

# Social Justice Opportunities Evening

Thursday, 22 September 2016

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**Speaker 1:**

**Mental Health Law Centre**

David Kernohan, CEO



Our core service is free legal advice and representation to people who are involuntary patients in the Western Australian mental health system. Subject to resources, we provide legal help, advice, representation and/or referrals in other areas of law including criminal, guardianship and administration, criminal injuries compensation, equal opportunity, discrimination and other civil matters.

- MHLCA represents clients who have mental health issues and
- have matters under the Mental Health Act 2014, primarily are involuntary;
- have been charged with a criminal offence;
- have matters under the Guardian & Administration Act

We have a Telephone Advice Line, where we can give short legal advice or referral by telephone.

Volunteers assist with administration, legal research, and drafting of legal advice. In particular, they respond to incoming calls via the Telephone Advice Line.

Recruitment of volunteers is conducted when needed. Opportunities are posted on our website as the vacancy arises. Applications volunteer positions can be made by sending resumé, academic transcript and covering letter to David.Kernohan@mhlcwa.org.au

**Mental Health Law Centre**

PO Box 8466, Perth Business Centre, WA 6849

Telephone: 08 9328 8266

[www.mhlcwa.org.au](http://www.mhlcwa.org.au)

[office@mhlcwa.org.au](mailto:office@mhlcwa.org.au)

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**Speaker 2:**

**Employment Law Centre**

Michael Geelhoed, Principal Solicitor



The Employment Law Centre of WA (ELC) is a not-for-profit community legal centre that provides advice to vulnerable employees in Western Australia. ELC has 5 permanent members of staff, a team of Advice Line paralegals, 12 student volunteers and a number of volunteer and seconded solicitors. ELC is located in the Perth CBD and operates during regular business hours, excepting that we provide a Tuesday evening service and close on Wednesdays due to funding constraints.

ELC has recently been focusing on human trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers.

ELC recruits student volunteers, student paralegals and volunteer solicitors on one or two occasions per year. Opportunities for PLT students or other graduates may become available in future depending on service planning and funding outcomes.

ELC has recently recruited for new volunteer positions. However, all expressions of interest are welcome and kept on file for future opportunities.

Anyone interested in working or volunteering at ELC should email [administration@elcwa.org.au](mailto:administration@elcwa.org.au) with a cover letter and CV.

**Employment Law Centre of WA (Inc)**

PO Box 272, Leederville WA 6903

Telephone: 08 9227 0100

[www.elcwa.org.au](http://www.elcwa.org.au)

[administration@elcwa.org.au](mailto:administration@elcwa.org.au)

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**Speaker 3:**

**Consumer Credit Legal Services (WA)**

Gemma Mitchell, Solicitor



CCLSWA provides legal advice and representation to consumers in WA in the areas of credit, banking and finance; and takes an active role in community legal education, law reform, and policy issues affecting consumers.

We are a small community legal centre with a full time centre manager, principal solicitor and legal admin assistant, and 2 part-time solicitors. We have about 20 law student, and PLT volunteers.

**Cases:**

We are working on an Amadio-like Supreme Court matter, where elderly non-English speaking parents provided a guarantee for their son's business loan.

**Key Issues:**

We are looking into the consumer credit implications of domestic violence

**Initiatives:**

We are working on initiatives to deliver services to non-English speaking clients.

Volunteer law students run the telephone advice line and assist solicitors with managing client files. Volunteers work at least 1 day a week for one semester. Volunteer positions for PLT students are also available.

**Consumer Credit Legal Services (WA)**

Level 1, 231 Adelaide Terrace, Perth.

Telephone: 08 6336 7020

Apply by sending an academic transcript, cv and covering email to [hr@cclswa.org.au](mailto:hr@cclswa.org.au)

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the Humanitarian  
group

**Speaker 4:**

**The Humanitarian Group**

Rohini Thomas, Solicitor and Migration Agent

The Humanitarian Group is a not-for-profit organisation focused on empowering vulnerable people by providing professional and accessible migration assistance, legal advice and education.

Our services include:

- migration assistance for people seeking safety for themselves through a protection visa, or for their families through family reunion;
- general legal assistance;
- community legal education; and
- professional development through internships across a range of disciplines, as well as legal and mental health training for our volunteers.

We currently have; 16 full time and part time staff, 132 legal and administrative volunteers, 141 bilingual volunteers who provide interpreting services, four Piddington Justice Project PLT law clerks and 120 pro bono lawyers assisting through the Temporary protection Visa (TPV) Project.

**TPV Project**

The Temporary Protection Visa Project (TPV Project) provides free specialised legal assistance to the approximately 2,000 people seeking asylum who arrived by boat between August 2012 and December 2013 and currently live in Western Australia. These people are subject to a new fast track assessment process to determine their eligibility to seek protection in Australia by way of a temporary visa.

Only very limited, affordable legal assistance is available to this group of people. Without adequate legal assistance, the integrity of the visa process can be compromised, which means that people who are in need of protection can be wrongfully returned to the persecution and harm from which they originally fled.

**The Voice Project**

The Voice Project is a new project which provides holistic legal education and advice services regarding family violence to people in the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) community in Western Australia.

**The Humanitarian Group**

16b Sunbury Road, Victoria Park

Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm

Volunteer application process is available on our website.

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**Speaker 5:**

**Law Access**

Katrina Williams, Principal Lawyer



Law Access Limited is a pro bono referral service which matches applications for pro bono (free or reduced cost) legal assistance from individuals and not for profit organisations (e.g. charities) to lawyers in the profession. The target population of Law Access is marginalised and disadvantaged individuals who require and cannot finance legal support. Law Access also supports NFP organisations.

Law Access refers matters of public interest for example as well as matters where a disadvantaged individual would be unable to obtain access to justice.

Law Access is staffed by part time employees, secondee lawyers and student volunteers.

We are always looking for lawyers willing to take on pro bono referrals. We also seek the support of the profession for our annual “Walk for justice Event” held in May each year on the Tuesday of Law Week.

**Law Access**

Law Access M249, the University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Perth WA 6009

Telephone: 08 6488 5683 (lawyers, community workers, court officials only)

Reception line: 08 9324 8600 (new applicants)

[lawaccess@lawaccess.net.au](mailto:lawaccess@lawaccess.net.au)

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**Speaker 6:**

**Tenancy WA**

Divij Vijayakumar, Graduate



Tenancy WA is a specialist legal centre for residential tenancy matters, funded to provide the state-wide telephone advice to residential tenants (private & social housing) as well as boarders and lodgers, run test cases, conduct law reform and provide CLE to lawyers, tenant advocates, community sector workers and public

Key issues or initiatives:

- Test case for Housing Authority evictions on water bills
- Evictions for Illegal Purpose under s75A
- Initiatives in relation to domestic violence as a major cause of homelessness

Different roles within the organization:

**Graduate** - Can be 3 days a week to full time, assisting in the Bond Clinic and in the Magistrate Court as support for the tenant advocate

**Volunteer** - 1 day to 3 days a week, taking calls from clients, data entry, assisting in the office.

**Tenant Advocate or solicitor** - 2 days to 5 days a week, face-to-face or telephone residential tenancy advice, duty advocacy services at the Magistrates Court, opportunity for casework and community legal education

Opportunities are advertised on our website: [tenancywa.org.au](http://tenancywa.org.au)

**Tenancy WA**

2/18 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004

Telephone: 086263 8556

9AM – 4.30PM

[tenancywa.org.au](http://tenancywa.org.au)

[admin@tenancywa.org.au](mailto:admin@tenancywa.org.au)

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**Organisations also in attendance:**

**Community Legal Centres Association (WA) Inc**

Helen Creed, Executive Director



The Community Legal Centres Association is the peak body for the 28 community legal and Aboriginal family violence prevention legal services in WA. Each centre is an autonomous community led organisation that designs and delivers services to meet the needs of their local community or particular client group. They develop partnerships with private law firms and other community groups to execute their mission and realise their vision. We provide our members with the support they need, to promote their value as providers of quality community legal services and to advocate for a fair and just legal system.

The Association has a small Secretariat (none of whom are lawyers). Internships or placement opportunities are available with us, but equally we act as a referral point to the most appropriate member centre depending on what opportunity the lawyer/law student is seeking.

More information about members can be found at [www.communitylaw.net.au](http://www.communitylaw.net.au)

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**Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service**

Rhea Thomas, Solicitor



Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service is a not for profit community legal centre that provides independent advice, information, referral, representation and advocacy in relation to Centrelink, Family Assistance, Tenancy and Social Security prosecution matters.

Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service are looking for passionate law students seeking an opportunity to volunteer one day a week and gain experience within the areas of social security and tenancy law.

**Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service**

98 Edward Street, Perth WA 6000

Telephone: 08 9328 1751

[wraswa.org.au](http://wraswa.org.au)

[welfare@wraswa.org.au](mailto:welfare@wraswa.org.au)

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**Friends of International Humanitarian Law in WA (FoIHL)**

Najette Alaraibi, President & Oscar Dell'Anna, Vice President

The Friends of IHL (FoIHL) is a group of volunteers interested in International Humanitarian Law. They support the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in disseminating the principles of IHL to the wider community. The FoIHL and the Australian Red Cross hold regular IHL training courses, seminars and events which the public can attend.

Membership of FoIHL is open to all members of the community who are interested in IHL. While Friends of IHL is a volunteer-based network, opportunities may arise from time to time to join the Friends of IHL committee, which presently consists of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Communications Officer, an Events Officer and six Professional engagement Officers/general members and an Emblem Protection Officer. If this is the case, we will put out a call for applications via our mailing list and on Facebook

**FoIHL**

[odellanna@redcross.org.au](mailto:odellanna@redcross.org.au),

<http://www.redcross.org.au/ihl-vol-wa.aspx>

**Notes:**

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**Citizens Advice Bureau**

Selva Stenross, Principal Solicitor & Elena Mauen, Volunteer & Client Services Coordinator



CAB provides service in Perth and the seven branches in the Metro area and two regional areas - Bunbury and Busselton. We provide information and referral services for clients who walk into our offices or telephone us. This service is manned by volunteers, some of whom are law students.

We have a mediation service which provides mediation for children and property matters. There is also community and neighborhood dispute mediation. There are charges for accessing this service.

We provide legal advice and the cost of the 20 minute appointment is \$30.00 (those with concession cards) and \$40.00 for others. For a fee we prepare Family Court documents, assist with Letters of administration and probate applications, and draft wills, EPA and EPG.

We have a number of private lawyers (who are unrestricted practitioners) providing pro bono legal service in Perth and the branches. The number of hours and the frequency of this assistance is determined by the lawyers concerned, but a minimum of 2 hours is preferable. This service is available during office hours, which are 9am to 4 pm.

Law students can volunteer as paralegals and there is a selection process for those interested.

Law students can be volunteers providing information and referrals on telephones.

Anyone interested can become members and CAB is actively looking for lawyers who may be interested in coming on board as committee members

**Citizens Advice Bureau**

(08) 9221 5711

Admin line (08) 9325 4217

[www.cabwa.com.au](http://www.cabwa.com.au)

[cab@cabwa.com.au](mailto:cab@cabwa.com.au)

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## International Commission of Jurists

Svetlana Lane, Vice-President



The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), based in Geneva is a non-governmental organisation committed to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights. The Western Australian Branch of the Australian Section of the ICJ was first launched in 1989 under the Presidency of the Hon. David Malcolm, followed by the Hon Robert Nicholson. It adopted a Branch Constitution on 17 December 2003.

The Branch is seeking new members and ideas. Membership is open to:

- (a) legal practitioners, law teachers, graduates or students or present or former judicial offices or person subscribing to the objects of the Branch;
- (b) any legal firm, or partnership or corporation subscribing to the objects of the Branch.

### International Commission of Jurists

27-29 St George's Tce, Perth WA 6000

Telephone: 0408 097046

[www.icj-aust.org.au/content/western-australia](http://www.icj-aust.org.au/content/western-australia)

[icj.wa@yandex.com](mailto:icj.wa@yandex.com)

**OR**

[mcintyre@internetexpress.net.au](mailto:mcintyre@internetexpress.net.au)

**Notes:**

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**YOUR CAREERS STRENGTH**  
COMES FROM THE POWER OF A COMMUNITY

### **Young Lawyers Committee**

Life as a young lawyer can be both challenging and rewarding. No one else is more understanding of what it takes to make it as a young lawyer, than other young lawyers who have walked in your shoes.

The Young Lawyers Committee (YLC) works closely with the Society's team to deliver key support for new members of the profession. This is achieved through social and sporting events, career support, information sharing and opportunities to give young lawyers a voice.

**Email:** [younglawyers@lawsocietywa.asn.au](mailto:younglawyers@lawsocietywa.asn.au)

**Website:** [www.lawsocietywa.asn.au](http://www.lawsocietywa.asn.au)

**The Law Society**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
The voice of the legal profession in Western Australia

**YOUNG  
LAWYERS**  
COMMITTEE  
THE LAW SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA