

# Member News

Australian Bar Association

9 May 2016

## *ABA President's Report*

Dear Members,

It's been a busy first quarter as ABA President and with a full line-up for 2016, the year is looking very eventful for ABA members.

Firstly, I would like to recognise and give thanks to our former President Fiona McLeod SC for the exceptional contribution she made to the ABA during her tenure and for the energy and invigoration she injected into the association during that time.

It is a privilege to serve as the President of the ABA and one that I couldn't do without the support of the ABA Executive and Council. It is an honour to represent the Bar at a national level, to contribute to policy on issues of justice, the rule of law and to be able to promote diversity, equality, and inclusion within the profession.

Within this newsletter you will find updates on ABA events and initiatives, as well as news of relevance to our members.

**Patrick O'Sullivan QC**

### **State of the Judicature Address**

On Friday 29 April, the ABA, in partnership with the LCA, hosted the State of the Judicature Address in Hobart. The event was attended by Chief Justices around the country, the Chief Justice of NZ and representatives from all State and Territory Bars. The keynote address was given by the Chief Justice of the High Court, the Hon. Robert French AC who highlighted a number of issues of significance concerning access to justice, the rule of law and the profession. To read the Chief Justice's speech and address in reply by ABA President visit <http://bit.ly/1WSbhAd>

### **Indigenous Incarceration**

On Friday 8 April 2016, the ABA issued a media release calling for national cooperation to tackle Australia's alarming rate of Indigenous incarceration. The announcement outlined three key areas of reform: Review of fine default imprisonment; Amendment or removal of certain mandatory sentences; Investment into justice



### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**14-16 JULY 2016**

**Northern Territory Bar Association Biannual Conference – Dili, East Timor**  
<http://bit.ly/1WcXHsz>

**27-28 OCTOBER 2016**

**ABA and Victorian Bar Association Conference – The National Profession in a Global Market. Melbourne**  
<http://bit.ly/24w61lr>

**24 NOVEMBER 2016**

**WABA Colloquium to honour High Court Chief Justice Robert French AC.**  
<http://bit.ly/1rxbrYp>

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reinvestment programs. The announcement was covered in The Australian, AFR, SMH, ABC and was picked up by national radio and regional newspapers across the country. To view the ABA's media release visit: <http://bit.ly/1RSAeGr> and to hear ABA President on ABC's The World Today visit: <http://ab.co/23nwOCT>

### **Advocacy Training Council (ATC)**

For over 10 years the ABA has been delivering world class advocacy training to barristers through the ATC. After nearly a decade of exemplary service to the ATC, Phillip Greenwood SC of the NSW Bar will leave his post as Chair and hand over the reins to Ian Robertson SC of the South Australian Bar. The ABA thanks Phillip Greenwood SC for his tireless efforts which have seen the ATC grow from the seed of an idea to the remarkable and highly distinguished ATC program it is today. Ian Robertson SC was an inaugural member of the ATC Council, and the ABA welcomes him in his new leadership role.

### **World Bar Conference - Edinburgh**

From 14-16 April, ABA President Patrick O'Sullivan QC, along with a number of other Australian Barristers attended the World Bar Conference in Edinburgh. ABA President Patrick O'Sullivan QC presented a paper on 'Core Professional Values and Challenges to Independence from External Forces and The Benefits of Self-Regulation'. The paper is available at <http://bit.ly/1QiNVMA> To view the papers presents by Brett Walker SC, Kate Eastman SC, and WA Chief Justice Glenn Martin visit: <http://bit.ly/1s4ptLo>

### **ABA and VIC Bar Nation Conference – Melbourne 27-28 Oct 16**

This October, the ABA is partnering with the VIC Bar to present the first national conference for the ABA in close to 20 years. The theme for the conference is *The National Profession in a Global Market*. The conference promises an informative and engaging program, including a panel session of Chief Justices from around the country. Chief Justice of the High Court, the Hon. Robert French AC will deliver the keynote address. <http://bit.ly/24w61lr>

### **ABA Life Membership**

The ABA Executive and Council is delighted to announce ABA Life Membership has been awarded to Philip Greenwood SC and Philip Selth OAM. Philip Greenwood SC has been awarded life membership for his outstanding contribution to the ATC. Philip Selth OAM was awarded in recognition of the significant contribution made to the ABA to ensure its continued presence, professionalism and relevance to members across the country. Both will be presented with their Awards at the 2017 Silks Dinner.



### **ABA Committees**

The ABA represents the interests of the Bar and engages in regular consultation with government, drawing upon the expertise and knowledge of its members. To formalise this process and to provide a more strategic pathway for the ABA, the following committees have been established. Each State and Territory Bar has been invited to nominate members to sit on each committee.

#### **Indigenous issues**

Chair: Phillip Boulten SC

#### **Access to justice**

Chair: Jacoba Brasch QC

#### **Diversity and Inclusion**

Chair: Kate Eastman SC

#### **Asia:**

Chair: Patrick O'Sullivan QC

#### **Futures committee**

Chair: Matthew Howard SC

For further information on ABA committees visit: <http://bit.ly/1OqiBD2>