Conversations for change

By David Dunbar

T hose who know me well would not, I’m sure, describe me as brimming with self-confidence.

Overcoming this has sometimes required an uncomfortable leap of faith. It has not always been easy, and it has not always worked. But despite all, there has always been a level of comfort. A baseline that I could rely on (consciously or otherwise).

I felt confident that I would not be judged or measured for my gender but instead for my experience and capability. That any plans I might have for family would not be weighed up by others or adversely influence my career. That I could work late with colleagues without question, compromise or risk.

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Recent events remind me that we shouldn’t assume this confidence is shared by all. Sadly, it is too easy to fall into a paradigm solely from our personal experience that masks the experiences of others or allows us to treat uncomfortable truths as rare aberrations. Bullying and dismissive behaviour is not the sole preserve of men. I’ve heard enough of the experiences of others to know that. Even so, we men need to take an honest look at ourselves.

Making sense of the questions over the culture of legal practice and making progress to positive change requires honest conversations amongst us all … and men in particular, I openly recognise that I need to listen to others to gain insight on this issue. It takes courage and being open minded to challenge my own assumptions and actively contribute to debate and change. So, I’ve sought the views of some male colleagues. Men I respect and whose experiences will broaden my own, whose reflections I want to hear – and share.

Let’s be clear. This is not about finding fault or diminishing ourselves. As a profession, and as practitioners, both men and women, we all aspire to deliver on high expectations and standards.

So, how do my colleagues feel about the recent news?

It’s made us feel ashamed: The number and nature of the complaints I was coming across, the suggestion that bullying, harassment and gender inequality are happening in our profession, is not acceptable and unprofessional. I had no appreciation of the magnitude of the problem. I am embarrassed that I had such a lack of awareness.

It’s true that many of us have not seen men bullying women colleagues. But coming at it with an unconscious slanted point of view. But my experience is that senior partners in firms have treated staff, men and women, equally with respect and have behaved appropriately towards them. Everyone has different styles and there were certainly some senior partners (and certainly many judges) who seemed pretty scary to juniors and there were others who seemed somewhat aloof but I wasn’t aware of differentiation or anything approaching bullying on their part. So, I feel very concerned indeed about reports of pockets of inappropriate behaviour.

So, maybe it’s not widespread but in pockets? Regardless, this is something we need to face up to.

This issue of bullying seems deep-seated: the news over the past few months, in some ways, does not surprise me. Law School did have the bitches who went to the right schools, played the right sports, came from the right families and seemed destined to be their father’s sons in law firms where family name and school were important. I had heard that “work hard, play hard” was part of the culture and came across women – and men – who found the whole thing stressful, frustrating and demeaning and got out.

As another said: There is no getting away from the fact that our profession has in many quarters been something of an “alpha dog” culture and different people react to that, or work within it, in different ways. I feel that, as a new generation of lawyers comes into senior roles within firms, and on the bench, a different environment is being created.

One can only hope so, but whatever the case, I am sure the majority of my senior colleagues don’t and won’t accept it: As a male practitioner I see the issue not so much as one of culture but one of a lack of basic human decency and, as I understand the allegations at their worst, serious criminality.

Has it changed over time? Something has changed. Certainly, one thing has been lost – respect. Talking to a senior female colleague recently she agreed. When I began practice the basic rule, in litigation anyway, was that you treated everyone with respect. Today’s opponent was tomorrow’s ally and there was certainly camaraderie. Of course, the Bench and Court staff had to be particularly respected. Sex was not much of an issue. More important was ability.

Is it just about gender or also about position and power? Whilst the majority of reported instances involve misconduct by males towards females, I am aware of instances where males have been mistrusted or harassed by females.

Wellness in the workplace – YLC seminar

By Rebecca Waugh, Cassandra Kenworthy and Claire Wills

A well-attended Young Lawyers’ Committee panel discussion on wellness in the workplace was held on 17 April at the NZX conference centre.

The event was held in response to media coverage focusing on harassment and bullying in the legal profession.

Panelists Mary Scholtens QC, Jane Derbyshire, a divisional manager at MFAT, and Alastair Espie, an associate for Dundas Street Employment Lawyers, offered perspectives on the issues and discussed how to support yourself through difficult situations at work (including a step through of the formal process of an employment issue related investigation), being an ally for others going through difficult work situations, and the resources available to those faced with difficult/unfair situations in the workplace.

Both junior and senior lawyers attended from a diverse group of employers. Feedback has been positive, with attendees commenting that they feel more secure in knowing the options available to them if they need support in the future.

The YLC encourages practitioners from all backgrounds and experience levels to attend future events. Practitioners can keep up to date with the YLC by following its Facebook page or keeping an eye on e-brief.

Gender Equality Charter launched

Tommy Tupa

Chris Moore, Chair of the NZLS Women’s Advisory Panel, Kathryn Beck, NZLS President, Karen Feint, Co-Convenor of the NZLS Wellington Branch Women in Law Committee, Una Jagose, Solicitor-General, Julie Anne Genter, Minister for Women, Professor Margaret Wilson, Dame Silvia Cartwright, Chief Justice Dame Sian Elias, and Justice Christine Grice.

THE Law Society’s Gender Equality Charter was launched recently at Parliament’s Great Hall, hosted by Minister for Women, Julie Anne Genter. The intention of the charter is to improve the retention and advancement of women in the legal profession. The charter invites signatories to lead from the top, make a plan and take action, and measure progress. Specific commitments include tackling unconscious bias, encouraging flexible working arrangements, closing the gender pay gap, and improving the numbers of women in lead counsel roles.

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Wellness seminar panelists, from left: Alastair Espie, Jane Derbyshire and Mary Scholtens QC.
Library News

Library open for business

By Robin Anderson, Librarian, Wellington

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t
everying is back in the Library now, reorganised, tidied up and

waiting for you to visit. Come and see the new one-floor layout

We have some duplicate volumes available, especially from the

English reports, as we have moved to one set only for all of

these. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these.

Lexis Advance is coming soon to the Library. We will be offering

throughout the year and in the future.

Queensland Law Reports and unreported judgments now have a

Canlii now offers Canadian law reviews and newsletters as well as

In-House Lawyers: Conflicts of Interest, Webinar.

Tuesday 22 May

Young Lawyers Committee

Tuesday 8 May

Education Law Conference, Wellington. www.lawyerseducation.co.nz

Tuesday 10 May

Parole Law Committee

Courts, Tribunals & ADR Committee

Trusts and the PRA – Is the Castle Still Standing? Workshop. www.lawyerseducation.co.nz

Tuesday 15 May

Family Law Committee

Effective Political Lobbying. Webinar. www.lawyerseducation.co.nz

Unconscious bias in Medicine and the Law, Wellington Medico-Legal Society, holly.hedley@buddlefindlay.com

Monday 21 May

Trusts and Estates Committee

Tuesday 22 May

In-House Lawyers: Conflicts of Interest, Webinar. www.lawyerseducation.co.nz

Thursday 24 May

PRA S 44 Claims – From Fraud to Knowledge, Webinar. www.lawyerseducation.co.nz

Friday 25 May

Women in Law Committee

Monday 28 May

Advanced Lawyer for the Child: Out of the Comfort Zone, Intensive. www.lawyerseducation.co.nz

Wednesday 30 May

Legal Assistance Committee

Elder Law 2018, Conference. www.lawyerseducation.co.nz

Thursday 31 May

Immigration and Refugee Committee

Wednesday 6 June

Wills & Estates, Webinar. www.lawyerseducation.co.nz

Thursday 7 June

Auditing – Things You Need to Know, Webinar. www.lawyerseducation.co.nz

NB Please confirm the dates of committee meetings with convenors.

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Another adds: I did not encounter it much. However, I have encountered a certain arrogance – from both men and women in larger law firms. That seems to have become more common. Also, it seems people in smaller practices increasingly seem to believe that arrogance and aggression are more important than respect. Regarding bullying, harassment and gender equality, I worry that some women can be bullied too.

Another colleague talks about a culture of entitlement. For some reason, if you’re higher up the heap, male or female, some believe it gives you the right to pick on people below, scream, yell, and people will accept it.

What sort of culture do we want? What do we want and owe to our colleagues? Work places should be safe places for all practitioners and free from bullying and sexual harassment.

What can we do about it?

There’s clearly a role for the Society, the Branch Council and each of us individually: I expect the Society to lead change and be at the forefront of providing and facilitating opportunities for male practitioners to stand up and affect change. (However) male practitioners do need to be champions of change and I want to be part of that change to stand up, support and lead change.

Yes ... we all have a role: Those involved need to be educated and rehabilitated where appropriate – or punished where appropriate, and to the extent that I might be able to contribute to that, will do my utmost to achieve appropriate ends.

It needs brave conversations and honest self-appraisal: In my own practice we have tried to address gender, culture and other issues through focusing on respect for others, which includes developing policies to identify and address issues. This does also to our clients and colleagues in other parts of the profession. This does not mean we are OTT, politically correct all the time. It does mean we try to be sensitive and, when pulled up, apologise and change our attitudes. For me, it has been a healthy process. Being open to criticism from my staff has been very much a part of this. At times I would like to feel that I could frankly tell a colleague that they should change their ways without the issue being seen as a personal or professional attack.

It needs blunt talk: Honestly, it does not mean we don’t sexually assault people, don’t regard young employees as appropriate sexual partners and if one’s decency or self-restraint diminishes after a few drinks, give up the booze or don’t drink with employees present. I think the best role for middle-age males is to make it as clear as possible that they will not acquiesce in this sort of thing.

I encourage all males in the profession to be part of the conversation around advocating for a better culture, particularly towards our female colleagues. And women, I encourage you to be open to our input and views. Let’s talk. Let’s be part of a change.

MADESIGN*

Answers for puzzles from page 7

1 A decimal point: 5, 5, 6, 6
2 Free: country, freehand, freeloader
3 1 G 6 5 8 * g x 0 5 2 6 4

Devil’s Own golf tournament

THE 84th Devil’s Own golf tournament will be held at Hokowhitu golf course, Palmerston North, from Friday 28 September to Sunday 30 September 2018.

Mark your diaries now!

Crossword Solutions

From page 7

Cryptic Solutions


Quick Solutions


Conferences

May 2-4 2018 – ALAAZ 2018 Conference, Sydney. alaanz.org

May 3-6 2018 – Lawlink Conference, Walking the Talk, Benelhem. www.lawlink.co.nz

May 7-10 2018 – Cradle to the Grave Conference, Christchurch. ADIS CPD. www.adis.org.nz


May 9-12 2018 – Cradle to the Grave Conference, Auckland. ADIS CPD. www.adis.org.nz


May 16-18 2018 – ILANZ 2018 Conference, No. 8 Wine, Hamilton. ilanz.org

May 18-20 2018 – NZ Christian Lawyers Conference, Auckland. nchchristianlawyers.org


September 1-3 2018 – 35th Annual Conference Banking & Financial Services Law Association Queenstown, bfla.org


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Reflections on the law, ‘judgery’ and tomorrow’s New Zealand

On Justice Matthew Palmer reflected about his life as a High Court Judge, and the differences and similarities to his previous “lives” as a legal academic, a public servant and barrister and QC, in a wide-ranging discussion at the Victoria University Law School recently.

Justice Palmer was appointed a High Court Judge in October 2015. He was previously the Dean of the Victoria Law School, which is unique in the world for having a law school as a separate faculty, outside of the University’s main Faculty of Arts. He is also a Deputy Solicitor-General and the Chair of the Justice Reform Group in the Ministry of Justice.

Justice Palmer said that before going to Auckland he did not realise how different it was to Wellington. He said the population in Wellington is different, the culture and atmosphere is different, and people are different. Of his 188 judgments so far, 15 percent concerned civil law, and 60 percent criminal law. He said this was higher than he expected.

In his judgments so far, 40 percent of clients have been women, 60 percent men. 60 percent of cases were personal injury cases, 40 percent commercial. His experience is New Zealand law without the provincial. “I think the New Zealand legal system, including the profession, the academy and the judiciary, needs to give much more consideration to the increasing cultural diversity of New Zealand.”

Justice Palmer compared working in the judiciary with the legal academy and the profession. His personal view is that the legal academy should focus on research and scholarship into legal issues which matter to New Zealand. “I think the New Zealand legal system, including the profession, the academy and the judiciary, needs to give much more consideration to the increasing cultural diversity of New Zealand.”

Justice Palmer suggested that higher degrees in law tend to depart from this emphasis into “other disciplinary realms” and as the international market for academics demands higher degrees entailing long years of research, legal academics are often recruited having little or no experience in legal practice.

“I suspect some of the disconnect between academia and the judiciary lies in the difference between law and policy. In general, the judiciary must focus on what law is and how it applies, whereas the academy is more interested in law’s consequences and the reasons for your decision.”

While emphasising through-out his career as an academic, while his personal impressions, he said he was struck by what appears to be different cultural views about what it means to tell the truth, how binding the law is, and whether courts need to be strictly followed or not.

These differences led him to wonder what New Zealand’s culture is and what it will be, and which culture will be to the future culture and which more provincial. “I think the New Zealand legal system, including the profession, the academy and the judiciary, needs to give much more consideration to the increasing cultural diversity of New Zealand.”

Justice Palmer compared working in the judiciary with the legal academy and the profession. His personal view is that the legal academy should focus on research and scholarship into legal issues which matter to New Zealand’s society, economy and culture, and teach law students how to think about those legal issues in context. “In New Zealand’s legal system today that requires more focus on Parliament and the Executive than it did 15 years ago.”

“... legal education is generally too oriented to case law... of course it is important for students to be taught how to read cases and appreciate how judges make decisions, but my experience is New Zealand law graduates understand that at the expense of understanding the relationship between law and policy and how the legislation and executive decisions are made in reality.”

While there are similarities between legal academics, judges and practitioners, there are differences. “The working lives of lawyers and judges are dominated by the common law method of examining one case after another and that is the emphasis of a bachelor’s degree in law.”

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Law Society v Bell Gully cricket match played in good spirit, continues long tradition
By John Porter

A blustery autumn day in late March saw the Law Society eleven play Bell Gully at Kelburn Park, for the Sir Denis Blundell Trophy. Bell Gully won the toss, and chose to bat, getting off to the cracking start with Alex Smail carting the Law Society bowlers to all corners of the park.

George Hulley contributed a sound 32, and Phil Zander struck a beautiful six out of the ground and managed to lose the ball for 10 minutes in the hedge. Tim Smith displayed some deft stroke play. Alex Smail was finally out for 74, hitting one beautiful six into a car being parked, breaking the passenger window. The driver emerged, somewhat shaken, and was not too pleased to be advised that Bolton v Stone [1951] AC, 850 was still good law in New Zealand and that the batsman was not liable for any loss.

You will be pleased to know that Bell Gully management did the decent thing and agreed to cough up the cost of the damage. For the Society, Michael Leggat, Alastair Espie and Hugo Porter bowled well. The big firm put up 169 runs all out, and the Law Society batsmen had a chase on their hands.

Jonathon Sutton struck a well compiled 25 before he was run out, Alastair Espie (29) and Jude Murdoch (31) played well, but it was man of the match Andrew Davie with a beautifully struck 39 including three sixes who put the Society into a great position. Mical Treadwell hit the winning runs. For Bell Gully, Damien Stone, Andrew Hill and Phil Zander bowled well.

This game was played in a wonderful spirit, and there was real sporting ability and great sportsmanship shown by players on both sides, and some good friendships were formed.

In these days, when the profession is in danger of losing many traditions it is wonderful to see a long standing fixture such as this being maintained, with Bell Gully fielding a competitive team to contest the trophy which was donated by their former partner (and, of course, Governor-General of New Zealand), Sir Denis Blundell. Bell Gully proved to be wonderful hosts at the after match function, and on behalf of the Society we thank you for your sterling efforts in this regard.

I look forward to this fixture continuing.
Taking lessons from the Rangatahi Courts

By Principal Youth Court Judge John Walker

The latest Kōti Rangatahi, Rangatahi Court – the country’s fifteenth – opened recently in Whangārei. In this article, Principal Youth Court Judge John Walker examines the special contribution of Rangatahi Courts to youth justice and their further potential.

New Zealand’s Youth Court has long been recognised for its pioneering approach to restoring the prospects of young offenders and diverting them from starting down a life-long path of crime.

We do not rest on our laurels at the Youth Court. This culture of innovation requires constant nurture, in large part through a Grant for Innovation, which funds the underlying drivers of offending. It also requires close attention to what communities are telling us and how they can contribute to our work.

It is not altogether surprising that Rangatahi and Pasifika Courts emerged in this inclusive, inquisitive environment. These Courts bring together the purpose and values that come from cultural awareness, the strength of community insight and wisdom, and the enveloping support of state agencies, specialist services and court professionals working collaboratively.

It has been ten years since Judge Heemi Taumaunu set up the first Rangatahi Court in Gisborne. The fifteenth Rangatahi Court opened on Saturday 24 February 2018, on Terenga Parāoa Marae in Whangārei.

Whangārei Judge Greg Davis and Hamilton-based Judge Denise Clark have led development of the Whangārei Court. For the first few months, Judge Clark (Ngāpuhi), who has developed Rangatahi Courts in Hamilton and Huntly, will be the presiding judge. Judge Greg Davis (Ngāpuhi) will take over later in the year.

Although Rangatahi and Pasifika Courts are a judge-led initiative, they are not imposed on communities. When considering whether to open a Court, as Youth Court judges, we take our lead from how much local iwi or Pasifika communities wish to be actively involved in what remains essentially a criminal court process.

Rangatahi Courts offer young people who have admitted to their offending (or have had charges they face proved) the choice of having their Family Group Conference plans monitored in a culturally-adapted setting.

They are designed to re-engage young people with their culture, in order to provide a better platform for the delivery of effective interventions.

We have found that a young person who has become disconnected from his or her culture, and has no sense of place or belonging, can be resistant to interventions that deal with underlying causes of offending – be they drug or alcohol addictions, family abuse and breakdown, traumatic brain injuries or learning disabilities and other neuro-disabilities.

The emphasis on tikanga in a Rangatahi Court creates a feeling of inclusiveness and belonging for marginalised young Māori. This culture is evident from the outset. Mārae protocol, sees court professionals, the offender, his or her whanau and the judge all greeted and brought on to the marae together. At the end of the formal powhiri, everyone shares food before the Court sitting starts.

Although the Courts sit on a marae or in another community setting, they are not separate courts. They are always preceded by an appearance at a conventional Youth Court, and are effectively a parallel monitoring and sentencing process held at a different venue.

It is no soft option. As lawyers involved in youth justice will know, Youth Advocates, Police prosecutors and Oranga Tamārikī, and others who form the courts’ multi-disciplinary teams, remain very much part of the process, and the normal principles of natural justice apply.

A great deal is expected of the young people, especially from their elders. Kaumātua and kuia, lay advocates and mentors play a key role in guiding them toward gaining the cultural knowledge which they are expected to demonstrate to the Court. Together, in collaboration with court professionals and under the leadership of the judge, the elders hold their rangatahi to account.

The Courts also strive to be victim-focused. At Whakāiāne’s Mataatua Rangatahi Court, the local iwi have woven a whāriki (mat) to represent the victim, and it is draped over a table in front of the judge. One of the most moving hearings I have presided at was when a young offender held on to the cloth as he gave an emotional karakia and apology.

The opening of Whangārei’s Rangatahi Court raises questions about what is next for Rangatahi Courts. While some people will try to measure the Courts’ success in terms of recidivism rates, these are notoriously difficult to determine, given the Courts’ short history and relatively small number of offenders involved.

Nevertheless, you would reasonably expect that if you deal with the underlying causes of offending effectively – and Rangatahi Courts are a good setting in which to do this – you will reduce a person’s level of offending.

For me, the paramount measure of success is the contribution that culturally-adapted courts make to improving access to justice.

Māori feature disproportionately in all our social indicators, particularly in the criminal justice system. In Northland alone, 80 percent of the young people who appear in Youth Court are Māori. Developing a culturally-adaptable system in settings to which individuals can relate and connect, and feel comfortable in, is the right thing to do.

However, it is not feasible for every centre to have a Rangatahi Court. There are not always enough offenders, and interest from the community may not have emerged. The Courts can place big demands on marae resources, and some iwi and hapu may be uneasy about having a Court sitting on their marae.

These Courts certainly stretch our constrained judicial resource, particularly among our tangata whenua and Pasifika judges, and they require detailed consultation and planning and enormous community goodwill.

Ultimately, I believe their real power lies in their potential to influence and improve how all courts work and interact with the communities they serve.

We are not serving the public if people think the Courts are not in tune with their daily lives and struggles. It is important that the Youth Court learns lessons from its Rangatahi Courts. The normal court environment can be intimidating for anyone who appears, and creating an environment where everyone feels able to participate is essential for the fair delivery of justice.

Youth Court judges want to see how we can mainstream the features and attributes of the Rangatahi Court into the Youth Court. Where appropriate, and where the iwi want it and there are the numbers to justify it, Youth Court judges will always consider using Rangatahi Court practices, without limiting them to a marae setting.

In all this, Youth Advocates remain integral to the Youth Court and the ethos enshrined in its 1989 founding legislation. I see them continuing to advocate for young people to ensure their rights are not overlooked, in whatever venue the Youth Court is sitting.

While always cognisant of that role, their value is strengthened by being part of a wider team which aims to divert and rehabilitate their young people, which is to say the desirable and rehabilitate them from the destructive path they were on.

Judge Louis Bidois and Principal Youth Court Judge John Walker (centre back), alongside kaumatua and kuia at Mataatua Rangatahi Court, where a whāriki (woven mat) represents the victim at the front of the Court.

This article first appeared in LawNews Issue 3 (16 February 2018) published by ADLS, and is reproduced here with permission.

Wellington Women Lawyers’ Association

WELLINGTON Women Lawyers’ Association is a highly collegial organisation, open to all women in the Wellington region with an association to or interest in the law. We organise great events, facilitate networking and mentoring, make submissions on legislation and generally work to promote the interests of women in the law and the legal system. Law students can join for free.

The membership form can be downloaded from the website wwla.org.nz, or by emailing judy.elliot@waterfront.org.nz. Like and follow us on Facebook: @wellingtonwomenlawyers
In January 2018 Community Law commenced a pilot legal advice clinic in a Māori focus unit at Rimutaka Prison. Rōia Māori were welcomed onto the unit by powhiri. Prisoners then had the opportunity to talk to lawyers over four fortnightly two-hour sessions. The sessions consisted of small group discussions on legal issues of interest to prisoners, for example child visitation rights, and private sessions for personal legal issues.

The feedback from prisoners and staff was positive. As a result, the clinic was approved indefinitely and expanded to the women’s prison at Rimutaka. Community Law welcomes expressions of interest from lawyers willing to visit Rimutaka to contribute to these legal advice clinics. This article provides prospective volunteers with an overview of the clinics.

Community Law visits the men’s and women’s prison at Rimutaka on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (respectively). A Community Law vehicle usually travels from Willis St, Wellington to Rimutaka Prison in 40 minutes. The clinic runs from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. but timing is flexible to accommodate unit needs. Kaāwhina from Ngā Rangahauira and the Wellington Community Justice Project will soon join the clinics to assist the lawyers.

Rōia Māori can expect a more personal engagement with their Māori focus unit clients through the powhiri process, the tikanga followed, and the use of te reo Māori. This engagement will lead to the discovery of shelved or ignored issues through open conversation. Many issues snowball in the isolation of prison. It can be difficult for prisoners to communicate with the outside world let alone connect with someone who has the knowledge and time to assist them with legal issues.

Community Law welcomes expressions of interest from lawyers willing to visit Rimutaka to contribute to these legal advice clinics

Clients raise questions about their criminal defence but, as Legal Aid covers their criminal defence, the unmet demand for legal assistance. Community Law would like to thank Jessica Paul from the Mana Hautū Rautaki Māori (Māori Strategy & Partnerships team) at Corrections for making these clinics possible.

The feedback from prisoners to the women’s prison at Rimutaka has shown a strong demand for legal assistance. Community Law would greatly appreciate any assistance that can be volunteered by the legal community. For more information, please email: digby@wclc.org.nz

Community Law would like to thank Jessica Paul from the Mana Hautū Rautaki Māori (Māori Strategy & Partnerships team) at Corrections for making these clinics possible.

Clients raise questions about their criminal defence but, as Legal Aid covers their criminal defence, the unmet legal need we are addressing primarily relates to civil matters (although clients may benefit from general explanations of appeal rights and criminal procedure). Family law, parole law and debt are common areas advice and referrals are provided on, but we encounter a wide variety of issues such as defamation and human rights infringements.

Prisoners complete an interview sheet with details of their sentence, personal information and legal issue. If a lawyer can provide advice at the time, this is the best opportunity to suggest a prisoner carry out certain tasks. Issues that require research, referrals or ongoing representation can be carried out later with updates provided through a prison email system. This allows lawyers to send one-way communications that are printed out daily for clients. Phone calls can also be arranged, however, these have to be coordinated around lock downs, work programmes and rehabilitation courses.

Community Law Wellington and Huia Valley also run the free legal advice service (0800 LAG LAW) which is now an approved number for all Wellington prisoners. Community Law will look to expand its services as the volunteer roster becomes more established.

The expansion of the clinics to the women’s prison at Rimutaka has shown a strong demand for legal assistance. Community Law would greatly appreciate any assistance that can be volunteered by the legal community. For more information, please email: digby@wclc.org.nz

Community Law would like to thank Jessica Paul from the Mana Hautū Rautaki Māori (Māori Strategy & Partnerships team) at Corrections for making these clinics possible.

The feedback from prisoners to the women’s prison at Rimutaka has shown a strong demand for legal assistance. Community Law would greatly appreciate any assistance that can be volunteered by the legal community. For more information, please email: digby@wclc.org.nz

Community Law welcomes expressions of interest from lawyers willing to visit Rimutaka to contribute to these legal advice clinics

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LEANZ essay competition

The Law and Economics Association of NZ (LEANZ) has established an essay competition, open to current or recent under- or post-graduate New Zealand university students of any discipline. Academic essays that approach a legal or public policy issue using an economic approach (or specifically addresses the failings of such an analysis) are invited. The essay should recognise the significance of legal instruments and institutions in creating or moulding the incentives.

A first prize of $3,000 will be offered together with the opportunity to present the work at a LEANZ seminar event in 2018. A discretionary prize of $1,500 may be awarded to a high-quality runner up. Entries close on Monday 7 May 2018. Details are available at: leanz.org.nz

Council Brief is published for the NZ Law Society Wellington Branch by Chris Ryan, and printed by Beacon Print, Hawke’s Bay.

COUNCIL BRIEF CROSSWORD

You can use this diagram for either the Quick or Cryptic Clues, but the answers in each case are different. This month’s solutions are on page 2.

Crypatic Clues
ACROSS
6. Unusually angered (7)
7. Agree to advance (3,2)
9. Such remarks may still be pointed (5)
10. Decorations I prohibit in small quarters (7)
11. A good one will be true to type (7)
12. Booby prize (6,5)
13. Possibly gifted young scholars may be told not to (6)
14. Go separate ways (7)
15. Horse-soldiers (7)
17. Not much to steal (5)
21. People count on them to send them to sleep! (5)
22. Exercise done by a prisoner (7)

DOWN
1. Single unfronted fireplace (5)
2. Red Indian who may keep watch for you (6)
3. Catch a number up (3)
4. Free beer held up and put down again (6)
5. A wise man (7)
6. Chessman (6)
7. Finish (3)
8. Spanish dance (6)
9. Afterwards (5)
10. Pad (7)
11. Poise (7)
12. Judge (6)
13. Poise (7)
14. It is white’s turn to move. What should white do? (6)
15. Journey (6)
16. Horse-soldiers (7)
17. Accumulate (5)
18. Perform (5)
19. Regulated (7)

Quick Clues
ACROSS
6. Nominate (7)
7. Lesser (5)
9. Afterwards (5)
10. Pad (7)
12. Booby prize (6,5)
14. Go separate ways (4,7)
15. Horse-soldiers (7)
17. It is white’s turn to move. What should white do? (6)
18. Judge (6)
21. Performed (5)
22. Regulated (7)

DOWN
1. Utter (5)
2. Spanish dance (6)
3. Finish (3)
4. Chessman (6)
5. A wise man (7)
6. Vegetables (7)
7. Common knowledge (3-4)
8. Afterwards (5)
9. Pad (7)
10. Poise (7)
11. Poise (7)
12. Journey (6)
13. Figure (6)
14. It is white’s turn to move. What should white do? (6)

Booking for Law Society events

Most events presented by NZLS Wellington Branch are on a user-pays basis. It is very helpful if bookings are made as soon as possible so that the viability of the event can be assured and catering can be accurately estimated. Members are able to book for most events at: http://bookwhen.com/wellington-branch

MADesign™
Answers: See page 2

1. What mathematical symbol can you put between 5 and 6 to create a number greater than 5 but less than 6?
2. What word can precede country, hand, and load?
3. It is white’s turn to move. What should white do?

Practising Well

Chaplain, Julia Coleman, 027 285 9115

COUNCIL BRIEF, MAY 2018
Armed conflict and art crime – centuries of war plunder

By Josie Mcaught

Wilse, mild-mannered District Court Judge by day, fearless art crime researcher and scholar by night – Arthur Tompkins has been entertaining and informing his dedicated fans with stories of stolen art for a few years now.

His mellifluous tones recounting tales of the dislocation, dispossession, theft, lootin and chaos surrounding art will be familiar to listeners of Kim Hill’s Saturday morning show; many of us have enjoyed the successful annual art crime symposiums which he has enjoyed the successful annual art crime symposiums which he has been in business for over twenty years. Further information about the firm can be found at www.tdsl.co.nz. Please email your CV, academic transcript and a brief application letter to law@tdsl.co.nz.

Vacancy – Property / Commercial Lawyer
Thomas Dewar Sziranyi Letts

If you want a variety of property and commercial work as well as the chance to try your hand at other areas of law, then this role is for you. Our property and commercial work has grown significantly over the last few years, and we are now looking for another lawyer to add to our team.

We are not your average law firm – our team of twenty lawyers have joined another lawyer to add to our team. A part time role would be considered for the right person. This role is based in our Lower Hutt office. Further information about the firm can be found at www.tdsl.co.nz. Please email your CV, academic transcript and a brief application letter to law@tdsl.co.nz.

LAW NORTH LIMITED
Kerikeri, Bay of Islands

Law North Ltd is based in Kerikeri, its clients are from Kerikeri, the other Bay of Island’s towns and the large Mid and Far North community. The firm has large and diverse range of clients. Kerikeri is a modern, rapidly developing town that provides good schooling and a wide range of community, sporting and recreational activities. A great place to bring up a family and enjoy the relaxed lifestyle.

JUNIOR SOLICITOR
We seek a motivated Junior Solicitor who has recently graduated, with up to 1 year PQE, has very good research skills, and interested in working with a Director who has a strong Local Government, Civil Litigation and Family Property practice.

POTENTIAL DIRECTOR
We are also looking for an experienced property conveyancing Solicitor (5+ years) with a desire to become an owner. The position is full time, requires someone committed to the BOI area and to become part of a progressive firm that is planning for the future. You would need experience in a commercial practice and can expect to be involved in a wide range of private client work. The ability to relate to clients and establish a personal relationship is important and to become involved in the community.

If either of these positions sounds like you, please send your covering letter and CV to leanne@lawnorth.co.nz www.lawnorth.co.nz

Deadline Council Brief June
Monday 21 May 2018

The Solicitors’ Benevolent Fund – ways to donate

Donations to the Solicitors’ Benevolent Fund can be made through:
• “Give a Little” http://www.givealittle.co.nz or/Solicitors, which will be automatically receipted, or
• by Direct debit: Bank of New Zealand: 02-0506-0101108-097

All donations go directly to the capital reserve. The Solicitors’ Benevolent Fund Trust is registered as a charitable trust (number CC48799) and has tax deductible status.

If a receipt is required when making a direct debit, please email: wellington@solicitors.org.nz with your name, the amount deposited and a contact number to ensure a receipt is issued and sent to the correct place.

Oakley Moran Barristers & Solicitors

Oakley Moran is pleased to announce that from 1 April 2018 Anthea Jane Connor and Simon Nicolas Meikle have joined the firm as partners. Anthea specialises in the areas of sale and purchase of property, wills and enduring powers of attorney, administration of estates, trusts, relationship property and employment law. Simon specialises in the areas of employment and relationship property.