

President's Report: AGM
5 February 2019
Auckland Law School, Auckland, New Zealand

This report has been prepared for the 2019 AGM and covers the activities of the Corporate Law Teachers Association (CLTA) for the period February 2018 to January 2019.

Executive Committee of the CLTA

The CLTA was formally 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 2018 comprised:

- Suzanne Le Mire, University of Adelaide [President]
- Michelle Welsh, Monash University [Immediate Past President]
- Beth Nosworthy [Secretary]
- Anil Hargovan, UNSW [Treasurer]
- Gill North, Deakin University [former Treasurer, resigned from office and executive, November 2018]
- Kath Hall, ANU [former Secretary, resigned from office February 2018, remains on executive]
- Ellie Chapple, QUT
- Susan Watson, Auckland University
- Vicky Comino, University of Queensland
- Michael Duffy, Monash University
- David Wishart, La Trobe University

2018 CLTA Conference

The theme of last year's conference was "Let's make corporate law great again!". It was held at the City Campus of La Trobe University – the 20th floor of 360 Collins Street with an inspiring view of the other buildings in the city and perhaps a slice of the Bay. Two plenary speakers addressed the theme: Professor Paddy Ireland, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, Bristol University, and Professor Charles Yablon of Yeshiva University, New York, who spoke on financialization as an organising principle of corporate law's peculiarities and the contrast

between dynamic and static models of corporate law respectively. Also featured was an interactive session hosted by Rosemary Langford from the University of Melbourne in which some of the key questions as to directors' duties were workshopped. The conference dinner was held at the Melbourne Aquarium where participants were not only entertained by sharks, crocodiles and turtles, but also by the famous (or notorious) shareholder activist Stephen Mayne. Many interesting papers were presented but true to precedent it cannot be said that conference theme was fulfilled. The CLTA would like to thank the conference organiser, Dr David Wishart. In addition, David would like to register his thanks to Nicole and Brad who were the greeters, Lise (whose hand featured), Sam, the website genius, and the person who developed the checklist of things that had to be done, and the CLTA Executive.

A number of papers from the conference have since been published in a special edition of the *Australian Journal of Corporate Law*.

2018 Conference

This year's conference is hosted by Professor Susan Watson and her colleagues at Auckland Law School, Auckland, New Zealand under the theme of 'Possible Futures for the Company and for Corporate Law'. The conference features a keynote presentation from Professor Luca Enriques (Oxford University) who will speak on 'Putting Technology to Good Use for Society: the role of corporate, competition and tax law'. The conference also features a plenary session on 'Adapting to change: the future of corporate governance' presented by Justice Susan Glazebrook. Justice Glazebrook was appointed to the New Zealand High Court in 2000, to the Court of Appeal in 2002 and to the Supreme Court in 2012. In 2014, she was awarded the DNZM (Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit) for services to the judiciary. She is currently the President-Elect of the International Association of Women Judges. A Panel on Maori Governance entitled 'Te Pae Hihiri Māori Governance – Navigating the future' is a feature of the second day of the conference. The teaching and learning panel discussion on Sunday afternoon will introduce key findings from a longitudinal study funded by the Ako Aotearoa National Centre for Excellence in Tertiary Teaching and focusing on the learning and teaching experiences of law students at four New Zealand law schools presented by Ursula Cheer and Lynne Taylor. This is followed by a discussion as to how company law teachers might use the findings to improve learning and teaching experiences of the students in their courses.

2018 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.

This year the winner is:

Dr Sagi Peari, University of Western Australia, with his paper, 'Corporations and Choice of Law'

General Activities of the Executive

The CLTA executive has had a busy year with a focus on planning for the future of CLTA. This has included a position paper on incorporation, a focus on the CLTA's web presence and the CLTA conference.

We are delighted to bring to fruition (with the very capable leadership offered by Professor Susan Watson) the first CLTA conference convened outside Australia. Another notable first has been the introduction of early career researcher categories for reduced registration fees for the conference (Level A and Level B Lecturers\Associate Lecturers and Lecturers and PhD Candidates). We are pleased to report that this has been well-received, and we seem to have attracted a greater number of new attendees this year.

In addition, a number of regular activities have been sustained.

Student corporate law essay prize

The CLTA Corporate Law Student Essay Prize was again offered in 2018, with submissions from CLTA members who recommended student essays of between 3,000 and 5,000 words from students studying corporate law and related subjects in 2017 at either undergraduate or postgraduate level in Australian and New Zealand universities. The student essay offers a first prize of \$300, second prize of \$200 and a third prize of \$100. The editors of the Australian Journal of Corporate Law (published by LexisNexis) have expressed interest in receiving submissions from the prize-winning papers (subject to standard refereeing processes). The winners are:

1st prize: Natalie Young, University of Newcastle

2nd prize: Ainslie Gill, University of Newcastle

We encourage CLTA members to promote the prize to their students in 2019. Please speak to the President if you have any queries regarding the prize.

Newsletter

This year we continued a periodic newsletter to members, with updates on initiatives and upcoming events. If you would like to advertise an upcoming event for the newsletter, please contact the President.

2019 CLTA Conference

We are very pleased that the Department of Business Law and Taxation, Monash University, represented by Professor Michelle Welsh and Dr Michael Duffy, has offered to host the CLTA conference in February 2020. Please check the CLTA website: www.clta.edu.au regularly for 2020 conference details (dates, conference theme and call for papers) and for the link to the host university's website.

Thank You

I would particularly like to pay tribute to Gill North, who has worked tirelessly as our Treasurer and stepped down very recently due to a serious illness. We also remember with affection Professor Bob Baxt. His passing is a great loss to the Association, and corporate law more broadly.

Personally, it has been an honour to serve as President of the CLTA. I would like to thank the members of the 2018 Executive for their ongoing support and collegiality. Additionally, Susan Watson's grace under the pressure of the conference organisation has been notable.



Suzanne Le Mire

CLTA President