

KLC SHORTLISTED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Kingsford Legal Centre has been shortlisted in the Law Category for the Human Rights Award given by the Australian Human Rights Commission, annually. We have been shortlisted alongside Debbie Kilroy, Debbie Mortimer SC, Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and Professor Patrick Keyzer so we already feel very honoured. The winner will be announced on 10 December.

LAW REFORM, POLICY AND PROJECT WORK

KLC staff have been very active in this area of the Centre's service, with a focus on Australia's international human rights obligations

Anna Cody Elected Chair of the Community Legal Centres NSW Board

After serving on the board in a number of capacities over the past few years, on November 30 Anna Cody was elected Chair of the Board. Community Legal Centres NSW Inc. (CLCNSW) is the peak body for CLCs in NSW. CLCNSW has 39 member organisations including generalist and specialist CLCs. The State Office plays a critical role in the law and justice sector in NSW. It supports and represents CLCs in a range of government and community forums. The State Office works closely with the NSW CLC sector to advance the work of CLCs.

NALCL National Conference

KLC staff at the NALCL National Conference in Melbourne delivered a number of workshops. KLC Director, Anna Cody, presented 4 workshops. Three of those workshops were co presented with Teena Balgi from the Top End Women's Legal Service and Nicole Rich from the Consumer Law Action Centre on how to engage effectively in law reform processes. The workshops were very interactive and skills-based. Anna Cody also presented a workshop on clinical legal education and some of the challenges for community

legal centres in getting involved in it. Principal Solicitor, Emma Golledge presented a paper that reflected on using a Human Rights Act in the UK and how a Human Rights Act could change the work of clcs.



Anna Cody delivering workshop at NALCL Conference

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the Human Rights Council of the UN, of Australia's human rights record

KLC, in coalition with other Australian non governmental organisations (NGOs) prepared a short report on the current state of human rights in Australia. The coalition also researched and wrote lobbying sheets on discrimination law and other key human rights issues for the upcoming Universal Periodic Review of Australia by the Human Rights Council. These are currently being used to educate the various foreign embassies in Australia and Geneva around current human rights issues in Australia. They will be used at the UPR on 27th January 2011 in Geneva.

CEDAW

Anna Cody represented Australian non governmental organisations before the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in New York in July 2010. The delegation highlighted issues of political participation and representation across all communities of women, but particularly Indigenous women and women

with disability. The other priority issue was violence against women and the need for family law to properly reflect women's experience of violence as recommended by various domestic law reform bodies. The concluding observations reflected these concerns.

Sex Discrimination

KLC wrote a submission on behalf of the National Association of community legal centres about proposed changes to the Sex Discrimination Act (SDA) to the Senate Inquiry on the SDA. Among other mechanisms, we recommended that compounded forms of discrimination be more adequately recognised in law and that systemic discrimination needs to be better addressed.

Visitor from Philadelphia

Kingsford Legal Centre hosted an international visitor in November. Louise Hayes, a Supervising Solicitor from Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, dropped by to learn about the way community legal centres assist in social security advocacy in Australia. She was on a tour of Australia to speak to as many advocacy organisations as possible. The Centre's staff also learned a lot about welfare advocacy in the United States, and the vast differences between the two countries' social security systems.

Human Rights Consolidation Project

KLC has been busy with news that the federal Government is looking to consolidate existing federal anti-discrimination law into one Act. KLC sees this as an important opportunity to improve human rights protection in Australia and improve the way the law works. Unfortunately, federal discrimination law does not protect many people from discrimination and KLC knows from our own case work that litigating in federal matters can be difficult and potentially very costly!

KLC is working with other community legal centres across Australia to provide input to the Government on how federal discrimination law could be improved.

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY WORK

KLC Solicitor Dianne Anagnos manages KLC's busy CLE program. Programs for prisoners at Long Bay Gaol, young people and community workers were presented in the reporting period.

Ngara Nura Community Agency Day

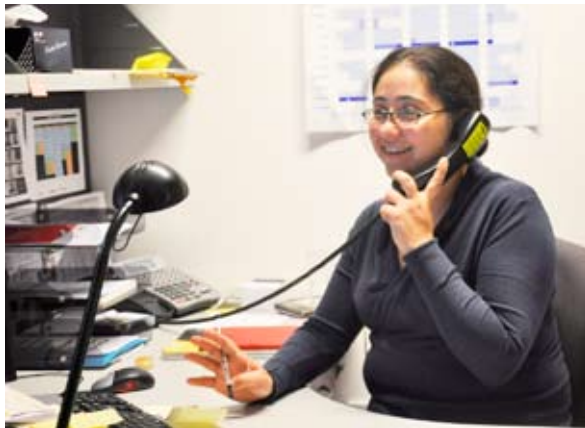
Kingsford Legal Centre was pleased to be invited back to the Ngara Nura Community Agency Day in October. Ngara Nura is a pre-release drug and alcohol rehabilitation program based at Long Bay Correctional Complex. It is a six month program that offers intensive counselling, education and exit planning for prisoners nearing their release date. The Community Agency Day is an opportunity for agencies to talk to inmates and their visiting family members about legal and other support services available to them. KLC attended with representatives from Centrelink, Housing NSW and Glebe House.

This year's Community Agency Day was very successful. KLC spoke generally to the 15 prisoners there during the day about the services offered by Community Legal Centres and the types of matters with which we can assist them. We also had the opportunity to talk to some of the inmates and family members on a one-on-one basis about matters such as fines, debts and employment.

Community Legal Education Workshops

We're back! KLC is once again running its free community workshops on a wide variety of legal topics. The most recent workshops have been on Social Security, Victims Compensation and Immigration Law and were very well received by participants. A huge thank you to our guest speakers in those workshops: Thea Deakin-Greenwood from Warringa Baiya and Chris Yuen from the Immigration Advice and Rights Centre. Our final workshop for 2010 will be on Tenancy

Law and will be presented by Jane Margarets from the Eastern Area Tenants Service. Local community organisations are welcome to contact us to make suggestions for topics to cover in next year's Workshop Series.



KLC CLE coordinator, Dianne Anagnos

Legal Information day at Yarra Bay

KLC organised a very successful legal information day for young people at Yarra Bay in November. The day was organised in conjunction with La Pa Bummies Youth Haven with a lot of ground-work being done by our Aboriginal Access Worker. The event was attended by 9 young Indigenous people between the ages of 13 and 16, as well as a local Youth Worker. The day focussed on issues such as a young person's rights when dealing with Police and the courts, and where young people can go to for assistance. Information was provided by three fantastic guest speakers. We also enjoyed a scrumptious lunch of local fish and chips at the conclusion of the talks! Our thanks go to Mark Patrick from Marrickville Legal Centre, Ruth Chalmers from the Aboriginal Legal Service and Gary Stewart from that Attorney General's Department.

Spanish Speakers CLE

In partnership with South East Neighbourhood Centre and TARS (The Older Persons Legal Service) KLC held another successful community legal education workshop on legal issues for older people. This session was for Spanish speakers and an interpreter was provided. Anita Mani (Freehills Secondee) spoke about Power of Attorney and other guardianship issues, Margret Small from The Older Persons' Legal Service spoke about making a will and issues you need to consider when lending family members money. Nearly 40 people attended and left leaving requests for more sessions. Thanks go to student Hannah Bellwood for her work in organising this event.



Anita Mani and Hannah Bellwood with interpreter

Chinese Speakers Information Day

KLC had a stall at the Chinese Speakers Information Day which was held on 24th November. The event was organised by Randwick City Council with the aim to promote local services to the Chinese speaking community. KLC provided show bags full of legal information written in Chinese and sweets for the children.

Poverty Week Cup Cake Stall

During Poverty Week students at KLC raised \$1,000 for the Women and Girls Emergency Centre, a service providing support and assistance to homeless women and their children. The students held a very successful cake stall with staff and students at KLC and staff from the Law Faculty providing enough delicious cakes, biscuits and sweets to cover 2 large tables. Thanks go to Anna Coroneo for her hard work in organising the stall and with the help of other KLC students made sure there was a sell out.



Anna Coroneo and Amjad Samakeh with the wonderful array of cakes and sweets

CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND FACULTY ACTIVITIES

KLC Director attends international conference and we showcase public interest careers to UNSW law students.

Indigenous legal education showcase (19th August)

KLC participated in the Faculty Indigenous legal education showcase which described and showed the various initiatives and programs which are available to Indigenous students in the Law Faculty at UNSW. The event demonstrated the high levels of commitment and achievement of the Law Faculty in educating Indigenous law students.

Indigenous legal education seminar (4th August)

As a part of the curriculum review process, the Indigenous legal education committee prepared a seminar for the Faculty about the importance of integrating Indigenous perspectives and content into the law curriculum. The Committee also is creating a repository of materials which will be useful for academics when faced with the challenge of how to do this. KLC assisted in the planning and chairing of the seminar on the 4th August.

Experiential learning Faculty seminar (15th September)

Frances Gibson was appointed Director of Experiential learning in the Faculty and jointly we presented a Faculty seminar on 'What is experiential learning?' and how it could be expanded within the curriculum.



(from l-r) Fran Gibson, Anna Cody & UNSW Law students

UCLA Clinical Conference

KLC Director, Anna Cody, attended the UCLA Clinical Conference, "Complex Clinical Clients: Lawyering Beyond the Traditional Individual Client". The Conference looked at clinics which are focussed on policy or community education initiatives. Various presenters provided interesting ideas for developing some of the clinics at Kingsford Legal Centre.

Public Interest Law Seminar

In October KLC and the NSW Legal Assistance Forum hosted a seminar for UNSW Law students on public interest law careers. Speakers included Anna Cody, Vavaa Mawuli, Judith Levitan and Amanda Alford.

Australian Learning and Teaching Council, Research project on clinical legal education standards

Anna Cody was successful with 5 other clinical legal educators in winning a research grant to investigate and document clinical legal education standards throughout Australia. So far Anna has held interviews with University of Western Sydney, and University of Newcastle Legal Centre (August-current) and developed the survey instrument. This project should result in standards which will be useful for future development of clinical legal education in Australia.

FAMILY LAW AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CLINIC/HONG KONG REFUGEE LAW CLINIC

Our family law clinic is up and running and has delivered a number of cases and more in the pipeline.

Family Law and Domestic Violence Clinic

Four students came through this new clinic in its initial operation in the winter semester. The students were provided with an opportunity to meet and build relationships with workers in the local area and also to prepare and present community legal education workshops for the members of the local community.

A total of four community legal education workshops (CLE) were organised for various women's groups throughout the semester. Following these presentations, ongoing education needs were identified and workers linked to these groups have expressed interest in having a series of CLE in order to meet the needs of their clients. These series will be tailored and delivered in the coming semesters. The evaluation of the clinic by pioneering students has been positive and a number of changes to the clinic will be made to reflect feedback from students. The Clinic will also be included in the 2011 UNSW Handbook.

Hong Kong Refugee law clinic

This clinic has developed in conjunction with Bassina Farbenblum of the Migrant and Refugee Rights project at UNSW. There are 4 students who have been chosen and now trained in basic interviewing skills and working with torture and trauma survivors. They begin in mid December in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong Legal advice clinic.

EMPLOYMENT LAW CLINIC

The clinic remains busy – solicitor Liz Meyer has found her feet and has increased the caseload.

KLC has recently agreed to act in a number of matters regarding unpaid entitlements. In one case, our client was underpaid approximately \$65,000 over the course of a 3 year period. The worker, who is from a non-English speaking background, did not realise until after her employment had been terminated that her hourly rate of \$10 was well below the minimum wage. In another case, KLC will be arguing that an employee who was described as a casual, despite the fact she had worked on a permanent part-time basis for almost 10 years, should have been entitled to a redundancy payment when she was retrenched.

Employment Solicitor, Elizabeth Meyer, will be speaking at the inaugural Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Forum on 7 December 2010. She will be discussing how employer's can ensure they do not breach discrimination and workplace laws when handling complaints of sexual harassment.

ABORIGINAL ACCESS PROJECT

Increase in access of Yarra Bay Outreach and CLE.

KLC's Aboriginal Access Project has been moving along steadily. The word is spreading amongst the Aboriginal community at La Perouse about KLC's community outreach service at La Perouse's Yarra Bay House and there has been a steady flow of clients seeking assistance for their legal issues.

Our Aboriginal Access Worker, Ron Timbery, has become involved in and attended community forums and events such as the Local Area Command Aboriginal Consultative Committee (LACACC), the La Perouse Interagency, and also a community Breast Cancer Awareness Day that was held on 11 November 2010. Ron has also worked in partnership with local organizations such as BreakThru Solutions and La Pa Bummers Youth Haven to organize community legal education (CLE) sessions for each organisation's clients. The CLE for BreakThru involved providing information on youth legal issues for the mentors participating in BreakThru's Youth Mentoring Program, and the CLE for the clients of La Pa Bummers

focused on Youth Rights when dealing with Police. KLC's Aboriginal Advisory Committee had its last meeting for the year on Wednesday 10th November. The Committee is very supportive of KLC's Aboriginal Access Project and is looking forward to making even greater progress in 2011. Ron also delivered a keynote address to the students of J.J Cahill Memorial High School at Mascot to promote White Ribbon Day. White Ribbon Day is a national campaign to raise awareness of, and stamp out violence against women.

STAFF AND STUDENT NEWS

Anna Cody's work recognised in awarding of Associate Professorship and a changeover of secondees over the period.

Anna Cody – Associate Professor

We are delighted to announce that Anna Cody has been promoted to Associate Professor at UNSW Law Faculty. This is a welcome & deserved recognition of the hard work Anna contributes to KLC and the Faculty and we all congratulate her on her promotion.

Anita Mani – Freehills Secondee Leaves KLC

Anita Mani finished her 6 months with KLC in late October. Anita proved to be a great asset to KLC as she actively participated in every part of the service. She brought warmth, intelligence and calmness to the Centre so staff were devastated to see her go and she is still sorely missed.

Susan Duc – Freehills Secondee Joins KLC

Susan started her secondment with KLC last week. She completed her Commerce/Law degree at UNSW in 2007 after which she took a year off to travel before starting at Freehills. She has worked in the Property, Employee Relations and Litigation practices at Freehills and will return to the Employee Relations group at the end of her KLC secondment. Susan is looking forward to working with the staff and students at KLC and spending the next 6 months in community legal work.



New KLC secondee Susan Duc

VOLUNTEERS

Our wonderful, selfless unsung heroes celebrate a great year of volunteering.

Volunteers Dinner

Around 20 of our wonderful volunteers met for the KLC Xmas dinner in November. Congratulations to Danny Grynberg for winning the inaugural Volunteer Paddle Award for the infamous 'asbestos incident'. He just beat perennial favourite, Mike Steinfeld, whose life coaching is one of our valuable assets. We simply couldn't survive without our band of vols, some of whom have been with us for many years. Thanks to all of unsung heroes – hope you all have a wonderful break, and see you all back at the grindstone in 2011.



Volunteers provide over 1600 hours of free advice per year at KLC.

Conservatively, that saves the community over \$80,000 each year.

In 2010 our volunteer solicitors gave well over 1,000 advices to our local community.

AMP Foundation Donates \$3000 to Kingsford Legal Centre

AMP Foundation runs a 'Celebrating Unsung Heroes' program where they recognise those employees who volunteer for not-for-profit organisations. KLC volunteer solicitor, Ting Tsia, was nominated and as a result, AMP Foundation made a very generous donation of \$3000 to the Centre. This is the second year running we have been the recipient of this donation. We are very grateful to all at AMP for their support and would like to thank Ting for her continued work for our clients.



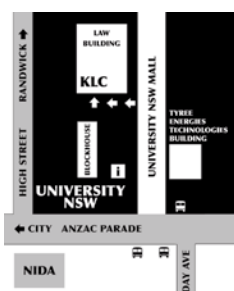
KLC Volunteer Ting Tsia

FINALLY...

Thanks to all of our volunteers, UNSW Law Faculty staff, students, donators and supporters for all of your help in 2010. Staff at KLC hope you all have a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year break and look forward to working with you all in 2011.



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LOCATION

Kingsford Legal Centre is located on the ground floor of the Law Building, University of New South Wales, Anzac Parade, Kensington. Enter the university at the main entrance on Anzac Parade, walk down the main walkway and turn down the 2nd path on the left. The entrance to the legal centre is opposite the Uni Bar.

POSTAL ADDRESS

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