advocating for the University of Sydney to introduce a pre-law program specifically for Indigenous students seeking to study law.

Tanya Whitehouse

**Nominated by Robert Pelletier
Macarthur Legal Centre Inc**

Tanya Whitehouse has been nominated for her work in improving access to justice for women and children who are victims of domestic and family violence in the Macarthur region over the past 20 years, in particular those from Indigenous and CALD backgrounds. The coordinator of the Macarthur Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (MWDVCAS) for the last decade, Tanya joined the service 22 years ago. Under Tanya's leadership, the MWDVCAS team has grown to one of the largest in the state, supporting women and children with issues of domestic

violence at the Camden, Picton and Campbelltown courts.

Tanya works extensively with the police, the Benevolent Society, WILMA Women's Health Centre and other NGOs that support women experiencing domestic violence. Tanya has been instrumental in establishing relationships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community supporting Indigenous women experiencing domestic violence.

Tanya has served over 15 years on the Campbelltown Domestic Violence Committee and as the convenor of the Camden Wollondilly Domestic Violence Committee. Tanya instigated the introduction of domestic violence policies in local government and businesses, and played a key role in the development of the new NSW Government domestic and family violence framework for reform.

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Annette Bain

AM Bain

Jasmina Bajraktarevic

NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors

Professor Eileen Baldry

University of NSW

Anita Barker

Department of Justice NSW

Kylie Beckhouse

Legal Aid NSW

Jason Behrendt

Chalk & Fitzgerald

Uncle Dave Bell

Young Spirit Mentoring Program

Cathy Birchall

Bidwell Uniting

Karen Bowley

Hume Riverina Community Legal Service

Steve Butel

Western Sydney Homeless Connect

Max Caddis ASM**Caryn Carpenter**

Illawarra & Shoalcoast Community Legal Centres

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Terry Chenery

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Krista Christenson

Corrective Services NSW

Keith Cochrane

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Alison Croall

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Member NSW Legislative Council

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Lynne Dalton Consulting

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Ron Jacks

Department of Justice NSW

Tanya Jackson-Vaughan

Refugee Advice & Casework Service

The Hon. Greg James AM QC**Sue Jefferies**

Drug Court of NSW

Cr. Andrew Jefferies

The Hills Shire Council

The Hon. Judge Peter Johnstone

Children's Court of NSW

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Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council

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Pieta Thornton OAM

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Julie Vitnell

Hunter Community Legal Centre

Amy Watts

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Roger West

Westwood Spice Consultancy

Ray Williams MP

Member for Castle Hill

Detective Superintendent Michael Willing

NSW Police

Kerry Wright

Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre

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The focus of Herbert Smith Freehills' longstanding pro bono practice is to increase access to justice and opportunity, prioritising reconciliation, homelessness, disability and health, and global rule of law. The work includes transactional and litigious matters for charities and individuals, solicitor secondments, systemic advocacy and community legal education. In 1993, the firm established the Shopfront Youth Legal Centre which is operated with Mission Australia and the Salvation Army. It offers legal services to homeless people aged 25 and under. In 1992, Herbert Smith Freehills established its first pro bono solicitor secondment in NSW to Kingsford Legal Centre, which continues to this day.

www.herbertsmithfreehills.com



King & Wood Mallesons is a leading commercial law firm with a focus on Asia Pacific; we are recognised for our ability to combine consistently rigorous analysis with astute judgment. Our vision for community involvement is to provide support in diverse, complementary ways. The depth of the King & Wood Mallesons in the Community Program is reflected in its three key components: pro bono advice and representation, workplace giving, and volunteering. The program is underpinned by a number of significant partnerships with organisations including the National Children's and Youth Law Centre.

www.mallesons.com



Minter Ellison has a longstanding commitment to pro bono legal services — the cornerstone of our Community Investment Program. We are proud of our leadership role in establishing the Homeless Persons' Legal Service in 2004 in partnership with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre. Our aim is to target our assistance to communities in greatest need, with a focus on breaking the cycles of homelessness and disadvantage. Minter Ellison regards pro bono legal work as an essential element of professional responsibility and one of the defining features of the legal profession. In the year ended 30 June 2015 Minter Ellison exceeded the National Pro Bono Aspirational Target.

www.minterellison.com

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At Ashurst we accept and take seriously our responsibility to make legal services available to all. Through our extensive pro bono program we act for individuals and not-for-profit organisations in a wide range of matters.

Our work includes providing legal opinions and advice, drafting and negotiation, litigation, law and policy reform and community legal education. We send our lawyers and other staff on secondment to work with community legal and welfare organisations from the inner-cities to remote northern Australia. We also use the wider resources of the firm to support community legal and welfare organisations.

www.ashurst.com



Chalk & Fitzgerald is a specialist practice focused on serving Indigenous clients, especially in relation to their lands and water. Over the years we have established a national reputation, acting in many landmark cases and assisting in the development of key legislation, including the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW). Based in Sydney, we act for communities from La Perouse to the Kimberley. The firm also has a substantial pro bono practice, especially on behalf of clients facing powerful and well-resourced opponents.

www.chalkfitzgerald.com.au



Gilbert + Tobin believes pro bono work is an important part of the legal profession's contribution to the betterment of our community. We share a responsibility to ensure that our legal system is just and equitable, and that everyone in our society has access to legal representation and advice. Law firms are in the privileged position of having the resources to assist people who cannot afford legal services. We are committed to working with all lawyers to build a successful and sustainable pro bono culture throughout Australia that improves access to our legal system.

www.gtlaw.com.au

The Law and Justice Foundation of NSW is an independent, statutory, not-for-profit organisation established in 1967 to improve access to justice for the people of NSW. It is incorporated by the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000* (NSW).

The Foundation's purpose is to advance the fairness and equity of the justice system, and to improve access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

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