

President's Report: AGM

7 February 2017,

**Department of Accounting, Finance & Economics, Griffith Business School and
the Griffith Law School, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia**

This report has been prepared for the 2017 AGM and covers the activities of the Corporate Law Teachers Association (CLTA) for the period February 2016 to January 2017.

Executive Committee of the CLTA

The CLTA was established as an unincorporated association in 1994, by scholars of corporate law. The association seeks to represent the voices of the various corporate law scholars in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region. The goals of the CLTA include:

- Advancing corporate law teaching, research and scholarship.
- Promoting cooperation and exchange of ideas between corporate law scholars in the region.
- Promoting active cooperation between corporate law teachers and universities.
- Promoting cooperation with professional legal associations and law reform agencies.
- Hosting an annual conference to highlight current developments in corporate law scholarship.

The Executive Committee of the CLTA for 2016 comprised:

- Michelle Welsh, Monash University [President]
- Peta Spender, ANU [Immediate Past President]
- Suzanne Le Mire, University of Adelaide [Secretary]
- Gill North, Monash University and Deakin University [Treasurer]
- Anil Hargovan, UNSW
- Jason Harris, UTS
- Ellie Chapple, QUT
- Helen Anderson, University of Melbourne
- Susan Watson, Auckland University
- Kath Hall, ANU
- Jennifer Dickfos, Griffith University

2016 CLTA Conference

The School of Taxation & Business Law at the University of NSW hosted the 2016 CLTA conference from 31 January to 2 February. Associate Professor Anil Hargovan

organised the event. It was a friendly and intellectually stimulating conference that was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

In recognition of the 25th anniversary milestone of the CLTA in 2016, the theme was 'Enduring Issues in, and Reflections on, Corporate Law and Policy over the Past 25 Years'. The theme allowed us to reflect on both the CLTA's past as well as the legal and policy challenges that corporate law has confronted over that period, at a domestic and international level.

Sunday afternoon commenced with a thought provoking teaching session presented by Fiona Martin, Kayleen Manwaring, and Dale Boccabella, from UNSW and Brett Freudenberg from Griffith University. This was followed by a thoroughly enjoyable conference welcome reception.

The keynote speaker was Professor Paul Redmond, Sir Gerard Brennan Professor of Law at the University of Technology Sydney, Emeritus Professor and former Dean of Law at the University of New South Wales. Professor Redmond is also the inaugural president of the Corporate Law Teachers Association and was instrumental in establishing the association in 1991. The title of Professor Redmond's presentation was 'Corporation Law in the Global Economy and Society: New wine and old bottles? Reflections upon a quarter century of change.'

Following Professor Redmond's address a distinguished academic panel discussed his scholarship and the significant contribution he made and continues to make to the corporate law discipline. The panellists were: Professor Ian Ramsay (University of Melbourne), Professor Stephen Bottomley (Australian National University), Professor Peta Spender (Australian National University) and Brynn O' Brien (lawyer, PhD candidate, UTS). Both Professor Redmond's keynote speech and the panel discussion can be viewed at the CLTA website.

Day two of the conference featured the second plenary session, which focused on financial and securities regulation. The Keynote Speaker was David Ireland, partner with the New Zealand law firm Kensington Swan. David has a particular expertise in financial intermediary regulatory matters and is the current chair of the Code Committee, appointed under the Financial Advisers Act, to develop and maintain a code of professional conduct for authorised financial advisers. The topic of his presentation was 'The Shifting Sands of Financial Services Regulation in New Zealand'. The session was chaired by Professor Ellie Chapple, QUT and the panellists were Professors Dimity Kingsford Smith and Pamela Hanrahan, UNSW and Dr Matteo Solinas, Victoria University of Wellington.

The conference dinner, which was sponsored by LexisNexis, was held at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia (RACA) in Macquarie Street. It was a most enjoyable evening. Following dinner, we were entertained by the after dinner speaker Anthony

Hartnell, AM, Inaugural Chairman, Australian Securities Commission 1989-1992 and Chairman, National Companies & Securities Commission 1990-1991. The Best Paper Prize, sponsored since its inception by the Governance Institute of Australia (formerly the Chartered Secretaries Australia), was awarded to Wesley Bainbridge and Tim Connor for their paper 'Another Way Forward? The Scope for an Appellate Court to Reinterpret the Statutory Business Judgment Rule.'

Thank you to all the participants for their support and contribution towards the success of this event. Special thanks go to:

- Associate Professor Anil Hargovan for organising the event and Maree Magafas and April Moses for their assistance;
- Professors James Morley, Associate Dean UNSW Business School (Research) and John Taylor, Head of the School of Taxation and Business Law who opened the conference;
- Professor Paul Redmond, David Ireland and Anthony Hartnell (AM).
- the speakers and chairs; and
- the sponsors (Governance Institute of Australia, LexisNexis, Thompson Reuters, Oxford University Press and Hart Publishing).

2017 CLTA Conference

This year we are very grateful to the Department of Accounting, Finance & Economics, Griffith Business School and the Griffith Law School, for hosting the conference. The theme for the Conference is 'Agile Corporate Law: CSR, Innovation & Environment'. We are honoured to have Professor Sally Wheeler, Head of Law, Queen's University Belfast, Ireland as the keynote speaker. We look forward to papers and panel sessions that capture the challenges facing corporate law in responding to an agile and innovative corporate culture and the impact this may have on ensuring a sustainable future for society both domestically and internationally.

We thank Dr Jennifer Dickfos, Catherine Brown, Associate Professor Therese Wilson and Tim Peters and their team for hosting the event, as well as the plenary speakers and panellists for sharing their insights.

2017 Best Paper Prize

Every year one paper is selected from the annual conference for the best paper prize. A full description of the terms of the award can be found on the CLTA website. The prize is designed to encourage scholarship by authors at Senior Lecturer level or below. Accordingly, papers submitted by authors whose appointment is above Senior Lecturer (or equivalent) are ineligible for the prize. The eligible papers must be submitted by a certain date which is nominated in the call for papers.

The Best Paper Prize will be presented at the CLTA Conference dinner by Mr Stephen Wright (National Director, Education & Training) on behalf of our major sponsor, Governance Institute of Australia Ltd. We thank the Governance Institute for their continued support of the CLTA and the Best Paper Prize.

2017 CLTA Conference Bursary

Our bursary program, which offers financial support to enable HDR candidates to present a paper at the conference, provides a valuable opportunity for HDR students to share their research with corporate law scholars. There are generally two bursaries awarded each year. Congratulations to this year's recipients:

Michelle Worthington: 'Corporate Ethical Agency: Agility through uncertainty'; and

Tony Tony: 'Regulation on Integrated Risk Management for Financial Conglomerates in Indonesia'.

General Activities of the Executive

In 2016 the President of the Law Council of Australia, Mr Stuart Clark AM, sought the Association's views on a proposal to include business and human rights studies into mandatory corporate law and ethics courses. The views of all past Presidents of the CLTA and the current members of the executive were sought and a response, coordinated by Associate Professor Kath Hall, was sent to the committee. A copy of the CLTA's response to the Law Council's request is available at the CLTA website.

2018 CLTA Conference

We are very pleased that the School of Law, La Trobe University, represented by David Wishart, has offered to host the CLTA conference in February 2018. Please check the CLTA website: www.clta.edu.au regularly for 2018 conference details (dates, conference theme and call for papers) and for the link to the host university's website.

Thank You

I am standing down as President at the 2017 conference, after having served two years in the role. I would like to thank the members of the 2015 and 2016 Executives for their support and wonderful collegiality. It has been an honour to serve as President of the CLTA.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MW', followed by a period.

Professor Michelle Welsh (Monash)

CLTA President