

## **President's Report: AGM**

**4 February 2020**

**Monash Business School, Monash University**

This report has been prepared for the 2020 AGM and covers the activities of the Corporate Law Teachers Association (CLTA) for the period February 2019 to January 2020

### **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 2019 comprised:

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

### **2019 CLTA Conference**

The 2019 conference was hosted by Professor Susan Watson and her New Zealand colleagues at Auckland Law School, Auckland, New Zealand under the theme of 'Possible Futures for the Company and for Corporate Law'. The conference featured a keynote presentation from Professor Luca Enriques (Oxford University) who spoke on 'Putting Technology to Good Use for Society: the role of corporate, competition and tax law'. The conference also featured 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 of the International Association of Women Judges. A Panel on Maori Governance entitled 'Te Pae Hihiri Māori Governance – Navigating the future' was a feature of the second day of the conference. The teaching and learning panel discussion on Sunday afternoon introduced 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 was 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.

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

### **2020 Conference**

Monash Business School's Department of Business Law and Taxation will host the annual Corporate Law Teachers Association conference at the Monash University Caulfield Campus on 2-4 February 2020 with the theme '20/20 HINDSIGHT: Reflections on Perceptions of Trust in Corporations'. Keynote speaker, Professor Lorraine Talbot, will be speaking on 'Trust in Corporations and other "Bullshit" Discourses: What Really Matters?' Professor Benjamin Richardson will be speaking on 'Fiduciary Capitalism: Building Trust Through Responsible Financing'. A plenary panel chaired by Professor Jennifer Hill and drawing on the view of eminent members of the profession, will explore the impact of the Hayne Royal Commission on corporate boards, corporate governance and corporate culture. The teaching workshop will explore 'Student Focus in Corporate law – engagement and disruption' and 'Never Odd or Even: Universal Design for Learning and Multifunctional Multimedia'.

### **2019 Best Paper Prize**

Every year one paper is selected from the annual conference for the best paper prize supported by the Governance Institute. 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 a bumper crop of papers was submitted for consideration. I particularly thank the sub-committee (David, Vicky, Anil and Ellie) for reading and ranking the submissions and the Governance Institute>

This year the winner is:

**Dr Jonathan Barrett, Wellington School of Business and Government, Victoria University of Wellington**

Two additional papers were 'Highly Commended' and will receive an award of \$250 from the CLTA

Lance Ang, National University of Singapore and Alan Koh, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

## **General Activities of the Executive**

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

We were delighted to bring to fruition (with the very capable leadership offered by Professor Susan Watson) the first CLTA conference convened outside Australia.

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 2019, 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 2019 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 2020 winner is:

Madeline Muddle, University of Newcastle

While the contribution of the University of Newcastle students to this prize has been notable, we have failed to garner much interest from other universities. This seems to suggest that the prize needs to be re-visited to see if we can reposition it to be more appealing. Please speak to the President if you have any thoughts regarding this.

### *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.

### *Recordkeeping*

A focus of the year has been the regularising of the record keeping of the executive committee in a central repository. The secretary created a CLTA dropbox that now stores all agendas, minutes and other planning and administrative documents. This enable ready access for the executive, should provide a resource for future committees and ensure smooth handovers.

The membership list has now been updated and a new e-form created to seamlessly gather information from aspiring members and add them automatically to the membership spreadsheet. This should mean a more complete record of members.

### *Website*

The project to update and relocate the CLTA website is now complete. You can access the website at [cltadev.com](http://cltadev.com).

It is now ready to go live. If you have any feedback, please provide it by 29 February.

### *Name change*

Following the discussion at last year's conference about refreshing the name of the CLTA in order to reflect the Association's commitment to research as well as teaching, a survey was circulated to members to test the appetite for name change. The survey will close prior to the AGM to enable the outcome of the survey to be discussed.

## **2021 CLTA Conference**

CLTA2021 will be held at Singapore Management University, represented by Professor Pearlle Koh. Please check the CLTA website: [www.clta.edu.au](http://www.clta.edu.au) regularly for 2021 conference details (dates, conference theme and call for papers) and for the link to the host university's website.

### **Thank You**

Personally, it has been an honour to serve as President of the CLTA. In accordance with the CLTA Constitution it is my melancholy duty to step down as President. I would like to thank the members of the 2019 Executive, and especially the secretary, Beth Nosworthy, for their ongoing support and collegiality. Additionally, Michelle Welsh, Vivien Chen and Michael Duffy's grace under the pressure of the conference organisation has been extraordinary. Navigating a variety of calamities, including bushfire smoke haze, mud rain, as well as the Coronavirus, the Monash team has put together a terrific conference. My warm thanks to them, their team and all the presenters who have made this conference possible.

I also note the retirement of Professor Helen Anderson. Helen has been a long-time supporter of the CLTA conference, including hosting multiple times, most recently a terrific conference at the University of Melbourne in 2015, with Professor Ian Ramsay. We wish her all the best.



**Suzanne Le Mire**

**CLTA President**