

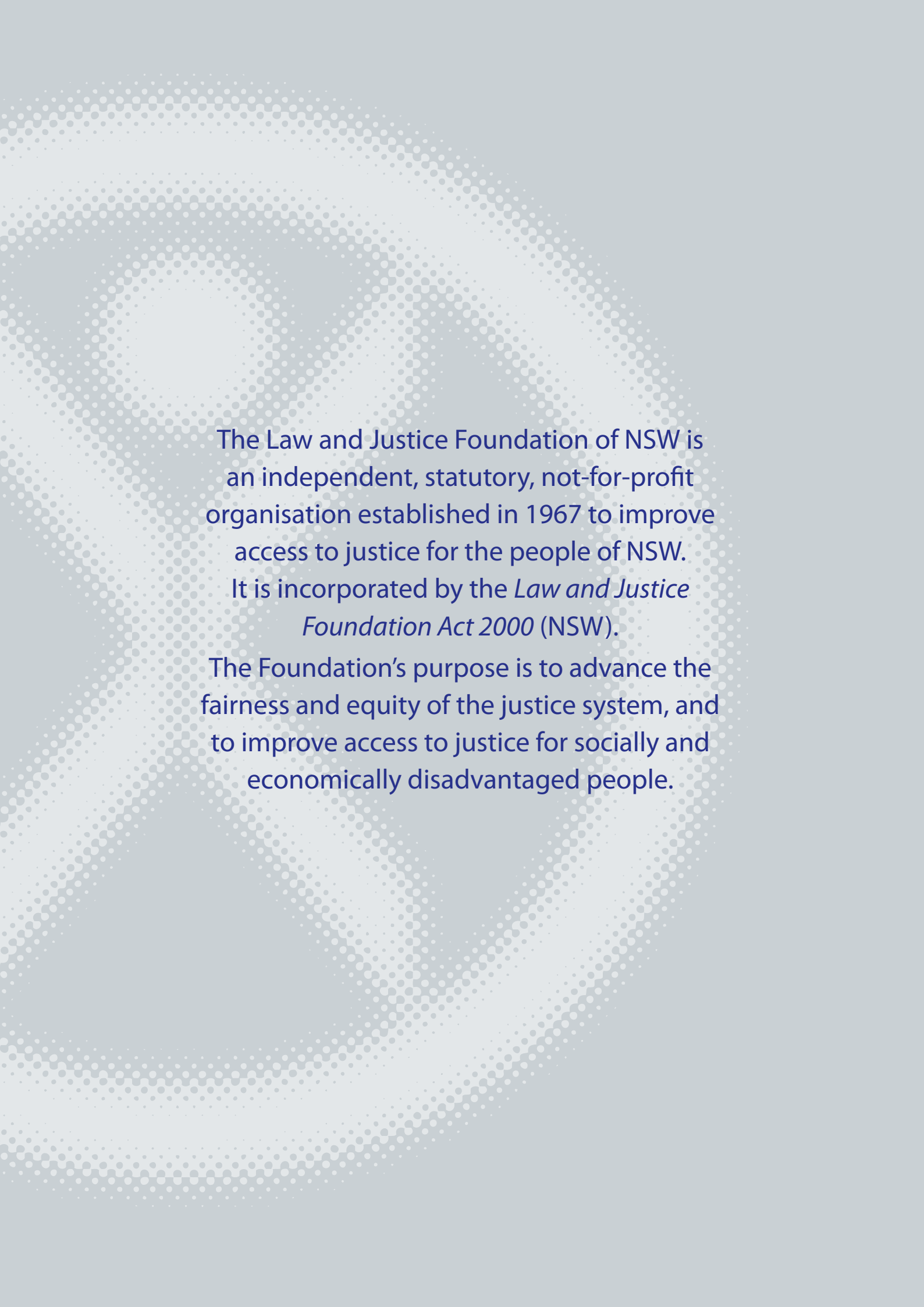
2011 Justice AWARDS

Monday 24 October 2011
Strangers' Dining Room
Parliament House
Macquarie Street, Sydney



LAW AND JUSTICE
FOUNDATION

OF NEW
SOUTH WALES



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.

Welcome to the 2011 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
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
- 8.00pm Dinner
- 8.30pm The 2011 Law and Justice Address by Dr Tom Calma
- 9.00pm Presentation of the Pro Bono Partnership Award
Presentation of the Aboriginal Justice Award
Presentation of the Justice Medal
- 10.20pm Close

Your host for this evening

The Hon. Kevin Rozzoli AM

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



The Hon. Kevin Rozzoli AM was the member for the NSW electorate of Hawkesbury from 1973 until his retirement from politics in 2003, and from 1988 to 1995, he was the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Kevin was admitted to the NSW Bar in 1985.

Kevin is on the Board of a number of not-for-profit organisations including the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (until 30 June 2011), and the Australasian Study of Parliament Group. For the past 22 years he has been Chair of the Haymarket Foundation.

The 2011 Law and Justice Address

Dr Tom Calma



Dr Calma is an Aboriginal elder from the Kungarakan tribal group and a member of the Iwaidja tribal group in the Northern Territory. In March 2010, Dr Calma was appointed as National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking to lead the fight against tobacco use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Prior to this, Dr Calma was the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission from 2004 to 2010, and the Race Discrimination Commissioner from 2004 to 2009.

In his 2005 Social Justice Report, Dr Calma called for the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to be closed within a generation, and following his report, he was involved in the formation of the Close the Gap campaign.

Dr Calma has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Charles Darwin University in recognition of decades of public service, and an Honorary Doctorate from Curtin University in recognition of his work in Indigenous health, and in higher education both in Australia and internationally.

Your MC this evening

Richard Glover



Richard Glover presents the top-rating *Drive* show on ABC Radio in Sydney, and has written a weekly column for the *Sydney Morning Herald* for more than 20 years. He is the author of 12 books, his latest being *Why Men Are Necessary*, published by HarperCollins in 2010.



STATE LIBRARY™
NEW SOUTH WALES

Presented by:

Ms Frances Sims
Director
Public Library and
Community Learning
Services
State Library of NSW

Sponsored by:

Legal Information Access
Centre (LIAC)

LIAC is a statewide 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, and is jointly funded by the Public Purpose Fund and the Library. LIAC services are provided through the Centre in the State Library, through the public library network across NSW and via the *Find Legal Answers* website.

The Centre of Excellence Award recognises innovative and creative projects that increase community awareness of and access to LIAC.

legalanswers.sl.nsw.gov.au

The winners of the 2011 LIAC Centre of Excellence Award are:

Coffs Harbour City Library

Coffs Harbour City Library worked with a number of legal service providers to develop an innovative Law Week program that increased knowledge and understanding of the law in the local community. The Library organised two workshops delivered by Women's Legal Services NSW, 'Women and the Law' for the community, and 'Accessing Justice' for community workers and organisations assisting women affected by domestic violence. Other community information sessions included a presentation by NSW Fair Trading on new tenancy laws. Due to their well-established relationship with the Coffs Harbour Court House and the Upper Hunter Drug and Alcohol Service, the Library was invited to participate on the launch of the MERIT (Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment) Program.

Lismore City Library

Lismore City Library has an established ongoing program of free legal talks for the community that are delivered in collaboration with the Law Society of NSW. The topics covered in 2011 included wills and estates, personal injury, animal law and ethical eating, older persons and the law, and debt and the law.

The Library also conducts regular outreach sessions at local high schools to increase awareness and use of HSC legal studies resources, including the *Newswatch* blog, available on LIAC's *Find Legal Answers* website.

Community Legal Centres NSW Award

The nominees for the 2011 Community Legal Centres NSW Award are:

Mr Jules Munro

Jules has been volunteering for the Arts Law Centre of Australia since 2000, making a significant contribution to improving access to justice for low income and emerging artists. Access to Jules' specialised legal expertise would be financially out of reach for those artists who benefit enormously from the advice he can provide in a pro bono capacity. Since joining the Arts Law panel of volunteer lawyers, Jules has been particularly involved in the delivery of Arts Law's Document Review Service. Over the past decade, approximately 100 artists have received advice from Jules through Arts Law's services.

Mr Michael Steinfeld

Michael has been volunteering at Kingsford Legal Centre on a fortnightly basis for its evening advice clinic for 27 years. During this time, he has assisted thousands of disenfranchised clients and has made many trips to Long Bay Correctional Complex to provide pro bono advice to prisoners. Through the clinical legal education program at Kingsford Legal Centre, Michael has worked with many students on the Centre's advice nights and has shown himself to be a patient and experienced mentor. He also is a source of advice and help to the Centre's solicitors if a client seeks assistance in a specialist area of practice.

Mr Michael Windsor SC

Michael has been volunteering at Redfern Legal Centre for 15 years. He attends the Centre on Tuesday nights to provide free legal advice and assistance to members of the community in the inner Sydney area. His client interviewing skills combine compassion with incisive legal problem solving. Some of his work has included assisting clients who have been denied payment for work, discriminated against or victimised in the workplace. Michael has contributed in a large way to the sense of teamwork that exists on Tuesday nights and is an inspiration and an example to younger volunteers.



Presented by:

Ms Anna Cody
Chair
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, have 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

Law Society President's Award



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Presented by:

Mr Stuart Westgarth
President
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 23,000 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

The nominees for the 2011 Law Society President's Award are:

Mr Eric Butler **Butlers Will Dispute Lawyers**

Eric was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW in 1968. He specialises in wills and estates law, and in particular, acting for clients in all forms of will disputes and will challenges. Although Eric's firm is a small family firm, he is a strong supporter of the Law Society Pro Bono Scheme and often takes referrals on complex estate matters.

Mr Manny Conditis **Conditis & Associates** **Lawyers**

Manny has more than 27 years experience in criminal law and is recognised as one of the most experienced trial advocates in NSW. Manny is committed to community outreach and regularly provides pro bono legal services to community members. Manny's practice is based in Gosford, where there are few solicitors who are part of the Law Society Pro Bono Scheme. Manny is heavily relied upon by the Scheme to assist clients in his area and is always willing to do so. He is a valued member of the Scheme and he has achieved excellent results for many clients of the Scheme. He also provides advice and guidance to the Law Society's Pro Bono Solicitor on more complex criminal law matters.

Mr Harry Freedman **Milne Berry Berger Freedman**

Harry joined JW Milne & Berry in 1985 and became a Partner in 1987, developing his practice in the areas of litigation and family law. He became an accredited specialist in family law when the Law Society of NSW first introduced the accreditation program in the early 1990s. Harry is a strong supporter of the Law Society Pro Bono Scheme and regularly takes family, civil and wills and estates matters. He has also provided direction and advice to the Law Society's Pro Bono Solicitor on more difficult and complex family law matters.

Mr Jim Marsden **Marsdens Law Group**

Jim is the Senior Partner of Marsdens Law Group and has contributed to the legal profession for more than 30 years. He specialises in commercial law and property development, and has acted for various clients including state and local governments. Jim has contributed significantly to community legal services and has been involved in various charitable, civic and sporting organisations. He is very supportive of the Law Society's Pro Bono Scheme, and has undertaken a large volume of family and criminal law matters over the years, often accepting matters on short notice.

Law and Justice Volunteer Award



The New South Wales Bar Association

Presented by:

Mr Geoff Lindsay SC
Bar Council Member
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 a group of individuals, who, in a voluntary capacity, have 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 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, both through its Legal Assistance Referral Scheme, and the pro bono work carried out informally by members of the Bar.

www.nswbar.asn.au

The nominees for the 2011 Law and Justice Volunteer Award are:

Dr Frank Ainsworth

**Nominated by Mr Andrew McCallum,
Association of Children's Welfare
Agencies**

Dr Ainsworth has dedicated countless unpaid hours to the Family Inclusion Network (FIN) in NSW since its establishment in 2008, and is currently the organisation's President. He is recognised as the driving force behind FIN NSW, an organisation that aims to improve access to justice for parents who are struggling with the NSW child protection system and the courts that enforce it. In addition to his voluntary work with FIN NSW, Dr Ainsworth is also a volunteer Guardian Ad Litem in the NSW Children's Court and the Administrative Decisions Tribunal of NSW.

Ms Kat Armstrong

**Nominated by Ms Brenda Bailey,
Council of Social Service of NSW**

Kat has been nominated for her commitment over the past eight years to improving the lives of women in the criminal justice system. Following her release from prison in 2003, Kat completed a law degree and started mentoring women prisoners on a voluntary basis. Kat has helped many women exiting prison to re-establish themselves in the community. In 2008, Kat helped found the Women in Prison Advocacy Network (WIPAN), which aims to improve the human rights, wellbeing and prospects of women in the criminal justice system. Most of the women WIPAN assist have a history of abuse and violence, are from low socio-economic backgrounds, and have low levels of education. Kat mentors them, and refers them to job and housing support networks, educational institutions, and helps them to feel supported and connected to services.

Community Restorative Centre Court Support Volunteers

**Nominated by Ms Wendy Robertson,
Community Restorative Centre**

Founded in 1951, the Community Restorative Centre is dedicated to supporting people affected by the criminal justice system, particularly prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families and friends. The Centre's Court Support Scheme consists of 35 volunteers who help more than 50,000 people each year in numerous local courts, tribunals and the Family Court at Parramatta. The volunteers support people through the court and legal system, as well as providing information on court procedures, referrals to community and government agencies, and general assistance to Legal Aid solicitors.

Ms Janice Daisley

**Nominated by Ms Therese Sands,
People with Disability Australia**

After Janice was transferred into institutional care in the 1970s, she was among a small group of activists that stood up to the discriminatory treatment of the institution's management. After years of campaigning, Janice became one of the few people to be transferred from the institution to a relatively independent group home. This incident put her at the forefront of the disability rights movement in NSW. Janice has volunteered for People with Disability (PWD) for the past 30 years and has held various roles in the organisation in a voluntary capacity. Through her work, many people with disability have been empowered to access support and services that enable them to participate fully in the community. Janice's expertise and leadership has gained the respect of ministers and senior public servants, and she respectfully represents the views and needs of people with disability.

Gamarada Leaders Group

**Nominated by Ms Sharny Chalmers,
AIDS Council of NSW**

Since 2007, Gamarada Leaders Group have volunteered their time and skills to Gamarada Indigenous Healing and Life Training program. The training is a weekly, three-hour men's healing and life-skills program for Indigenous men and youth in Sydney's inner city. The Leaders Group provides legal information and direct access to legal services, and connects participants with staff from services they might normally avoid. Part of the program's success is attributed to the Leaders Group established networks and experience in working with agencies such as the NSW Police Force, Juvenile Justice, Community Legal Centres, Probation and Parole services, and other broader community services. The personal support they provide to participants has enabled many Indigenous men to turn their lives around and address the legal issues that impact on all aspects of their lives.

Ms Margaret Jones

**Nominated by Ms Joanna Shulman,
Redfern Legal Centre**

Margaret is known for her passion and commitment to social justice, and has volunteered for a range of organisations over many years. Now in her 80s, Margaret continues to volunteer at Redfern Legal Centre twice a week and is as a Justice of the Peace at Balmain Local Court, where the Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme particularly values her reliable presence. At Redfern Legal Centre, Margaret has played a vital role in the mentoring and encouragement of younger volunteers, and she is known for her ability to 'make the unmanageable manageable' for many vulnerable clients with legal problems.

Sisters of Charity Outreach Court Support Volunteers

**Nominated by Sister Margaret
Fitzgerald, Sisters of Charity Outreach**

The Sisters of Charity Outreach Court Support service comprises 39 long-serving volunteers who have worked for more than 20 years at Darlinghurst, Downing Centre and Liverpool courts. The volunteers bring a friendly face, a willingness to listen and non-prejudicial empathy and understanding to all who need assistance within the court system. The volunteers provide information, referrals and, in particular, they provide support to women who are taking out Apprehended Violence Orders. The service provided by the volunteers greatly enhances the smooth running of the court, which in turn benefits court officials, police and Legal Aid. Last year, the volunteers completed a total of 2234 hours of service, served 5897 tea/coffee/soups, and referred, directed and supported 14,459 court attendees.

Mr Graham Symes

**Nominated by Mr Mike MacLeod,
Centre for Volunteering**

Graham is founder and director of the Traffic Offenders Program (TOP), a court diversion program that aims to reduce the number of young people going to court for serious traffic offences. Graham founded TOP in 1992, in response to what he saw on the roads as an ambulance officer. For the past 19 years, Graham has run TOP on a voluntary basis and over this time, more than 12,000 participants have gone through the program with Graham personally marking around 98,000 assignments. A significant number of attendees are socially and economically disadvantaged, and Graham has adapted the program to accommodate those with special learning needs. He is credited with helping many young people to change their attitudes and his program has reduced the re-offending rate among participants.

Ms Ann Symonds and Ms Helen Wiseman

**Nominated by Ms Gloria Larman,
SHINE for Kids**

Ann and Helen have provided invaluable voluntary service to SHINE for Kids, an organisation that assists and supports children of parents who are in the criminal justice system.

As SHINE's patron over 10 years, Ann has challenged policy makers and advocated at a high level for the rights of children to be taken into account when their parent is sent to prison, and for mothers in prison to be re-united with their children.

As Chair of SHINE since 2004, Helen has provided advocacy, corporate guidance and stability to the organisation. She dedicates around 15 hours per week towards meeting with ministers, policy makers, and leading the organisation.

In this nomination, both Ann and Helen are recognised for their passion, commitment and determination to have the needs of children considered when their parent is in the criminal justice system.

Pro Bono Partnership Award



Presented by:

Mr John Corker

Director

National Pro Bono

Resource Centre

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 that 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 independent, non-profit organisation committed to supporting and promoting pro bono legal services in Australia. As advocate, broker, coordinator, researcher and resource provider, the Centre plays a unique leadership and coordination role.

www.nationalprobono.org.au

The nominees for the 2011 Pro Bono Partnership Award are:

AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) with Freehills

ACON is Australia's largest community-based gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender health and HIV/AIDS organisation. Over the past 11 years, Freehills has provided more than 1700 hours of pro bono work for ACON, which has made an enormous contribution to the organisation. Freehills has provided ACON with assistance on a wide range of matters including employment, intellectual property, trademarks, property and governance. Whether it is the legal rights of sex workers, the intricacies of a commercial lease negotiation, or the interpretation of government regulations, Freehills provides ACON with timely, accurate and quality advice.

Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre with Central Coast Family Law

Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre is based in Wyong, where the Aboriginal community has the highest incidence of domestic violence in the state. Many of the Centre's clients have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence, and they have had their children removed. Through Matthew Myers, partner at Central Coast Family Law, the firm recognised that many Indigenous people needed help but were not accessing legal services. Matthew approached the Centre to establish a locally based pro bono partnership and for the past 18 months has worked tirelessly with more than 30 families who have suffered domestic violence to get the best possible access to justice. Since the partnership began, the Centre has seen a significant improvement in the number of children returned to their family, and the number of Indigenous clients who are empowered and accessing legal services.

Enough is Enough with Macedone Legal

Enough is Enough is an anti-violence organisation that aims to reduce the causes and effects of violence in the community. Through Macedone Legal and Macedone Christie Willis, Sam Macedone has provided pro bono legal assistance to Enough is Enough and its clients for the past 17 years. Many of the clients he helps are vulnerable and have experienced serious trauma. They have no idea what lies ahead in the justice system and may be facing coronial inquests and trials involving criminal proceedings. Sam offers legal advice, representation and positive support to clients, and helps them to prepare for court. Sam also contributes to Enough is Enough as a board member, and has been instrumental in developing and presenting the organisation's Legal Studies Seminar to students at metropolitan and regional high schools.

Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre with Clayton Utz

Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre is the first NSW recipient of the Clayton Utz Foundation Fellowship, which funds graduate solicitors to work for two years at a regional or remote community legal centre. The outlying communities in the Hawkesbury experience significant disadvantage and legal problems however, due to poor public transport they are isolated, and this has affected their ability to access legal services. Through the Clayton Utz Foundation Fellowship, graduate solicitor Gabrielle Craig was placed at the Centre in 2008 and permanent outreach legal services were established, which offer face-to-face, locally delivered advice to the communities. The partnership has been successful in assisting 240 clients who would not otherwise have accessed community legal services.

National Children's and Youth Law Centre (NYCLC) with Mallesons Stephen Jaques

NYCLC and Mallesons Stephen Jaques have worked collaboratively on The Cyber Project for 10 years. The project aims to improve the accessibility of legal information, referral and advice to young people through *Lawmail*, which offers legal advice online, and *Lawstuff*, a website containing relevant and youth-friendly legal information. Over 90 Mallesons lawyers are cyber volunteers and the firm also supports the Centre's corporate operations. This partnership demonstrates innovation in legal service delivery and a unique ability to engage with children and young people who would otherwise not have access to legal advice.

St John's Anglican Church Legal Centre with Middletons

St John's at Darlinghurst offers a range of community and legal services to socially and economically disadvantaged people in East Sydney. Many of their clients are dealing with issues such as homelessness and drug abuse, and the Centre aims to support people 'to make the changes in their lives they want to make'. Before their partnership with Middletons, St John's was facing significant cut backs to its services and the potential closure of its legal centre. Middletons was made aware of the dire situation and began a pro bono partnership with the Centre in 2010. Over a relatively short period of time, Middletons' support has enabled the Centre to extend and expand their services. The firm has provided more than 38 lawyers to assist with legal advice, as well as corporate staff and financial support to assist the organisation with business development and community engagement.

Viscopy with Allens Arthur Robinson

Based in NSW, Viscopy is a small, not-for-profit organisation that provides copyright licensing services to visual artists, many of whom are economically disadvantaged and geographically isolated. Money generated from copyright licensing is an important additional source of revenue for these artists and without Viscopy, they would struggle to prosecute their rights in court. Allens Arthur Robinson has been providing Viscopy with pro bono legal assistance since 2008. Allens' highly skilled litigators have enabled Viscopy to level the playing field in court and take on larger commercial corporations with far greater resources. In other cases, Allens' pre-litigation advice has helped Viscopy negotiate a settlement without going to court. In addition, Allens provides corporate and competition law advice to the Viscopy executive and board.

Women's Legal Services NSW with Blake Dawson, Clayton Utz, Freehills, NSW Bar Association, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Since 2009, this unique partnership between Women's Legal Services NSW, three large law firms, NSW Bar Association and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, has been working to bring about change to the Sexual Assault Communications Privilege (SACP).

SACP legislation was an important reform — prior to its introduction sexual assault victims weren't seeing counsellors for fear that their personal records would end up in court. While the legislation enabled sexual assault victims the ability to protect their personal information, it proved difficult to enforce without specialist legal representation.

The partnership established an effective referral process and a pool of specialist lawyers and barristers who were able to successfully assert the privilege. They ran a pilot program that showed that in 91 per cent of matters where there was legal representation for the victim, their confidential records were kept out of proceedings. The results of the pilot program, and the collaborative efforts of the partnership to seek further law reform, resulted in legislative change and the funding of a permanent, statewide SACP Unit in Legal Aid NSW.

Aboriginal Justice Award



Attorney General
& Justice

Presented by:

The Hon. Greg Smith SC MP
Attorney General and
Minister for Justice

Sponsored by:

Department of Attorney
General and Justice NSW

The Aboriginal Justice Award is presented to an Aboriginal individual or group of 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 a long period, or in a single significant activity.

The Foundation acknowledges the support of the Department of Attorney General in Justice NSW.

www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au

The nominees for the 2011 Aboriginal Justice Award are:

Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) Management Team

**Nominated by Mr Raymond Brazil,
Aboriginal Legal Service**

Gerry Moore, Phil Naden, Julie Perkins, Shawn Stubbings, Hewitt Whyman and Lorraine Wright have worked together as the ALS Management Team since 2006. They have shown outstanding commitment to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people by respecting the work of their predecessors and ensuring that the ALS stays true to its purpose and goals, while facilitating growth and significant change in the organisation. Following the ALS amalgamation into one statewide service, the team continued to maintain grassroots liaison with Aboriginal communities, while emphasising the delivery of a quality and culturally appropriate legal service. The team has recently partnered with Legal Aid NSW on a civil and family law project, with a particular focus on early intervention/prevention.

Ms Leah Cruickshank

Nominated by Macquarie Legal Centre

Leah is a member of the Wadi-Wadi clan from the South Coast of NSW and she is dedicated to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people through her work. Leah has qualifications in mental health and criminology, and has worked extensively in Aboriginal communities and with different groups in Kempsey, Grafton and Dubbo. In 2007, Leah joined Macquarie Legal Centre's Children's Court Assistance Scheme and since then has assisted thousands of children and their families on their day in court, and before and after their court appearance. Leah goes above and beyond this role and takes a genuine interest in the welfare of all the children she assists. She is a strong advocate for Aboriginal children, and endeavours to always make sure the children have access to justice, and are treated fairly and with the respect they deserve.

Ms Kay Dundas

Nominated by Ms Katie Hardy, Walla Mulla Family and Community Support

Kay is a proud Kamilaroi woman from Coonabarabran, who has dedicated more than 30 years to supporting Aboriginal children and families. Kay worked for various inner Sydney agencies before joining Walla Mulla Family and Community Support in Woolloomooloo, as their Aboriginal Family and Support Worker. She provides clients with information, referrals and court support, and her focus is on families staying together and keeping people out of jail. Kay has volunteered on a number of committees and has helped many families outside her paid role. Word of her work has spread on the Koori grapevine and she receives referrals to assist families from across NSW.

Ms Jan Fennell

Nominated by Ms Leasa Kelly

Jan is a Ngilyaampaa woman who has worked as the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for NSW Police in Menindee since 2006. Menindee is a remote rural town in Far West NSW, which offers few employment or training opportunities, particularly for children. More than 85 per cent of the children at the local school are Aboriginal and the community tackles issues of truancy, anti-social behaviour, crime and alcohol. Jan is a very committed and active member of the community who uses her knowledge to assist others in obtaining justice. She believes that 'you've got to find local solutions to local problems' and has been instrumental in running projects to bring the community and police together. Through Jan's projects, a healthy relationship and respect has developed between the police and the Aboriginal community. Jan's initiatives have been so successful that other communities are showing interest in running similar projects.

Ms Beryl Van-Oploo

**Nominated by Ms Millie Ingram,
Wyanga Aboriginal Aged Care
Program**

Beryl is a descendant of the Gamillaroi nation of Walgett NSW. She is a well-known elder in the Redfern area and a manager/educator at Yaama Dhiyaan, which offers hospitality training for unemployed Aboriginal people. Through her work, Beryl aims to move Aboriginal people beyond drug and alcohol abuse, or prison time. Since the commencement of Yaama Dhiyaan, Beryl has trained and found employment for more than 160 students. Beryl's reputation and standing in the community is such that many young people experiencing difficulties are referred to her to be taken on as trainees, and Beryl counsels them and encourages them to change and seek a better life for themselves and/or their families. She believes that 'if you turn one person's life around, you turn their whole family around too'.

Ms Michelle Wellington

**Nominated by Ms Gail Wallace,
Nowra Local Court**

Michelle is a member of the Yuin nation and for the past eight years has worked at Nowra Local Court as the Aboriginal Client Specialist Officer. Michelle grew up on Jerrinja Mission and works with the seven different Aboriginal clan leaders to help break down communication barriers to make the legal system more accessible. She provides information to community members, acts as an interpreter and assists older community members with legal paperwork. She has also implemented and delivered a wills' program to elders in the local Aboriginal communities. Michelle has educated lawyers, teachers and law students about the communication barriers that exist between the courts and the Aboriginal community.

Mr Michael Williams

**Nominated by Ms Joan Dickson, NSW
Outback Division of General Practice**

Michael is a proud member of the Ngemba mob, and was born and raised in the Bourke and Brewarrina communities. Michael identified a need for a community based response to the alcohol related crimes in Bourke, and through his role as a Licensing Sergeant, spearheaded the formation of the Bourke Alcohol Working Group (BAWG) and subsequent Bourke Five Year Alcohol Management Plan. Michael's commitment to the BAWG has seen a reduction in alcohol-related crime, enabled alcohol-related health promotion in licensed premises, and supported school-based education with at-risk youth. In 2009, Michael was awarded the Australian Police Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and became the first Aboriginal Police Officer in NSW to receive the honour.

Justice Medal



LAW AND JUSTICE
FOUNDATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Presented by:

The Hon. Sir Anthony Mason
AC KBE
Patron,
Law and Justice
Foundation of NSW

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 for the 2011 Justice Medal are:

Mr Deng Thiak Adut

**Nominated by Ms Nicole Miller,
University of Western Sydney**

When Deng arrived in Australia as a 15-year-old refugee, he was illiterate and spoke no English. Deng overcame language barriers and won a scholarship to study law. He now works for Grays Legal in Parramatta and specialises in criminal law. As a student, Deng began volunteering at Blacktown Court Support Services to provide legal assistance to vulnerable members of the community, particularly newly arrived migrants. Deng has taken on a leadership role in his community and has worked to improve access to justice for the Sudanese community in Sydney. In particular, Deng has initiated projects to help build an understanding of the Australian legal system and improve relations with police. This has resulted in a reduction in crimes involving the Sudanese community, particularly youth.

Mr Richard Brading

**Nominated by Mr Jeffrey Lucas,
Wesley Mission**

Richard has worked tirelessly for 17 years to improve access to justice for problem gamblers and for people with disability. In 1994, Richard helped establish Wesley Community Legal Service (WCLS), a unique service that specialises in consumer law issues arising from problem gambling. Through financial counsellors and gambling counsellors working collaboratively, it provides a holistic response to the impacts of problem gambling. As Principal Solicitor of WCLS, Richard has successfully represented problem gamblers in criminal courts and in litigations against the gambling industry. Richard has facilitated access to justice for people with disability, as President of Self Help for the Hard of Hearing and through his role on other committees. Richard is well respected and known for his compassion, commitment to social justice and determination to give something back to the community.

Mr Luke Geary

**Nominated by Ms Miriam Gluyas,
The Salvation Army**

Luke has been nominated for his work over the past six years as founder of Courtyard Legal, which has been expanded into Salvos Legal and Salvos Legal Humanitarian. All the funds received from the work of Salvos Legal subsidises the work of Salvos Legal Humanitarian, which provides free services for disadvantaged and marginalised people in NSW. Since Courtyard Legal began, there have been more than 2000 occasions of advice and representation in courts and tribunals, and each fortnight more than 150 clients receive pro bono services. The Salvos Legal practice consists of employed and volunteer solicitors, migration agents and paralegals, and around 90 staff working across six offices in NSW. Luke has been nominated for his exceptional achievement in developing a self-sustaining commercial law firm to improve access to justice for disadvantaged people in NSW.

Mr John McKenzie

**Nominated by Ms Robyn Ayres,
Arts Law Centre of Australia**

For the past 30 years, John has dedicated his energies to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people in NSW. In 1980, John began his involvement with the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) as a practicing solicitor. In 1987, John was appointed Principal Solicitor (NSW, Tasmania, Victoria) to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, and he remains committed to ensuring the recommendations of the Commission remain at the forefront of law reform. John has made a significant contribution to the ALS and has helped the organisation establish an operational model focussed on excellence in service delivery. John is known for his unwavering commitment to ensuring that Aboriginal people receive proper legal representation and that the underlying issues causing the over-

representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system in NSW are strategically pursued. While John would consider that he is just doing his job, he is recognised as a great lawyer, an innovator and someone who maintains their passion for 'fighting the good fight'.

Mr Fred Moore

Nominated by Ms Barbara Nicholson, University of Wollongong

Fred is a retired coal miner and activist. Now aged 89, he is well known in the South Coast community as a leading force and driver for change in the areas of workers' rights and racial equality. Fred recognised the need to improve living conditions and access to justice for Aboriginal people, and he was a founding member of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, which worked tirelessly towards achieving the 1967 constitutional referendum. He was also instrumental in forming the South Coast Aboriginal Advancement League, which worked to restore land and housing to Aboriginal communities. He is an initiated Elder of the Jerrinja people in the Shoalhaven and a revered 'Uncle' in the Illawarra. Fred's nomination recognises his lifelong dedication to improving access to justice for trade union members, the working class, women, the elderly, youth and Aboriginal people.

Mr Jeremy Rea

Nominated by Ms Michelle Hannon, Gilbert + Tobin

Jeremy spent 20 years in private practice and in 2005 he became an accredited specialist in criminal law. In January 2008, Jeremy joined the Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS) as a solicitor advocate. Since then, Jeremy has represented more than 400 homeless clients in local court, district court and Supreme Court criminal matters across metropolitan Sydney. Given the circumstances of his clients, including the prevalence

of mental illness and drug and alcohol dependence, Jeremy has taken a proactive approach to legal service delivery. His willingness to meet with clients on their terms, at any time of the day, has resulted in a greater number of homeless people dealing with their legal issues, and this has resulted in positive outcomes for most clients. Without his support, many homeless people would not make it to court and they would be convicted and sentenced in their absence. For many of the homeless people, 'the system doesn't work without Jeremy'.

Mr Peter Rowe

Nominated by Mr Toby Hall, Mission Australia

Over the past 18 years, Peter has been an instigator and leader of the pro bono movement in NSW. Peter was one of the 'behind the scenes' founders of Shopfront Legal Service, a specialist service established in Sydney for homeless young people in 1993, and led the initiative to place secondees in Kingsford Legal Centre and the Walgett Violence Prevention Service. Over the years, Peter has personally supervised and provided pro bono assistance to Aboriginal organisations, ACON, Mission Australia, NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre, the Arabic Youth Foundation, and the Shack Youth Services. Peter's foresight and understanding of legal need among disadvantaged people has helped develop an ethic of pro bono legal support and community engagement within Freehills, and this work has been credited as a catalyst for other large law firms embracing pro bono. While pro bono service is now a given for large law firms, this nomination recognises the compassion, commitment and initiative Peter has shown in helping disadvantaged people access legal services.

Ms Neisha Shepherd

Nominated by Ms Mirelle Curtis, Department of Family and Community Services NSW

Before moving into law, Neisha worked at the Department of Community Services for many years, where she specialised in the area of child protection. Around eight years ago, she became a solicitor because she felt she could do more to help families. Working from her office in the Newcastle area, she has assisted a range of vulnerable and disadvantaged clients on complex care and protection matters. Neisha is known as a powerhouse, with the determination and the drive to take on 'the hard cases'. Her commitment to improving access to justice resulted in a successful appeal that changed the law with respect to shared parenting. She has an in-depth understanding of the impacts of care and protection legislation, and is a strident voice for children who have been displaced and are about to go into foster care. Neisha is known to have an enormous social conscience and provides pro bono assistance to those who cannot afford to pay legal fees and who are not eligible for Legal Aid. Her nomination recognises her extraordinary achievements and her exceptional commitment to helping people access justice.

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Justice Medal *cont.*

Mr Michael Vassili

Nominated by Mr Kieran Ridley and Mr Gerry Ambroisine

As well as operating a successful private practice, Michael has dedicated part of his week, over a number of years, to providing pro bono assistance to people who are socially or economically disadvantaged. He is a founding member and Honorary Principal Solicitor of Toongabbie Legal Centre, and continues to attend twice weekly legal information sessions. Over the past seven years, Michael has worked with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and provided the organisation and its members with advice and support, often beyond the call of duty. For Anaphylaxis Australia, Michael has provided pro bono assistance in coronial inquests into the deaths of young people by reason of anaphylaxis. He also established the Homelessness Taskforce in Blacktown to tackle the plight of homeless people in the area. Michael is known for his commitment to social justice and his work above and beyond the call of duty, to help those less privileged with their legal problems.

Ms Nikki Wells

Nominated by Mr Paul Liccione, Survivors Australia

Having come to terms with her own experience as an adult survivor of abuse, Nikki decided to help others do the same and around two years ago she established Survivors Australia. The organisation aims to support survivors and help them to access justice, so they are empowered to take back control of their lives. Nikki has been nominated for the outstanding courage, strength and initiative she has shown in establishing Survivors Australia, and for publicly 'taking on' large institutions to raise awareness of abuse and injustice. Nikki has mentored survivors and accompanied them to court, to support them and help them negotiate the complexities and formality of the court system. She has also accompanied survivors to police stations to make statements. Nikki has recently developed and delivered workshops that aim to empower and provide survivors with the information they need to access justice.

Acknowledgements

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Arts Law Centre of Australia

Ms Annette Bain

Freehills Foundation

Professor Eileen Baldry

University of New South Wales

Ms Penny Barletta

St John's Anglican Church Darlinghurst Legal Counselling and Referral Service

Mr Darren Barton

Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre

Dr Anne Benjamin

Toongabbie Legal Centre

Mr Jason Behrendt

Chalk & Fitzgerald

Ms Joan Bielski AO

The Hon. Justice Reginald Blanch AM
District Court of NSW

The Hon. Catherine Branson QC

Australian Human Rights Commission

Ms Jemima Brewer

Artemis Legal

The Hon. Linda Burney MP

Ms Louise Burton
Philanthropy Australia

Ms Helen Campbell OAM

Women's Legal Services NSW

Ms Noeline Carr

Thiyama-li Family Violence Service

Ms Fay Carroll

Department of Education and Training NSW

Mr Terry Chenery

Aboriginal Affairs NSW

Ms Anna Cody

Community Legal Centres NSW

Mr Craig Cockburn

Nowra Courthouse

Mr John Corker

National Pro Bono Resource Centre

Ms Anne Cregan

Blake Dawson

Ms Geraldine Daley

Colin Daley Quinn Solicitors

Ms Lynne Dalton

Centre for Volunteering

Ms Kathleen Davis-Stewart

Nowra Local Court

Mr Brian Debus

Menindee Central School

Magistrate Doug Dick

Wollongong Court House

Ms Priscella Engall

Hills Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre

Mr Alistair Ferguson

Bourke Alcohol Working Group

Mr Phillip French

NSW Disability Discrimination Legal Centre

Mr Jeff Gamble

Traffic Offenders Program

Ms Melodie Gibson

City of Sydney Council

Mr Paul Gibson**Ms Liz Giles**

Homelessness Unit, City of Sydney

Mr Laurie Glanfield AM

Department of Attorney General and Justice NSW

Ms Louise Goodchild

Frederick Jordan Chambers

Mr Bill Grant

Law Council of Australia

Mr Damian Griffis

Aboriginal Disability Network NSW

The Hon. John Hatzistergos

Ms Deirdre Hyslop
Corrective Services NSW

Ms Lisa Jackson Pulver AO

UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine

The Hon. Michael Kirby ACCMG**Mr Alan Kirkland**

Minister Nesan Kistan
Salvation Army

Mr Geoff Lindsay SC

NSW Bar Association

Mr Tony McAvoy

Frederick Jordan Chambers

Mr Charles 'Uncle Chicka' Madden

Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

Mr Colin Markham

University of Wollongong

Ms Rachael Martin

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre

Mr Steve Maxwell

Liverpool Court

Mr Abraham Deng Michael**Mr Gerry Moore**

Aboriginal Legal Service

Mr Paul Morris

Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

Ms Sharon Mumford

SHINE for Kids

Mr Michael Mundine

Aboriginal Housing Company

Mr Peter Noble

Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre

The Hon. Judge Stephen Norrish QC

District Court of NSW

Mr Steve O'Connor

Aboriginal Legal Service

Mr Mark Orr

ACON

Mr Nicholas Parkhill

ACON

Ms Sonya Pell

Salvation Army

Mr Shane Phillips

Tribal Warrior Association Inc.

The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP

Mr Reg Pollock
NSW Children's Court

Mr Thomas Prexl

Liverpool Court

Mr John Rafferty

Macquarie Legal Centre

Father Chris Riley AM

Youth Off The Streets

Ms Christine Robinson

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre

Mr Arthur Rorris

South Coast Trades and Labour Council

Mr Philip Selth OAM

NSW Bar Association

Superintendent Michael Thomas

NSW Police Force

Professor Rosamund Thorpe

James Cook University, Townsville

Mr Todd St Vrain

University of Technology, Sydney

Mr John Sheahan SC

Wentworth Chambers

Mr Kevin Simpson

Homeless Persons' Legal Service

Mrs Cathie Sinclair

Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Centre

Mr Stan Small

Anglicare NSW

The Hon. Paul Stein QC AM**D.I. Mick Stoltenberg**

NSW Police Force

Ms Pia Van de Zandt

Legal Aid NSW

Ms Brigit Walter

North Richmond Neighbourhood Centre

Dr Wayne Warburton

Wesley Mission

Professor David Weisbrot AM

Macquarie University

Mr Stuart Westgarth

Law Society of NSW

Dr Betty Weule

Financial Counsellors' Association of NSW

Mr Chris Wheeler

Mallesons Stephen Jaques

Ms Pansy Williams

Menindee Community Working Party

Mr Eric Wilson SC

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Ms Tamara Winikoff

National Association for the Visual Arts

Ms Krstina Wooi**Ms Lynne Worrall**

St John's Anglican Church Darlinghurst Legal Counselling and Referral Service

**The Law and Justice Foundation
would like to thank the following
organisations for their support
of the 2011 Justice Awards**

CHALK & FITZGERALD
LAWYERS & CONSULTANTS

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

CLAYTON UTZ

Pro bono legal work is a fundamental part of being a lawyer at Clayton Utz. This year our Pro Bono practice will provide more than 40,000 hours of legal assistance to people who cannot obtain Legal Aid and cannot afford legal advice or representation, and to not-for-profit organisations that support marginalised and disadvantaged people.
www.claytonutz.com

Freehills

This year Freehills' structured pro bono turns 21. The focus of the firm's pro bono is to increase access to justice and opportunity, prioritising Reconciliation, homelessness, disability and health and global communities in need. The program includes transactional and litigious matters for not-for-profits and individuals; pro bono solicitor secondments to community legal centres; and providing community legal education and mentoring to lawyers in the public interest sector. Since 1993 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.
www.freehills.com



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

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 with organisations including the National Children's and Youth Law Centre and the Australian Red Cross.

www.mallesons.com

MinterEllison |
LAWYERS

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 the Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre and the Macquarie Legal Centre's outreach clinic in Claymore. 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



To improve access to justice, and to make a contribution to the broader community, Seven Wentworth partners with a number of firms and organisations to provide pro bono advice and advocacy services. Seven Wentworth is proud to be associated with the Law and Justice Awards, and the recognition they give to the community legal sector and its hardworking volunteers.

www.sevenwentworth.com.au



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