



## 'You had one job!': Law schools are failing at preparing graduates for practice

Plenary Debate; Kift, Sally; Lavarch, Michael; Murphy, Luke; David, Ann-Maree; Atwill, Tanya; Roach, Matthew

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**BOND  
UNIVERSITY**  
CENTRE FOR PROFESSIONAL  
LEGAL EDUCATION

2020 PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

# Harmonising Legal Education

Aligning the Stages in Lifelong Learning for Lawyers

1 - 3 OCTOBER, 2020

## UPDATED DATE CLAIMER AND CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2020 Professional Legal Education Conference will now be a virtual conference, with registration free of charge. Speakers will be able to deliver their presentations online, and attendees will be able to view the presentations, ask questions and provide feedback remotely. The program will be delivered as a combination of live streaming and pre-recorded videos able to be watched at any time. (Presenters and attendees able to do so will still have the option of attending the Conference in person.)

In Partnership with



ALAA



## CONFERENCE THEME 'HARMONISING LEGAL EDUCATION'

The three main stages in the lifelong learning journey of the typical lawyer are the completion of the law degree (the Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor); satisfaction of the practical training requirements for admission with either a traineeship or a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (PLT); and post-admission education in the form of continuing professional development, specialist accreditation or postgraduate study such as a Master of Laws.

All three stages have been subjected to criticism by various stakeholders. Employers complain that the content of the law degree does not reflect the reality of contemporary legal practice and that new law graduates must 'unlearn' what they have learned at law school. New lawyers complain that PLT fails to adequately prepare them for the legal workplace. Law schools allege that CPD is inadequately rigorous and law societies allege that formal postgraduate study is of little benefit to practitioners. Some criticisms are the result of ignorance of what actually occurs in the relevant stage of the learning journey. Other criticisms have merit and could be addressed by greater collaboration between those responsible for each stage of the journey.

This conference will seek to facilitate greater alignment between the stages in the educational journey of lawyers by bringing together legal academics, legal practitioners, law students, PLT trainers, CPD providers, law societies, law librarians, regulators, administrators and others to share their insights and experiences, learn from each other, and collaborate on the harmonisation of professional legal education.

## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS



**Emeritus Professor Sandford Clark**  
Former Chair, Law Admissions  
Consultative Committee (LACC).



**Professor Sally Kift**  
President, Australian Learning and  
Teaching Fellows; former Deputy Vice  
Chancellor (Academic), James Cook  
University.



**Luke Murphy**  
President, Queensland Law Society.



**The Hon Michael Lavarch AO**  
Emeritus Professor and former Dean of  
Law, QUT.



**Professor Lesley Hitchens**  
Dean, Faculty of Law, UTS; Chair,  
Council of Australasian Law Deans.



**Professor Caroline Stevens**  
Head, School of Law, University of  
Portsmouth; Academy Chair, Association  
of Law Teachers (UK).

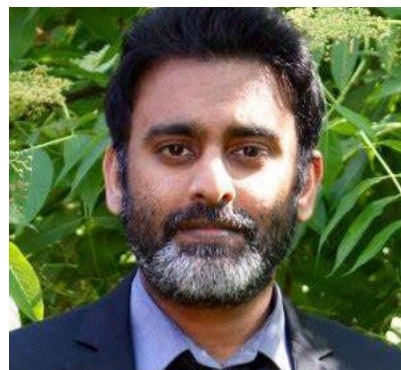
## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS (CONTINUED)



**Ann-Maree David**  
Executive Director, College of Law.



**Professor Alex Steel**  
Director Teaching Strategy,  
University of NSW.



**Dr Rajesh K Reddy**  
Director, Center for Animal Law Studies,  
Lewis & Clark Law School.



**Associate Professor Kate Galloway**  
Griffith University; Editor-in-Chief, Legal  
Education Review.



**Dr Colin James**  
Solicitor and Senior Lecturer ANU  
College of Law School of Legal Practice.



**Matthew Roach**  
Director, Parampara.



**Professor Nick James**  
Dean, Faculty of Law, Bond University;  
Co-Director, Centre for Professional Legal  
Education.



**Professor Rachael Field**  
Co-Director Centre for Professional Legal  
Education.



**Assistant Professor Tanya Atwill**  
Director, Graduate Diploma in Legal  
Practice, Bond University.

# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, 1 October

## **Public Lecture: The Rise of Animal Law Education: A Discipline Whose Time Is Now**

Animal law education was introduced into U.S. law school curricula half a century ago, but it has only been in recent years that the field has witnessed dramatic growth. Today, over 150 U.S. law schools offer at least one course in animal law, with a half dozen now boasting fully fledged animal law programs. As impressive as this trend may be, it fails to capture the discipline's hard-fought struggle for legitimacy within academia, as well as the critical need for animal law education beyond the U.S. today. Dr Rajesh K Reddy, the director of the world's first advanced animal law degree program, will discuss the rise of a field that few in the world had ever heard of into one that the world can no longer do without. Attendees will leave this talk with a deeper appreciation of this burgeoning area of the law, as well as how they can help sustain its success in the years to come.

**Dr Rajesh K Reddy**

Director, Center for Animal Law Studies, Lewis & Clark Law School

Friday, 2 October, 9.15am - 10.30am

## **Plenary Panel: Is legal education in Australia over-regulated or under-regulated?**

This panel session will explore whether law schools and other legal education providers are unreasonably constrained by the obligation to comply with the 'Priestley 11', Admission Requirements, the LACC Standards, the Competency Standards for Entry Level Lawyers, the CALD Standards, the AQF, the Higher Education Standards, and so on, or whether legal education providers require additional or alternative regulation to raise the standard of teaching and improve student learning outcomes. A key focus will be upon whether the current regulatory environment promotes or inhibits harmonisation of the stages in a lawyer's lifelong learning journey.

**Emeritus Professor Sandford Clark**

Former Chair, Law Admissions Consultative Committee (LACC)

**Professor Lesley Hitchens**

Dean, Faculty of Law, UTS; Chair, Council of Australasian Law Deans

**Professor Alex Steel**

Director Teaching Strategy, University of NSW

**Associate Professor Kate Galloway**

Griffith University; Editor-in-Chief, Legal Education Review

**Professor Caroline Strevens**

Head, School of Law, University of Portsmouth; Academy Chair, Association of Law Teachers (UK)

Saturday, 3 October, 9.15am - 10.30am

## **Plenary Debate: 'You had one job!': Law schools are failing at preparing graduates for practice**

This debate will explore both sides of the argument about whether or not law schools in Australia are doing enough to prepare law students for contemporary legal practice, adopting an approach that is simultaneously insightful, informative and playful.

**Professor Sally Kift**

President, Australian Learning and Teaching Fellows; former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), James Cook University

**The Hon Michael Lavarch AO**

Emeritus Professor and former Dean of Law, QUT

**Luke Murphy**

President, Queensland Law Society

**Ann-Maree David**

Executive Director, College of Law

**Assistant Professor Tanya Atwill**

Director, Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, Bond University

**Matthew Roach**

Director, Parampara

Saturday, 3 October, 3pm - 3.45pm

## **Plenary Presentation: Trauma, stigma and compassionate engagement: The need for reform in legal education, training and practice**

Psychological trauma is a common experience of clients and witnesses in criminal law practice and other areas including family law, child protection, domestic violence and refugee law. Trauma interferes with the legal process by disturbing a person's memory and their decision-making and may cause a range of PTSD symptoms including anxiety and depression which can reduce their effective participation in mediation or litigation. In this plenary presentation Dr Colin James, ANU, will propose a trauma-informed culture-change in all three branches of the profession: legal education, training and practice.

**Dr Colin James**

ANU College of Law

## CALL FOR PAPERS

The balance of the conference on 2 and 3 October will be comprised of streamed sessions of individual presentations. Potential presenters are invited to submit abstracts for papers on the theme of harmonising legal education generally, or upon the ways in which any of the following are addressed (or not addressed) by the various stages in lifelong learning for lawyers.

**Wellness and resilience**  
**Practical legal skills training**  
**Ethics and professionalism**  
**Serving the public good**  
**New technologies**  
**Internationalisation and globalisation**  
**Diversification in legal services delivery**

Presenters will be able to choose between delivering their paper via unrecorded livestream, via recorded livestream, or as a pre-recorded video of their presentation. (Presenters and attendees able to do so will still have the option of attending the Conference in person.)



UPDATE: General interest papers on any topic of general legal interest are also welcomed. ALAA is now a Conference Partner, and any paper initially intended to be presented at the unfortunately cancelled 2020 ALAA Conference can instead be presented at the 2020 Professional Legal Education Conference.

Please submit your abstract (no more than 300 words) and bio (no more than 150 words) by close of business on Monday, 31 August, 2020.

For more information,  
please click below

**SUBMIT NOW**

**MORE INFO**

