

This is an early notice to say that I have nominated for President of the Society, and to ask for your vote and support. **Voting commences this Friday** (24<sup>th</sup>) and continues for a window of 3 weeks.

While I have already had eight years on the Council, including two as Vice President and two as an Executive member, I have nominated again for President because during this coming year I want to make the work and needs of the Law Society **my primary priority**, rather than secondary. I would like the full opportunity to give back to the legal profession and the wider community the benefit of my 40+ years of experience and learning.

My reasons are:

- (a) There are some tough times ahead with the government bulldozing ahead for **changes to the CTP**. This will have an impact on lawyers, but it will have a far greater impact on road users who are unfortunate enough to suffer injury. The proposals are **draconian and unfair**. The legal profession is uniquely placed to argue for fairness for the community – not just for those who have been injured, but for all those who will be injured in the future. I want to apply to this CTP issue the skills and experience I obtained in past years where, for example, I successfully led the lobbying against unfair leasing practices, eventually culminating in the current commercial tenancy legislation.
- (b) The tendency of government to seek the opinion and input of the Society within a short time frame is a frequent cause for concern. The Society's committees work hard on a gratis basis, and need reasonable time for proper consideration of proposed legislation and other government initiatives. Government needs to understand that the Society's input is free and valuable.
- (c) I applaud the work of the **Women's Law Association and the Young Lawyer's Committee** who represent sectors of our legal community which may otherwise not attain the attention they deserve. I want to see more of our experienced lawyers take part in the Society's mentoring program, and

thereby assist young lawyers who do not have access to mentoring assistance which they may desperately need. Often this is in relation to their workplace.

- (d) With the Courts rebuilding and its IT enhancements, we can all expect (but will continue to lobby for) further streamlining of the litigation process.
- (e) The imminent introduction of electronic conveyancing settlements needs to be carefully assessed.

So ... what makes me tick? Like most lawyers I have empathy with the disadvantaged and under-privileged. I abhor violence, bullying, usury, and dishonesty. Violence in the home is a particular evil as it undermines the foundations of a person's ability to lead a fulfilling life. I recommend reading "I am Malala" (my review attached) which tells how justice and the rule of law are torn from a community by violence and bullying, and how that can be opposed by education – particularly of women - and I would add – of legal education. I have also attached some material about Courtroom ONE, Fundraising for the DVCS, and a submission on domestic violence. Please read these if you have the time and interest.

This election for President will be tightly contested by four candidates, and I can tell from my own experience that **every vote counts**.

Please phone me, email me or message on Linked In if there is anything you would like to discuss or comment on.

Finally, I hope you don't mind this long email, and I thank you for reading it. If I am elected I will try not to bore you with too many long speeches.



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