

Welcome to the 2007 Justice Awards

Wednesday, 31 October 2007
Strangers' Dining Room
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY

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.





Your host for this evening is:

**The Hon Paul Stein QC AM
Chair, Board of Governors
Law and Justice
Foundation of NSW**

Justice Paul Stein was appointed as Chair of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales in 2005.

He has been appointed by the NSW Minister for the Environment and Climate Change to review the Borders River Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and has recently completed a report of the Inquiry which reviewed the NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act.

He has been President of the Intellectually Handicapped Persons Review Tribunal, Chair of the Juvenile Offenders Leave Review Committee, of the Council of the Community Justice Centres (1987 - 1993) and the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council (1987 - 1993).

He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Australian Centre for Environmental Law (ACEL), of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) and has participated in the training of judicial officers in Australia and the South-East Asia/Pacific region.



The 2007 Law and Justice Address:

**The Hon Sir Gerard
Brennan AC KBE**

Sir Gerard Brennan was Chief Justice of Australia 1995 – 1998.

He was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1951, appointed QC in Queensland in 1965 and subsequently in New South Wales, Northern Territory, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. He was appointed as a Judge of the Industrial Court of Australia and President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Administration Review Council in 1976, and as a foundation Judge of the Federal Court in 1977.

He was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1981 and appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1988.

He is a former Chancellor of the University of Technology, Sydney and has been awarded Honorary Degrees by Trinity College Dublin, University of Queensland, Central Queensland University, Australian National University, Griffith University, Melbourne University, University of New South Wales and University of Technology, Sydney.

He is currently a Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong.



And MC this evening is:

Ms Mary Kostakidis

Mary Kostakidis has been a journalist and broadcaster for many years (ABC and SBS), an editor at the Ethnic Affairs Commission of NSW, a tutor at Sydney University, a research officer for the departments of Health and Youth and Community Services, and a court interpreter.

Mary has moderated panel discussions on a range of issues for various Government and non-government agencies and most recently moderated a panel discussion at the largest international television conference (Banff, Canada) on Globalisation in Broadcasting.

She was a member of the Drug and Alcohol Council, a councillor on the Constitutional Centenary Foundation, and appointed by the Prime Minister to the Republic Advisory Committee. She has also served on the Order of Australia Honours Committee, the Sydney Olympic Cultural Organising Committee (SOCOG) and was a member of the Breast Cancer Council Advisory Committee. In 1997 Mary was an inaugural appointee to the Advertising Standards Board. She is also a founding member of the James Joyce Foundation.

2007 LIAC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Sponsored by the Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC)



**LEGAL INFORMATION
ACCESS CENTRE**

LIAC is a state-wide service providing free community access to legal information.

LIAC is an initiative of the State Library of NSW and the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW jointly funded by the Public Purpose Fund and the library. Based in the State Library, LIAC operates through the public library network across NSW.

The Centre of Excellence Awards recognise innovative and creative projects which increase community awareness of, and access to, the LIAC service.

www.sl.nsw.gov.au

Presented by: Ms Regina Sutton, State Librarian of NSW

**The winners of the
2007 LIAC Centre of
Excellence Aware are:**

Maitland City Library

for its 'Opening the doors to law' project which created a number of activities aimed at engaging all members of the community to increase their understanding of aspects of the law. These included free seminars 'Older People and the law', 'Neighbours, Householders and the Law', 'Buying and selling your home', a debate for local high schools on issues relating to P-plate drivers, a dramatic presentation for infants and primary schools attended by over 1200 local school students, and a Law Week lunch on Women and the Law.

**Richmond-Upper Clarence
Regional Library**

for extending its successful Law@your library education initiative throughout the region, targeting local government staff in ten local councils. The library thus promoted the LIAC service to council staff and two legal firms, including: Richmond Valley Council, Lismore City Council, Ballina Shire Council, Byron Shire Council, Tweed Shire Council, Richmond River County Council, Kyogle Council, Clarence Valley Council, State Wide Mutual and Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd.

2007 COMBINED COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES GROUP AWARD

Sponsored by the Combined Community Legal Centres Group (CCLCG) NSW



This Award is presented to an individual, or a group of individuals, who, voluntarily in a NSW community legal centre, have demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged people. This may have been demonstrated over an extended period, or in a single significant activity.

The CCLCG provides secretariat support to NSW community legal centres (CLCs) working for the public interest, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalised people and communities. The Award gives community legal centres the opportunity to recognise the contribution that volunteers make to NSW CLCs.

www.nswclc.org.au

Presented by: Ms Michelle Jones, Chair, CCLCG NSW

The nominees for the 2007 Combined Community Legal Centres Group Award are:

Ms Adele Bentham

Nominated by North and North West Community Legal Service

Adele has been a voluntary Administrative Assistant with the Community Legal Service for 18 months. Her work fills a void caused by a lack of funding. She takes calls, makes appointments for clients, enters client data, and researches legal topics for the solicitors or for clients. Adele's caring nature puts distressed clients at ease while her efficiency and dedication eases the workload of other staff at the legal service.

Ms Margaret Jones

Nominated by Redfern Legal Centre

Margaret stands out from the Centre's volunteers - not just for her passion and commitment to social justice, but because, at age 81, of different life experiences from her younger law student colleagues. A working class child of the Great Depression, she entered the workforce at 15, working until retirement in the late 1980s; she then became a mature-age student, graduating with a Degree in Humanities from Macquarie University in 2003. She became a Legal Assistant volunteer in 2004 (currently working two days a week) and also volunteers with the Inner Sydney Domestic Violence Action Group.

Ms Sue Mordaunt

Nominated by Kingsford Legal Centre

Sue began as a volunteer solicitor in 1985, making this her 22nd year with Kingsford! While working in a very busy private legal practice, she rarely misses her advice shift, where her experience and knowledge of family law is greatly appreciated by centre clients, and also by students participating in the clinical legal education program. In addition to her Centre efforts, Sue prioritises her work so she can, in her own words, "give something back to society" by providing pro bono advice and legal assistance to clients in a private capacity.

Ms Frances Tse

Nominated by the Environmental Defender's Office

Frances is a full-time volunteer Legal Intern with the Environmental Defender's Office, a community legal centre specialising in protecting the environment through the law. Frances has worked on a range of cases and research projects, including observing a court hearing about a pollution incident and reporting back the outcome to concerned residents; preparing briefs for counsel; preparing Legal Aid applications and drafting and researching advices for clients.

Ms Linda Wright

Nominated by Illawarra Legal Centre

Linda was on the first roster of volunteer solicitors when the Centre began in 1985. For the past eighteen years she has also volunteered on the Centre's management committee, including three years as Chair, and thirteen as Deputy Chair. She has been instrumental in shaping the structure of the Centre, developing strong management and genuine participation by all members of the Centre and staff. Linda is also involved in the Generalist Solicitor's Sub-Committee monitoring casework and law reform trends, and is a mentor for staff solicitors.

2007 LAW SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Sponsored by the Law Society of New South Wales

The Law Society of New South Wales



The Law Society's 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 persons 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 17 000 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 as confirmation that the conduct of pro bono work has been, and continues to be, part of legal practice.

www.lawsociety.com.au

Presented by: Mr Joe Catanzariti

The nominees for the 2007 Law Society President's Award are:

Ms Bernadette Allas

Bernadette is a sole practitioner who became a lawyer in 1996 after an early retirement from a career as a school teacher. She has been a member of the Pro Bono scheme since 2003 taking on matters which included family, child care and protection, criminal and immigration. Her ability to speak French, Spanish, Italian and Indonesian has greatly assisted her ability with refugee case and clients from CALD backgrounds.

Ms Anne Cregan

Anne has been the National Pro-Bono Coordinator at Blake Dawson Waldron since 1999, and became a partner there this year. Anne has taken on 11 referrals from the Pro Bono Scheme since 2000, including civil and administrative law, AVOs, discrimination, and will and estates cases. She has also taken on matters traditionally 'outside' the scheme's guidelines including one which related to local council by-laws and animals.

Mr Nicholas Patrick

Nicholas is the Pro Bono Director at DLA Phillips Fox, where he wrote and implemented the firm's pro bono policy. He is Chair of the Board of Redfern Community Legal Centre, NSW Convenor of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights and helped establish Australia's first pro bono Animal Law Service (PALS). He has accepted several matters from the scheme and writes regularly for The Law Journal on pro bono issues.

Mr David Roth

David is a principal at Mulley Roth Solicitors, from where he has taken on many pro bono matters. In this year alone, he has assisted with 16 matters which have included Centrelink fraud, possession of narcotics, larceny and assault, as well as family law and AVOs. This is in addition to the firm's own pro bono work which is delivering excellent legal advice and representation freely to people in need.



2007 LAW AND JUSTICE VOLUNTEER AWARD

Sponsored by The New South Wales Bar Association



The Law and Justice Volunteer Award is presented to an individual, or a group of individuals, who are not legal practitioners, and who, in a voluntary capacity, demonstrate 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.

The New South Wales Bar Association is a voluntary association of practicing 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, including its Legal Assistance Referral Scheme, the pro bono work carried out informally by members of the Bar and its partnership with the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT.

www.nswbar.asn.au

Presented by: Mr Michael Slattery QC, President, NSW Bar Association

The nominees for the 2007 Law and Justice Volunteer Award are:

Ms Gina Dumas

Nominated by Mr Graeme Fear, St Vincent De Paul Society

Gina provides assistance, advice, information and advocacy for an extremely marginalised group – intersexuals and transsexuals. She has advocated at all levels of government from Centrelink to the NSW Attorney General and has met with members of the Legislative Council to discuss the issues facing transsexuals. She also advocates with employers

in situations when an employee is transforming, as well as providing a high level of one-on-one support to individuals on issues such as family separation and access to children, alterations to official documents, and anti-discrimination legislation.

Ms Brenda McKinnon

Nominated by Ms Karen Bowley, Upper Murray Community Legal Service

Brenda was the volunteer manager of the Albury-Wodonga Community Information Referral Centre for nine years prior to its closure earlier this year. She

was involved in emergency relief, advocating for clients to agencies including welfare organisations and financial counsellors. She established the Centre's Community Legal Aid Assistance Scheme in 2002 to assist disadvantaged clients to complete legal aid forms in both NSW and Victorian jurisdictions, find lawyers, appeal decisions, make court appointments and attend court with clients. She is also a JP and has trained as an Independent Third Person assisting young people in police interviews.

Ms Wendy Neill

Nominated by Ms Lisa Woodgate, Marrickville Community Legal Centre

Wendy is a graphic and web designer who has been volunteering at the Centre for two years. She completed a number of design projects i.e. Annual report, leaflets, before embarking in 2006 on developing an interactive web site to help the Centre to deliver information and advice to a growing catchment area. It has been designed with high levels of accessibility for the high percentage of clients from CALD backgrounds, vision impaired users, and younger people needing information about issues including debt and traffic offences. The site will reduce some demands on lawyers' time by answering common questions online,

allow for immediate updating of information and advice when necessary and provide far wider access to the Centre's resources.

Ms Ngareta Rossell

Nominated by Mr Stephen Blanks, NSW Council for Civil Liberties

Ngareta is an experienced journalist and advocate for asylum seekers who has used her journalistic skills to raise awareness of conditions in detention centres, and to highlight individual cases of detainees at risk of deportation to countries of origin where they would face renewed persecution, even death. Her campaigning brought to public attention the plight of children in detention; she remains active in highlighting the number of children in 'community detention' and their continued separation from their families. She is also documenting the history of detention in Australia, creating a valuable archive to bear witness to the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

Volunteers of Mission Australia Court Support Service (MACSS)

Nominated by Ms Pauline Nunn, Mission Australia

The MACSS began in 2000 and now has a team of 15 volunteers providing practical and emotional support for victims of crime attending Local,

District, Supreme and Coroners' Courts in the greater Sydney metropolitan area. Volunteers are trained to prepare victims for court, providing information about victims' rights, court orientation and preparation, helping them understand legal terminology and making referrals to counselling and compensation. In 2006 MACSS supported 545 victims, providing over 2860 hours of support. The service expanded to include a permanent roster of volunteers at Burwood Local Court four days per week supporting many who are socially and economically disadvantaged and from CALD backgrounds.



2007 PRO BONO PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Sponsored by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre



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

The National Pro Bono Resource Centre is an Australian independent, non-profit organisation that encourages pro bono legal services, supports lawyers and law firms to make it easier for them to provide high quality pro bono legal services and works with the profession and the community sector to match services with the clients and groups most in need of assistance.

www.nationalprobono.org.au

Presented by Mr John Corker, Director, National Pro Bono Resource Centre

The nominees for the 2007 Pro Bono Partnership Award are:

Blinky Bill Portland Child Care Centre and Barry F Cosier & Associates

The Child Care Centre is a not-for profit community amenity built up over 15 years by local parents using a lot of lamington drives and other community fundraising. A dispute arose with the local Council over ownership of the land it sits on, ultimately threatening its ability and legal right to continue to operate in situ. Solicitor Sonya Teerman provided pro bono services to the Centre, searching title deeds and relevant legislation, drafting letters to Council and providing advice to Centre management on strategy. The Management Committee will now become

trustees for their centre and the land, following re-gazetting by the NSW Parliament as a child care centre on crown land.

Central West Cooperative Legal Service Delivery (CLSD) Program and Blake Dawson Waldron

This CLSD is made up of legal and community service providers from a diverse and disadvantaged area which includes Brewarrina, Dubbo, Cobar and Walgett. Blake Dawson Waldron (BDW) has provided diverse and innovative pro bono services to partners, including referrals (provision of information, advice and representation), Community Legal Education (CLE) initiatives and assisting organisations with their own human resources/legal

issues. Innovations include: writing Wills for Aboriginal people, running victims' compensation matters to assist Women's' Legal Services with Aboriginal women, involving local practitioners in CLE on employment and discrimination, and providing transcription services to the local CLC.

Homeless Persons' Legal Service (a project of PIAC and PILCH) in partnership with

Allens Arthur Robinson, Baker & McKenzie, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Deacons, DLA Phillips Fox, Ebsworth & Ebsworth, Gilbert+Tobin, Henry Davis York, Legal Aid Parramatta, Minter Ellison and Edward Eagar Lodge, Matthew Talbot Hostel, Newtown Mission, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Norman Andrews House, Parramatta Missions, Streetlevel Cafe, The Station, Wayside Chapel, Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre.

The Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS) was established by the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), and the Public Interest Law Clearing House (PILCH), and links private lawyers with community welfare organisations and their clients. A legal needs analysis and feasibility study highlighted the fact that addressing legal problems may reduce homelessness for people at risk of becoming homeless, and may break the cycle of homelessness for those already without secure housing. Seven PILCH

member law firms, through volunteer lawyers, provide legal services on a pro bono basis at the premises of five welfare agencies at a fixed time each week. At least two lawyers will attend at each welfare agency (i.e. 10 lawyers over five welfare agencies) weekly, and are drawn from a pool of approximately 80 volunteers from the participating firms. HPLS is managed by a full-time co-ordinator and overseen by a reference group, which includes representatives of the homeless community and the community legal sector.

Homicide Victim's Support Group and Henry Davis York

These organisations have a unique partnership providing pro bono legal services to clients of the Group - families and friends affected by homicide. Added to the emotional distress accompanying a homicide, a surprising number of legal issues arise for families and friends of the victims. The partnership provides clients with access to pro bono legal services, particularly for those participating in coronial inquests, as well as assisting with a broader range of legal issues including wills, estate and property issues through to investigating compensation for family members. At most meetings between Henry Davis York solicitors and Group clients, a Group counsellor is present to assist when the stress and emotions of dealing with issues

concerning a Police investigation or preparation for an inquest become overwhelming.

Australian Huntington's Disease Association (NSW) and DLA Phillips Fox

In 2006 DLA Phillips Fox established a partnership with the Association which allows it to extend the support it can give its members by providing legal assistance on a broad range of matters. People with Huntington's disease face problems including insurance, family breakdown, and issues of guardianship, genetic testing and end of life. These can be intergenerational as it is an inherited condition. Huntington's symptoms generally appear in the mid-30s, and sufferers may have difficulty accessing pro bono assistance through traditional referral mechanisms as they may have worked and earned an income prior to onset.

Kingsford Legal Centre and Freehills

For over 15 years Freehills has provided KLC with a secondeed solicitor, on 6 monthly rotations. The secondeed solicitor participates in all areas of KLC service including advice and casework, community legal education, law reform and policy work as well as educating and mentoring the solicitors of the future. The appointment gives the Centre an additional 'staff

member', helping to increase community access to legal rights, and provides added expertise in specific areas of law. Secondees have also developed and delivered many community legal education programs. One of the most popular - especially with older members of the community - is on Powers of Attorney and Guardianship.

Lou's Place and Blake Dawson Waldron

Lou's Place opened in 1999 as a drop-in centre to provide a supportive place for women in crisis in Kings Cross. Blake Dawson Waldron has been providing a weekly outreach service since then to meet the legal needs of clients, working with staff and volunteers in an holistic approach which includes medical, counseling and crisis case management and therapeutic activities. The relationship also exists at other levels including providing Christmas lunch, financial support, donations of clothing and furniture, training staff on legal issues, community legal education to the clients, and providing funding and volunteers to enable Lou's Place to open on Saturdays.

Mission Australia (Newcastle) and Sparke Helmore

Mission Australia's Northern NSW Divisional office and Spark Helmore Lawyers' Newcastle



office have been piloting the Hunter Homelessness Law and Advocacy Service (HHLAS), an holistic law and welfare advocacy service in regional NSW. It provides pro bono advice and referral, support and advocacy services, establishing clinics in non-law office settings including the City Mission in Newcastle, the Matthew Talbot hostel in Wickham and the Raymond Terrace neighbourhood centre. Matters dealt with were predominantly welfare, family law and criminal law problems, domestic violence, debt and bankruptcy, and housing and tenancy issues.

Note: This pilot project received funding from the Law and Justice Foundation's grants program.

The Salvation Army (Auburn) and Mills Oatley

This partnership has been active for two years, assisting clients of the Army's Auburn welfare centre. Solicitor Luke Geary conducts pro-bono legal consultations every Monday night and has also built up a team to help with service provision to clients, many referred from the Army's methadone program. He has also taken a special interest in refugee issues, providing advice and advocacy which has resulted in around 30 family members of refugees being able to join their relatives in Australia. He is now refugee representative on The Salvation Army's Territorial Social Action Advisory Team.

2007 ABORIGINAL JUSTICE AWARD

Sponsored by the NSW Attorney General's Department



Attorney General's
department of nsw

The Aboriginal Justice Award is presented to an Aboriginal individual, or a group of Aboriginal individuals, who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people in NSW. This may have occurred in a range of activities over an extended period, or in a single significant activity. The Foundation thanks the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council (AJAC) for collaborating in the development and promotion of the Aboriginal Justice Award.

www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/ajac

Presented by The Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC,
Attorney General of NSW

The nominees for the 2007 Aboriginal Justice Award are:

Ms Neva Collings

Nominated by Mr Andrew Burke,
Environmental Defender's Office

The first-ever Aboriginal Liaison Officer for the Environmental Defender's Office, Neva has written a ground-breaking Guide to Environmental Law for Aboriginal People in NSW. This plain-English booklet brings together a wide range of information, from access to land for cultural purposes to native title and managing Aboriginal-owned land. Neva also works part-time for the NSW Aboriginal Land Council and recently presented a report for the United Nations Environmental Program Convention of Biodiversity Secretariat on 'Threats to Traditional Knowledge in the Pacific Region'. She is on the

editorial board of the Indigenous Law Bulletin, has written policy papers for ATSIC, HREOC and the NSW Attorney-General's Department and been the Coordinator of the Indigenous Law Centre at UNSW.

Ms Terri Janke

Nominated by Ms Robyn Ayres,
Arts Law Centre of Australia

Terri is the Solicitor Director of Terri Janke & Company Pty Ltd which she established in 2000, representing Indigenous artists, cultural organisations, writers, musicians, filmmakers, and others across many fields of the intellectual property arena. She is a prolific author and public speaker on issues relating to Indigenous cultural and intellectual property (ICIP); her work includes Our Culture: Our Future: A Report on Australian Indigenous Cultural

and Intellectual Property Rights, the Australia Council's Indigenous cultural protocols guides and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)'s Minding Culture', a set of 8 case studies of Indigenous Australians using intellectual property to protect traditional cultural expressions

Mr Roger Knox

Nominated by Ms Donna Meehan,
Department of Community Services

Roger is known as the Black Elvis from Tamworth or the King of Koori Country. A Gamilaroi man, he began his career as a gospel singer, and his relationship with his family, the law, and surviving two horrific plane crashes in one day are the inspiration behind his songs. Since the 1980s he has been a regular volunteer visitor to NSW prisons and youth offenders' centres, using music and story telling to work with Indigenous inmates to break cycles of depression and offending. He has been involved in youth suicide prevention programs in Tumella-Moree, and helps Indigenous youth appearing at Tamworth Local Court.

Mr Mark Spinks

Nominated by Mr Murray Hipwell,
Department of Community Services

Mark promotes employment opportunity for Indigenous people, recognising its

importance in helping break cycles of social exclusion, poverty, poor housing, and poor health, and contact with the criminal justice system. He is a Development Officer at Centrelink Redfern, and in his own time works with many community groups. These include the Babana Men's Group in Redfern where he links members with vocational education training and employment opportunities to help prevent contact and recidivism with the criminal justice system. He is the founder of New Employment Opportunity Network (NEON), developing employment opportunities for disadvantaged Indigenous people with low literacy. People in the community contact and rely on Mark not just for advice about work and education – but a whole range of issues including housing/ tenancy, and alcohol and drug rehabilitation

Mr Paul Teerman

Nominated by Ms Shirley Prasad

Paul is a Dharug man dedicated to helping young people to better understand the legal system and avoid the criminal justice system. As the Aboriginal Client Service Officer at Penrith Local Court he has developed excellent relationships with the local Police (Penrith, St Mary's and Mt Druitt), a range of legal service providers, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Aboriginal Medical Centre, local schools, local community elders, local

council, and agencies like Centrelink. He is currently setting up a mentoring program with community groups and schools, identifying opportunities for young people to either pursue further education or trades, and working with the Department of Defence to consider military services options for those with an interest in serving the country.

Ms Nancy Walke

Nominated by: Ms Angela Pollard,
Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre

Nancy has thirty years experience working for the healing and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities. She is currently the co-coordinator of the Centre's Mirrung Ngu Wanjarri Project undertaking social justice work for Aboriginal women and children experiencing family violence. She runs innovative workshops including healing circles, craft, photography, and uses different media including video, television advertising and "Strength Cards", to increase knowledge and understanding of legal remedies by and for Indigenous women. Nancy is a mentor for local Indigenous workers, is involved in the National Indigenous Women's Legal Services Network and chair of the CCLCG Aboriginal Advisory Group.

2007 JUSTICE MEDAL

Sponsored by the 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

Presented by: The Hon Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE, Patron, Law and Justice Foundation of NSW



The nominees for the 2007 Justice Medal are:

Ms Jenny Barga

Nominated by Mr James McDougall, National Children's and Youth Law Centre

Jenny is a long-term advocate of children's legal rights who was involved in the Kids in Justice Report (1990) and in government consultations leading to the Young Offenders Act NSW (1997). As the Director, Youth Justice Conferencing, Department of Juvenile Justice NSW she has established a state-wide youth justice conferencing program which has successful partnerships with the police, courts and community, and focused on including Indigenous youth and community. She has published, and contributed to, papers and reports on young people and criminal law, and trained many organisations in community-based responses to youth offending.

Ms Robyn Cotterell-Jones

Nominated by Mrs Taryn Stubbs Victims Of Crime Assistance League (VOCAL)

Following her own experience of violent assault, in 1994 Robyn became a volunteer for VOCAL. VOCAL is a not-for-profit organisation based in Newcastle, which provides a support service for people who have suffered from violent crime and similar tragedy. In 1998 she secured

government funding to establish The Victim Support Unit of VOCAL, of which she is now Executive Director. This service assists victims at all hours of the day and night, providing support, care and advocacy, skills which Robyn has brought to this role from her previous experience caring for victims of war.

Ms Joy Connor

Nominated by Mr David White, Tenants Union of NSW

Joy is an experienced advocate for community housing with an emphasis on issues relating to the legal rights of residents of residential parks. As a co-ordinator for the Parks and Village Service (PAVS) she managed training, community education and research activities, facilitating policy development in relation to residential parks. She has also written the discussion paper *Home Among the Gum Trees* on securing the future for older people living in residential parks in New South Wales, helped start a campaign involving residents, tenancy workers and housing researchers and policy makers to get the issues of park residents recognised and appropriate policies developed to resolve their problems.

Dr Mary Crock

Nominated by Mr Paul Power, Refugee Council of Australia

Mary is currently a legal academic at Sydney University, where her long-term advocacy of and activism for refugee issues is reflected in her work on protection of child asylum seekers. She has been a campaigner for changes to migration and refugee law from the early 1980s, when she helped establish and run the Melbourne Refugee and Immigration Law Centre, to her recent work with both the Refugee and Humanitarian Program, and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. She has published on specific aspects of migration law and is also engaged in a project examining how migrants have shaped public law in Australia.

Ms Faye Druett

Nominated by Mr Mathew Keeley, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

Faye is a long-term advocate for disability rights and is currently Vice-President of People with Disability Australia (PWDA). She has been a disability campaigner in federal and state governments, in the non-government sector, in service provision, policy development, and in the management and administration of legislation. Faye became widely known for the case of *Druett and Cooper v State of NSW* (1994);

Faye presented for jury duty following a summons but found the court, the jury box and jury room inaccessible to wheelchair users. A court official said as "she was an invalid she did not have to worry about jury duty". She was compensated by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission for discrimination by the NSW Courts and all court buildings are subsequently being made accessible to people with disability.

Ms Tania Evers

Nominated by Ms Lee-May Saw, Women Lawyers Association of NSW

During her well-established legal career as solicitor and barrister, Tania has been an active representative of people with a mental illness and intellectual disability. Her work as a lawyer and a community advocate has substantially benefited her clients, in particular through its influence in educating senior and junior lawyers and other people working within the legal system, and her advocacy for policy and law reform to make the legal system more equitable and accessible for people with a mental illness or intellectual disability. She has also had positions on the executive committees and management boards of organisations such as the Lawyers Reform Association, Glebe House, the Intellectual Disability Rights Service, and the Defence Lawyers Association.

Mr Danny Gilbert AM

Nominated by Mr Mathew Keeley, Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care

Danny is an experienced commercial lawyer who in 1988 co-founded Gilbert + Tobin, one of Australia's most successful law firms. He has led the firm's pro bono practice with its emphasis on Indigenous issues, undertaking work regarding The Block in Redfern, for Stolen Generations, and for business development projects through the Indigenous Enterprise Partnership in Cape York as well as arts organisations including the Bangarra Dance Theatre. Since the late 1970s he has been a tireless contributor to improving access to justice as a volunteer and executive member at organisations including Marrickville Legal Centre, the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales, and the Public Interest Advocacy Centre. In 2005, Danny was honoured with the Order of Australia (AM) for his services to the law and the community, particularly Australia's Indigenous peoples.

Mr Atef Hamie

Nominated by Ms Violet Roumeliotis, Canterbury Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre

Atef is a long term advocate for the rights of refugee and humanitarian groups and helps them access a range





of services and programs to assist their integration into Australian society. He deals with Arabic-speaking communities mainly and with some of the emerging communities from African nations. Many people he assists have been imprisoned, tortured and suffered great hardship and trauma on their path to Australia from places such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Ghana, Congo, Somalia and Burma. He accompanies people to court, to appointments with their solicitors, to meetings with probation and parole and juvenile justice officers, and attends with them at youth conferencing and mediations.

Ms Beverley Lazarou

Nominated by: Ms Louise Blazejowska, Legal Aid NSW

Bev has been the Coordinator of the Southern Sydney Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme (Southern Sydney WDVCS) since its inception in 1996. In that time, she has overseen the provision of over 15,000 services to women and children experiencing domestic violence in the third busiest Local Court in NSW (Sutherland). She has established and consistently maintained best practice in the delivery of court assistance services to women and children experiencing domestic violence, identifying new ways to improve the Scheme's services. She fought to establish

a children's worker position and was instrumental in developing a proposal for a police civilian crisis intervention project to provide crisis support at the 'key' time of a domestic violence incident.

Mr Michael Raper

Nominated by: Ms Deborah Connors

Michael is a passionate yet balanced campaigner who uses sound evidence to advocate for reductions in levels of poverty, inequality and hardship. As Director since 1990 of the NSW Welfare Rights Centre, he leads a community legal centre specialising in Social Security and Family Tax Benefit law, helping the most disadvantaged people in Australia access their rights and entitlements. He is the editor of the Independent Social Security Handbook, a comprehensive plain language guide to social security entitlements and legislation. His high-profile Presidency of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) from 1997 to 2001 was effective in spotlighting issues including the inequities of 'breaching' policies applied to social security recipients, and the effects of taxation changes on people on low incomes. Michael is a strategic thinker, acknowledged for his ability to identify and deliver solutions to seemingly intractable problems.

Mr Steve Snelgrove

Nominated by Ms Louise Blazejowska, Legal Aid NSW

Steve has been Manager of the Lismore and District Financial Counselling Service for 17 years, providing information, assistance and advocacy for and on behalf of people facing credit and debt problems, financial hardship, and particularly those who have urgent need for intervention. His catchment covers a vast area where he has a reputation as an exceptionally professional, knowledgeable and passionate advocate, committed to alleviating the substantial burdens and unfairness facing disadvantaged people in the areas of financial hardship and credit and debt.

Ms Faye Westwood

Nominated by Mr Richard Brading, Wesley Community Legal Service

An experienced criminal solicitor, Faye joined the Wesley Community Legal service in 2005, part of Wesley Mission's Gambling Counseling Service. She assists people with gambling addiction who are charged with gambling-related crimes including larceny, embezzlement, social security fraud, obtaining benefit by deception and making and using false instrument. She recently acted in NSW's largest gambling fraud matter, successfully arguing for judgment to consider the significance of

severe pathological gambling as a psychiatric disorder affecting the gambler's awareness of the consequences of his actions.

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Ms Robyn Ayres Arts Law Centre of Australia	Ms Lurline Dillon-Smith Legal Aid	Ms Janet Loughman Women's Legal Services (NSW)	Ms Violet Roumeliotis Canterbury Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre
Mr Jason Behrendt Chalk and Fitzgerald	Professor David Dixon UNSW	Ms Susan Lynch DLA Phillips Fox	Mr Peter Rowe Freehills
Professor Larissa Behrendt Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning	Professor Mick Dodson ANU	Mr Hugh Macken The Law Society of New South Wales	Mrs Tanya Rue Blinky Bill Portland Child Care Centre
Ms Kassa Bird	Mr Graeme Fear St Vincent de Paul Society	Mr Gerard Martin MP	Ms Therese Sands People with Disability Australia
Ms Clare Blanch Homicide Victims Support Group	Mr Jason Field NSW Aboriginal Land Council	The Hon. Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE	Ms Lee-May Saw Women Lawyers Association
Mr Stephen Blanks SBA Lawyers	Ms Pauline Gallagher Riverwood Community Centre	Mr Shaun McCarthy University of Newcastle Legal Centre	Mr Steve Shaw Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Ms Louise Blazejowska Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Program	Mr Laurie Glanfield AM NSW Attorney General's Department	Mr James McDougall National Children's & Youth Law Centre	Mr Michael Slattery QC The New South Wales Bar Association
Ms Karen Bowley Albury Wodonga Community Legal Service	Major Miriam Gluyas The Salvation Army	Ms Helen McGowan Upper Murray Family Care	Mrs Margaret Smith St Vincent de Paul Society
Mr Richard Brading Wesley Community Legal Service	Mr John Gooley Marrickville Legal Centre	Ms Louise McManus Frederick Jordan Chambers	Mr Jon Soemarjono Canterbury Bankstown Migrant Resource Centre
Mr Andrew Burke Environmental Defender's Office NSW	Ms Elsie Gordon Dubbo Women's Housing Programme Inc	Mrs Donna Meehan DoCS	Ms Bridget Sordo The Law Society of New South Wales
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Mr Trevor Christian Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)	Ms Sandra Griffen Awabakal Aboriginal Community	Ms Rhonda Murrey Imago Consulting and Psychology	Mrs Faye Urquhart Northern Alliance of Park Residents' Association
Ms Jennie Churchill Office of The Hon Linda Burney, Minister for Volunteering.	The Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC Attorney General of NSW	Dr Louise Newman Newcastle University	Mr Bret Walker SC
Ms Julie Claridge Lou's Place Women & Children's Community Centre	Mr Murray Hipwell DoCS	Ms Pauline Nunn Mission Australia Court Support Service	Ms Jane Wangmann University of Sydney Faculty of Law
Ms Anna Cody Kingsford Legal Centre	Ms Betty Hounslow Fred Hollows Foundation	Mr Patrick O'Callaghan Central Coast Community Legal Service	Mrs Jan Warrander The Salvation Army
Ms Deborah Connors	Ms Brenda Ibbotson Burwood Local Court	Ms Sheryn Omeri Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)	Mr David White Tenants' Union of NSW
Ms Tracey Corbin-Matchett Legal Aid NSW	Mr Graham Innes AM HREOC	Mr Nicolas Patrick DLA Phillips Fox	Ms Colleen Whittle Raymond Terrace Neighbourhood Centre
Mr John Corker National Pro Bono Resource Centre	Ms Martha Jabour Homicide Victims Support Group	Mrs Elisabeth Petersen Blinky Bill Management Committee	Ms Mary Willis Violence Against Women Specialist Unit - Northern Rivers Region
Professor Chris Cunneen UNSW Faculty of Law	Mr Colin James Ian Buchenfell Housing Research Centre	Mr David Pocklington Wesley Mission	Ms Lisa Woodgate Marrickville Legal Centre
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Blake Dawson Waldron

Blake Dawson Waldron is one of Australia's leading international law firms. In line with its professional responsibility as lawyers and a desire to give something back to the community, the firm has a significant commitment to pro bono work, assisting individuals and organisations through in-house work, secondments and making available the resources of the firm. The pro bono program assists people who are disadvantaged and marginalised and

the organisations which assist them and in matters in the wide public interest. The program focuses on legal issues for indigenous people, people with a mental illness or intellectual disability, and in NSW, western Sydney and central and far western NSW.

www.bdww.com.au

Chalk & Fitzgerald

Chalk & Fitzgerald Lawyers is a Sydney-based law firm which specialises in administrative (government) law, environmental and planning law and native title law. The partners and solicitors of Chalk & Fitzgerald have many years experience in providing legal services to Aboriginal communities and organisations in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia particularly in relation to environmental, land and resource management and litigation.

Clayton Utz

Clayton Utz recognises that providing pro bono help to people and organisations who cannot afford legal assistance is the inherent professional responsibility of every lawyer. All Clayton Utz lawyers, regardless of their seniority or area of law, are expected to conduct pro bono work as an everyday part of their legal practice. We assist more than 400 pro bono clients each year, most of them referred to us by a community legal organisation. www.claytonutz.com

Freehills

Freehills' pro bono program provides legal services for matters that are in the public interest. It accepts transactional and litigious matters, offers pro bono solicitor secondments

to community legal centres, presents legal workshops and supports the work of the Public Interest Law Clearinghouse. For over a decade Freehills has operated Sydney's inner-city Shopfront Youth Legal Centre, with Mission Australia and the Salvation Army, offering legal services to homeless people aged 25 and under. Freehills has also established a Pro Bono Business Law Clinic for participants in Mission Australia's employment program, the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme. www.freehills.com

Gilbert + Tobin

Gilbert + Tobin's 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

Mallesons Stephen Jaques

Mallesons Stephen Jaques 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 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 including the National Children's & Youth Law Centre, Barnardos Australia and the Ted Noffs Foundation. www.mallesons.com

Minter Ellison

Minter Ellison has a long-standing 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 partnership with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre. Our staff derives enormous satisfaction from our weekly legal clinics at Claymore and Macquarie Fields in Sydney's outer south-west. Our aim is to target our assistance to communities in greatest need—with a focus on breaking the cycles of homelessness and disadvantage. www.minterellison.com

Seven Wentworth

Seven Wentworth was established as barristers' chambers in 1957 in the Wentworth Chambers building in Phillip Street, Sydney. Its members have consistently been the leaders of the Australian Bar, and it is one of the most eminent sets of barristers' chambers with a history of judicial appointments second to none in Australia. The members of Seven Wentworth are sole practitioners carrying out separate practices and appear in courts at all levels, and in international tribunals and arbitrations.