A Word from the Dean....

This is a bit weird—I have just been killed by our School Manager, Gail Wescombe, as part of our first “Crime Day” Event which we had with the support of teams from the School of Health (nurses who tried their best but were unsuccessful because the script wanted it so), the School of Arts (Journalists, to cover the crime), the Forensic Science staff at VLS (Emeritus Associate Professor Bob Mead did a terrific make-up job on me), Murdoch University Security) and, of course, our own staff at the Law School who helped put this event on for students from Canningvale College and Iona Presentation College. Great fun, indeed. Thanks to all involved.

I am also immensely proud of Professor Kate Lewins and Senior Lecturer Joe Clare who were both promoted just recently. Kate is now a full Professor and that is as deserved as it was overdue. And Joe has achieved his equally well-deserved promotion in record time. It is clearly a privilege for a Dean to be able to work with such staff.

Since the last newsletter we hosted two conferences here at the Law School. The first one in November 2016 on Property Rights and in February a conference on climate change and environmental law. Both went really well and were also very well received. Our Adjunct Professor Glen McLeod was instrumental for the environmental law conference and also a speaker at the property conference — thank you! Another Adjunct Professor and member of the first graduating class of Murdoch University School of Law, David Stewart, together with Writers WA and the Law School put on an event around legal issues for authors and those aspiring to publish. We aim to repeat this in the future.

We hope to be able to do much more with our Adjuncts and Alumni in the future. And if we do it will be on our website and in this newsletter and hopefully we will also start to include social media in the mix. We are so old fashioned...

Jürgen Bröhmer

Promotions and New Arrivals

Associate Professor Kate Lewins has been promoted to full Professor. Congratulations to Kate for this well deserved recognition of all your hard work over the years.

Dr Joe Clare has also been promoted from Lecturer to Senior Lecturer. In the short time that Joe has been at Murdoch he has shown that he is willing to go the extra mile for his students and the School. Congratulations to Joe for this fantastic achievement.

Sarah Withnall-Howe has just returned to work after Jack Edward Howe arrived at 6:50pm on 23rd July 2016. Congratulations to Sarah and Tim and Lily, now 3.5 years old, loves her new job as big sister and the two adore each other.

Dr Joe Clare and his wife Raji welcomed baby Rohan into the world on 23 December 2016. Everyone is doing well albeit a little sleep deprived. Below is Rohan’s first trip to Dad's work.
The School of Law Dean’s Awards Ceremony was held on 21st March 2017 to celebrate and acknowledge the School’s high achieving students and to recognise the work done by the Murdoch Student Law Society.

The Dean, Professor Jürgen Bröhmer, welcomed the prize winning students and their families and friends and thanked the representatives of the donor firms who support the prizes awarded on the night and acknowledged the importance of the Law School’s links with the legal profession. The Dean emphasized that for an award night like this to come together it needs the dedication of many people, lecturers, admin staff, donors and sponsors and committed students and their families and friends. Murdoch Law School is very proud of its active academic community on campus to which all of our staff, students and our Murdoch Student Law Society contribute such a great deal. Communities work and are successful not because everybody does what they have to do but because they do what they can and often more. The Dean also used the opportunity to inform a fully occupied Freehills lecture theatre of activities in the Law School, from the new structure of the School’s highly distinctive and successful clinical program offered in conjunction with SCALES under the leadership of Anna Copeland, to the national and international successes of Murdoch Law School’s many mooting teams.

Prizes were awarded for top performing students in many subjects. The main prize for the top graduating student, the Francis Burt Chambers Law Medal for 2016, was awarded to Jamie Ammendolea by Genevieve Cleary, Director, Francis Burt Chambers.

Jamie Ammendolea gave the acceptance speech on behalf of the prize recipients.

Prize winners were rewarded for excellence in their studies and were grateful for the recognition afforded to them by both the School and the donors. At the conclusion of the formalities, guests were able to enjoy drinks and cocktail food in the gardens. Donors and prize recipients took the opportunity to chat with each other and with School staff.
List of Prize winners:

The Francis Burt Chambers Law Medal
Awarded for the most outstanding academic performance in Law – Jamie Ammendolea

Ronald Wilson Prize in Law
Awarded to the graduand who best combines distinguished academic performance in Law units with qualities of character, leadership, and all-round contribution to the life of Murdoch University – Scarlette de Lavaine

Allens Prize for Excellence in Commercial Law
Awarded for overall excellence in work undertaken in the field of LLB332 Commercial Law – Emily Bell

Allens Prize for Excellence in Company Law
Awarded for overall excellence in work undertaken in the field of LAW452 Corporations law – Christian Payne

AMPLA Prize for Excellence in Resource Law
Awarded for best essay mark in LLB335 Mining and Natural Resources law – Jamie Ammendolea

Australian Finance Conference Prize
Awarded for the best academic performance in the unit BSL201 Finance Law – Lachlan Conroy

Criminal Lawyers Association of WA Prize
Awarded for the best academic performance in the unit LLB130 Criminal Law and Procedure – Conor McCavana

Eldon Prize in Equity
Awarded for the best academic performance in the unit LLB251 Equity – Claudia Tilli

Herbert Smith Freehills Prize in Law
Awarded for the best overall academic performance in LLB258 Australian Administrative Law – Pearly Chong
Awarded for the best overall academic performance in LLB259 Constitutional Law – Trent Mongan
Awarded for the best overall academic performance in LLB260 Contract Law – Robyn Murphy

Herbert Smith Freehills Prize in Resources Law
Awarded for the best academic performance in the unit LLB335 Mining and Natural Resources Law – Clinton Bonomelli

King & Woods Mallesons Prize in Civil Procedure
Awarded for the best academic performance in the unit LAW450 Civil Procedure – Megan Lawler

Kott Gunning Annual Innovation Law Prize
Awarded for the best academic performance in the unit LLB381 Supervised Legal Research - Heath Harley-Bellemore

LexisNexis Prizes
Awarded for the best academic performance in LAW468 Ethics and Professional Responsibility - Helen Barratt

Migration Software Company Prize in Migration Law
Awarded for the best academic performance in all four units in the Graduate Certificate in Australian Migration Law and Practice in S1, 2016 – Jefferay Rosales-Castaneda and in S2, 2016 – Shuang Yu

Murdoch School of Law Prize in Criminology
Awarded for the best academic performance in the unit CRM306 Advanced Criminology - James Writer

Paterson and Dowding Prize in Family Law
Awarded for the best academic performance in the unit LLB370 Family Law – Caitlin Gilchrist

Shine Lawyers Prize for Torts
Awarded for the best essay in the unit LLB152 Torts – Alysha Reilly
List of Prize winners, Cont.:

**Squire Patton Boggs Prize in Employment Relations Law**
Awarded for the best overall essay mark in LLB363 Employment Relations Law – Amelia Devlyn

**Society of Trusts and Estate Planners Western Australia Prize**
Awarded for the best overall essay mark in LAW351 Equity and Trusts – Domenico Romeo

Winner of the James TF Chong Memorial Scholarship - Rebecca Kale presented by Professor Brohmer on behalf of Tony Chong

**Searcy Bursary for Research**
Awarded to the student whose research best aligns with the requirements of the bursary rules

*Naomi Brown*

Sponsored by: Jennifer Searcy
Ronald Wilson Prize in Law

Awarded to the graduand who best combines distinguished academic performance in Law units with qualities of character, leadership, and all-round contribution to the life of Murdoch University

Scarlette De Lavaine
Sponsored by: The Late Ronald Wilson

Sarah Meddin Memorial Prize in Legal Theory

Awarded for the best academic performance in the Unit LAW301 Legal Theory

Tessa Maybery
Sponsored by: Donors to the Trust commemorating Sarah
The Dean’s Awards Ceremony is such a special and memorable evening, and I am truly honoured to be giving this speech on behalf of tonight’s award recipients.

I would like to start by congratulating all of the worthy award winners here tonight. Studying law is not for the faint-hearted. It requires a lot of hard work and dedication tonight is recognition and reward for all those hours-upon-hours spent attending lecturers and tutorials, completing assignments and studying for exams. You should be very proud of your achievement and I urge you to keep up the hard work.

I’d like to acknowledge and thank the top-shelf lecturers and staff members here at Murdoch. We have academics that are leaders in their field, such as Lorraine Finlay in Constitutional Law, Kate Lewins in Maritime Law, Steve Shaw in Evidence, and, of course, our Dean, Jurgen Brohmer, in international law — just to name a few. You have ignited our passion in the law and armed us with the tools necessary to succeed in the legal profession. We are all truly grateful to be taught by such an inspiring and enthusiastic group of people.

We also thank the sponsors of the many awards presented here tonight. The generous prizes that you have donated are a reminder to all of us that hard work and dedication really does pay off. We also thank the representatives of those sponsors who have made themselves available to present us with our awards. It makes it all the more special for us to receive our awards from the sort of people that we aspire to be.

The Murdoch Law School is a strong and supportive network. With only a limited number of positions available for law graduates every year, you could forgive law students for becoming self-interested and highly competitive; but this has never been the case here at Murdoch. The students here are genuine, passionate about the law and are happy to help and support each other so that everyone can achieve their personal best. We couldn’t excel as law students, and lawyers, if we weren’t able to bounce legal ideas of one another — so we thank our fellow students for creating an environment that allows us to flourish. I hope that Murdoch continues to attract and mould not only good lawyers — but good people.

I would also like to thank Murdoch for the numerous opportunities that it offers to its students. Murdoch Student Law Society offers students the opportunity to get to know each other, and expand their legal networks through the numerous MSLS social events, such as Law Camp and Law Ball; the SCALES unit offers students the opportunity to gain practical legal experience at a community legal centre and help those in need; and there are numerous opportunities for students to study abroad in Italy, Switzerland, Germany and India.

For me, the biggest opportunities at Murdoch were offered through the mooting program. As someone who was terrified of public speaking, I did my best to avoid having to compete against other talented speakers in mooting competitions. However, many of my friends — such as Andrew Shinnick and Amy Ryan — had become involved in the program and were constantly nagging me to give it a go. In my third year, I conceded to this relentless peer pressure and applied for the Castan Centre Human Rights Moot in Melbourne.

After just 2 weeks preparation, we were sent over east. I can recall texting my girlfriend before my first competitive moot and saying that I was “absolutely terrified” and that “I was never, ever, going to do another moot again!” However, it was such an exhilarating, and strangely empowering, experience that I went straight back to my hotel and applied for the Vis Moot, the world’s largest commercial arbitration moot.

This was by far the most beneficial, enjoyable and challenging thing that I did at Murdoch. I spent many late nights in this building with my teammates and now good friends, Heather Costello, Nicola Thomas-Evans, Clint Bonomelli and Ashley Roberts, surviving on coffee stolen from the staff room upstairs.

I am so grateful for the opportunity that Murdoch gave me to partake in the Vis Moot. It opened my eyes to the fact that there are always two sides to a legal dispute, gave me the opportunity to travel to Budapest and Vienna to compete against the top universities from all around the world and — most importantly — it gave me the confidence to do things that I didn’t think that I was capable of. In particular, it was in this very room that I mooted in front of a crowd of family and friends before the Honorable Justice Simmonds of the Supreme Court, our Dean, Jürgen Bröhmer and leading disputes partner, Konrad De Kerloy. If you told me that I had to do that my first year,
I would have been cowering over in the back corner over there.

I would encourage everyone here tonight to get involved in mooting as it is one of the best experiences you will ever have at university.

Last, but certainly not least: to our family and friends. I don’t think any of us could survive Law School without the support of our family and friends. Our family and friends are the ones that have to put up with our bad moods, stress and panic as deadlines approach. Our family and friends not only understand, but actively encourage, the time that we invest in our studies and the many sacrifices that we make to achieve our best in what is often a demanding degree.

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my partner, Jen, my parents, sister and extended family — and a special shout out to my grandparents who are here with me tonight, as well as to my good friend, Clint Bonomelli. Thank you for your unwavering support shown throughout my entire degree and now into legal practice. I couldn’t have done it without you and I am eternally grateful.

To conclude, I wish those students who have just started their law degrees the very best for your future studies, and urge you to take-up as many opportunities as you can during your time here at Murdoch. For those of you nearing the end of your degrees, I wish you all the very best in securing a graduate position, and hope that you all enjoy a very long, prosperous and rewarding career in what is a truly special profession.

Thank you.
Murdoch Student Law Society (MSLS)

The Murdoch Student Law Society (MSLS) is a student-run not-for-profit organisation that aims to represent and serve the interests of its membership base, made up of approximately 400 law, legal studies, criminology, and business law students, along with the Murdoch School of Law at large. The MSLS committee of 24 students consistently organises and coordinates various social, sporting, competitive, educational, and social justice events. MSLS is vital to the extra-curricular university experience outside of the classroom. It is welcoming and inclusive to ensure each member’s experience at Murdoch University is as fulfilling as possible.

Competitions

In Semester One, MSLS coordinated a variety of competitions. These include: Herbert Smith Freehills Senior Mooting, Ashurst Senior Trial Advocacy, Ashurst Junior Trial Advocacy, and Senior Client Interview. The winners of the sponsored MSLS senior competitions are invited to represent MSLS at the national competition rounds held at the Australian Law Students Association (ALSA) Conference in July of each year.

Education & Careers Events, Programs, and Notices

The MSLS College of Law Careers Conference was a free event held earlier this year on the 22nd of March. Presenters from Ashurst, Ernst and Young, Minteer Ellison, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and the College of Law came to Murdoch University to present to students on what makes their business unique and the benefits of starting a career with each of them. Attendees were exposed to a wide range of information and had the opportunity to ask questions of professionals in their respective varying industries.

The Perth Law Careers Fair is a joint initiative organised by all law student associations in WA. The Perth Law Careers Fair is an annual event held at the Perth Convention Centre, with this year’s fair hosting over 30 law firms, professional services firms, practical legal training providers, not-for-profit organisations and more. The Fair is on the 2nd of May from 12pm - 3pm at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, and is free for all students.

The Murdoch Careers Fair is held at Murdoch University on the 25th of May from 11am – 12.30pm in a similar fashion to the Perth Law Careers Fair. This is to enable Murdoch students to have a one-on-one conversation with firm representatives and ask any follow up questions from the Perth Law Careers Fair.

Social Justice Initiatives

In 2017, MSLS is organising a variety of events during our Mental Health Week, from the 24th to the 28th of April, culminating in a seminar titled ‘Maintaining Sanity in the Madness of Studying Law: How to Build and Maintain Mental Health’ on the 27th of April. This seminar will be presented by David Kernohan, the CEO of the Mental Health Law Centre of WA.

Law is a profession where high incidences of mental health issues occur; such as depression, anxiety, and various addictive behaviour patterns. This presentation addresses
how to develop good mental health practices that will help to keep you healthy and resilient, not only studying law but throughout practice within the legal profession.

MSLS also organises an annual Social Justice Quiz Night in semester two of each year, with all funds raised from the event being donated to a worthy cause.

Social and Sporting Events

In semester one of this year, MSLS organised a variety of social events such as the First Year Dinner, Legal Studies and Criminology Escape Hunt, Law Camp and Theme Party. Coming up soon on the 5th of May is the MSLS Law Ball, the biggest social event of the year. Also coming up is the inter-faculty Mud Volleyball match at the Vet paddocks on campus on the 28th of April.

Publications and Merchandise

MSLS produces a bi-annual magazine titled Carpe Diem, a First Year Guide for new incoming students, and orders merchandise such as hoodies and compendiums for members to purchase. All MSLS publications are available free for all members. Keep an eye out in the MSLS Café and on the MSLS website shortly after the conclusion of semester one for the first edition of Carpe Diem! For those interested, old editions of Carpe Diem may be found in the Law Library.

‘Murdoch Law’ Hoodies will be available to be ordered shortly in time for winter.

MSLS Law Café

MSLS manage and staff the MSLS Law Café, located on the first floor of the law building. The MSLS Café is the hub for all information regarding MSLS events and competitions and is a fantastic place to introduce yourself to other students in the school of law.

Keep up with MSLS

MSLS Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/MSLSofficial/
Website: www.msls.asn.au
Instagram: @MSLSOfficial
On Saturday the 1st of April 2017, Murdoch University welcomed 44 secondary school students and their teachers from across Perth to attend a Mock Trial Seminar and Workshop. The Mock Trial Seminar is a combined initiative of The Law Society of WA and the Murdoch Law School and is in its third consecutive year. The Seminar is designed to develop the advocacy skills of secondary school students from years ten to twelve involved in the Law Society’s Mock Trial Competition.

Murdoch University has a strong mooting culture and is consistently involved with national and international mooting competitions such as the International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot and the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. Murdoch Law School also provides advanced advocacy training through various academic units and the extra-curricular Moot Court Bench. The law students who attended the Seminar have all competed in various advocacy and mooting competitions, with many being ex-members of the Moot Court Bench. All the law students were eager to share their advocacy experiences with the high school students.

Law School Alumnus Alexander McVey began the day with a presentation in the Herbert Smith Freehills Lecture Theatre, Murdoch’s very own high-tech moot court. Alex introduced the students to the purpose of the trial, evidence, objections, the roles in the courtroom, case theories, courtroom etiquette, openings, examinations-in-chief, cross-examinations, and closings.

Following the seminar, the students broke for morning tea. This provided a great opportunity to mingle with each other and meet new people from the different schools. They also had the opportunity to talk to the law students. Many of the high school students had questions about attending law school and the different mooting opportunities offered by Murdoch.

After morning tea, the students were split into small groups of six to seven for a workshop. The students received a mock trial question to work through with the guidance of a Murdoch mooting alumni. The students were coached through each aspect of a trial. They were shown how to break down an offence into elements, discussed case theories, practiced presenting effective openings and closings, and dissected the question to pull out the relevant facts and evidence that would strengthen the case for either the prosecution or defence. The students were encouraged to actively participate and share their ideas, and received constructive feedback on how to improve their arguments and techniques. All of the workshop leaders were very impressed with the students’ work and their enthusiasm for the Mock Trial Competition.

Murdoch Law School enjoys engaging with advocacy education. Murdoch has a strong relationship with The Law Society of WA and the Mock Trial Competition. Many mooting and Moot Court Bench alumni coach mock trial teams or judge the competition throughout the year. Every year, Murdoch also offers a scholarship to the ‘Most Outstanding Mock Trial Student’. This scholarship gives a student a position on one of Murdoch’s national or international moot teams, enabling extensive training in legal research, writing and advocacy. The scholarship also covers the costs of airfares and accommodation for the moot.

Thank you to all of the students and teachers who attended the Mock Trial Seminar. It was fantastic to meet you all. I would also like to thank Alex McVey, Lorraine Finlay, Michelle Barron, Annie Warburton and the Murdoch Law students who volunteered their time. Without your hard work, this event would not have been possible.
On the 7th of April, SCALES and our Clinical program celebrated 20 years of operation.

We have assisted over 10,000 clients and educated more than 1,000 law students. But the story is so much more than the numbers. SCALES set up its operations in Rockingham as region was a perfect fit for the type of legal services that SCALES provides, as it is an area of high unemployment, especially high youth unemployment. Prior to the opening of SCALES, residents of Rockingham and surrounds had to travel to Fremantle or Perth city to access free legal assistance.

In the beginning, SCALES provided what we call generalist legal advice such as minor criminal law matters and family law matters involving children. Over the years, under the superior guidance of its various Directors and the ever committed Managing Director Gai Walker, SCALES has expanded the services it provides to the local community to include tenancy law, family violence law and refugee law.

Students are at the core of SCALES. Students learn and practice interviewing and problem solving skills. They learn professional responsibility and to work as part of a team. Importantly they develop a confidence in their abilities to work with clients in stressful situations that they can carry with them beyond their university studies.
End of an Era — Retirement of Associate Professor John Mugambwa

On Friday 24th February the Law School gathered to wish a fond farewell to Associate Professor John Mugambwa as he embarks on his retirement. John started with the Law School in May of 1991, in the first year the Law school started. John has taught Property and Commercial Law over the years. He has a special place in his heart for his home country of Uganda and is writing a book on Ugandan Property Law, which he aims to finish now that he will have more time on his hands along with watching the cricket and tennis. Special guests, the Hon Ralph Simmonds, Linda Jurevic, Christine Marcinowski and Lyn Tooley also joined the celebrations along with John’s wife and other Law School staff.
How Climate Change will Shape Environmental Law Conference

Murdoch University School of Law and Adjunct Professor Glen McLeod hosted a one day conference about the impacts of climate change on environmental law. The conference was supported by the International Bar Association (IBA), the Perth Convention Bureau, the National Environmental Law Association (NELA), Glen McLeod Legal (GML) and Murdoch University. About 150 participants listened and engaged the speakers and discussion fora and speakers and audience together created a highly thoughtful and informative atmosphere. The topics of the conference pivoted around the broader climate change issue but looked at it from very different perspectives.

After a brief introduction by the Dean of Murdoch Law School, Professor Jürgen Bröhmer, The Hon. Justice Brian J Preston SC, Chief Judge, Land and Environment Court of NSW and currently the Co-Chair of the IBA Working Group on a Model Statute on Climate Change Claims and Remedies opened up and spoke about the objectives of such a model statute and on the challenges such a huge undertaking faces having to take account of the many different jurisdictions on the planet and the different legal cultures underpinning them.

In the afternoon, two former State Ministers gave their insights on very distinct matters. Cheryl Edwards, (a former Minister for the Environment) spoke about “Climate Change and the Mining Industry in Western Australia” but actually gave an impressive account on how climate change policy is impacting on board rooms in mining and other industries and to what extent it is actually industry that is driving much of the climate change agenda because of the directors’ duties legal framework. Alannah MacTiernan explained that the drivers for the abolition of ‘as of right’ ministerial planning appeals were the volume and the absence of any transparency or adherence to natural justice. She expressed the view ministerial environmental appeals would benefit from a proper hearing process to build public confidence in decision-making.

The conference then focussed on Western Australia and on the core principle of sustainable development. Judge David Parry from District Court in WA and formerly Deputy President of the State Administrative Tribunal spoke about “Sustainable Development Principles Recognized and Applied in WA Planning Cases” and Glen McLeod, Adjunct Professor and Principal of Glen McLeod Legal, looked at the extent to which those principles apply in the context of the WA Environmental Protection Act.
Murdoch Law School’s law internships continue to expand and engage with the legal profession in all its facets, from large city firms, to community orientated law practices, to suburban offices.

Since the beginning of 2017, under the Law School’s Work Integrated Learning (WIL) unit, LLB301, Murdoch Law students have gained internship opportunities with the union body, United Voice; with one of the world’s top legal practices, Squire Patton Boggs; and in suburban boutique offices, such as iLaw & CD Lawyers. Murdoch Law students have also found internships with the U.S Consulates Perth office, Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation and in Legal Aid, WA.

Joseph Indaimo, LLB301 WIL coordinator, notes that the growth of the law internships has been dramatic, now making the Law School one of the most active internship participants at Murdoch University, outside of Nursing & Education.

He notes, the internship opportunities offered to the Law students by Murdoch Law School have even expanded internationally, with three students heading to Germany for their WIL internship experience in 2017.

Employers have been very supportive of the Murdoch Law interns, enjoying the opportunity to have the next generation of young lawyers work with them and valuing the extended time that Murdoch Law interns spend in the workplace – up to four weeks fulltime, increasing the interns’ workplace productivity and learning experience.

To enquire about having an intern or participating in the WIL internship unit, LLB301 contact the internship administrative coordinator Annette.stewart@murdoch.edu.au

Testimonial by Brodie Skalko
Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation

“During my placement, I was able to get practical experience working alongside the Assessors and the tribunal whilst completing legal research and attending assessment hearings. The continuous feedback and the hands-on experience I received allowed me to apply my theoretical knowledge of law to what is actually done by those practicing in the legal profession.”

“What I enjoyed most about my time on placement was being able to see the reality of working with applicants and how the law in this area has been applied to the offenders. Along the way I have learnt the law applicable to the tribunal and how assessors can go about making compensation awards. This practical experience has been invaluable to my degree and I would recommend any student who gets the opportunity to have a go and see how the legal system operates in practice.”

Assessor Charmaine Holyoak-Roberts, Chief Assessor Helen Porter, Brodie Skalko and Assessor Robert Guthrie
Lecturer Dennis Ndonga delivers Inaugural Corporate lecture at the Kenya School of Revenue Administration

Lecturer, Dennis Ndonga, delivered the inaugural Corporate Lecture at the Kenya School of Revenue Administration (KESRA), Mombasa Campus. Held on 14 December 2016, KESRA is one of the World Customs Organisation’s Regional Training Center for East and Southern Africa Region.

The theme of the presentation was ‘E-government and Single Window Systems’, which explored the value of utilising Kenya’s Single Window System as a tool to promote broader e-government dissemination within the economy.

The inaugural lecture was attended by staff and students of KESRA, Kenya Customs officials, officers in charge of the Kenya Trade Network Agency (KENTRADE) and officers and representatives of the Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association (KIFWA).

Anna Copeland attends Frontiers of Children’s Rights in the ASEAN Region Conference

At the end of January Anna Copeland, our Clinical Director, attended the Frontiers of Children’s Rights in the ASEAN Region Conference, which brought together delegates from across the ASEAN region in Depok Indonesia. The sessions were jointly hosted by Leiden University (the Netherlands), Ateneo Human Rights Centre (Philippines) and Universitas Indonesia.

The sessions included an overview of regional frameworks for Children’s Rights before focusing specifically on the Asia-Pacific region. Delegates then discussed a range of topics including child marriage, juvenile justice, child labour and children on the move. The week ended with a session on Children’s Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals at UNICEF in Jakarta.
CRIME DAY — Death of the Dean

Friday 28th April 2017.

Today was an exciting day to be at work. The School of Law hosted about 50 year ten students from Canning Vale College and Iona Presentation College for Crime Day.

The Death of the Dean

To highlight the interdisciplinary of the School the day also included staff and students from Forensics, Nursing, Law, Criminology and Journalism.

The students had an introductory session in the Herbert Smith Freehills Lecture Theatre and then joined us for Morning tea, where instead of the Dean Jürgen appearing to speak with the students, he appeared stumbling from the lift and dropping to the floor, covered in blood from what looked like a hard hit to the head.

A laptop covered in blood was found at the crime scene – was this the weapon used?

Security were called and staff from the School of Nursing to provide first aid, this rapidly turned into CPR to attempt to revive Jürgen, who unfortunately “didn’t make it”. The journalism students were snapping photos and videoing the event, asking probing questions about what was going on. The University spokesperson was very good at deflecting the true story. With several, “No comments or I’ll get back to you on that”.

The crime had been committed. Who did it? Why did they do it?

The students broke into groups (Nursing, Forensics, Journalism or Law) to gain an in-depth understanding of the different roles in a crime such as this. This ranged from blood spatter of the crime scene to interviewing witnesses.

At the end of the day, the students were asked whom they thought did it based on the evidence they had seen and or heard they almost unanimously pointed to Gail the School Manager. Gail was taken off by security claiming to be innocent, demanding a lawyer and that they have it wrong.

Did she do it? We will find out at Trial Day (to be held in Semester 2).
If you’re thinking of experiencing real-world learning for yourself, join us at the Murdoch Open Day on Sunday 30 July. It’s your chance to explore our wide range of courses, focusing on real world learning and careers.

Get a feel for our world class facilities and talk to current students and academics about courses and careers.

- **Date:** Sunday 30 July, 2016
- **Where:** Murdoch University South Street campus
- **Time:** 9am – 3pm

- **Explore** course and career options
- **See** a range of demonstrations and course talks
- **Ask** our lecturers and students questions about uni life
- **Tour** our campus and see our world class facilities

**Enjoy** a range of food options as well as free rides and entertainment. There are over 100 activities to enjoy throughout the day that will surprise, engage, clarify and inform you, opening your mind to all that’s possible at Murdoch University.

For more information about the day visit [openday.murdoch.edu.au](openday.murdoch.edu.au)
More Students get the opportunity to study in India thanks to the New Colombo Plan

This year 8 Murdoch Law students were fortunate to get the opportunity to travel to India to study at O.P.Jindal Global University in their Winter School program “Doing Business in India: Legal Landscape and Social Impact”. 6 students received a scholarship of $3,000.00 from the New Colombo Plan, two students unfortunately didn’t qualify for the scholarship but still wanted to take part in this experience so they self-funded their travel. The scholarship’s went towards paying for the cost of the program as well as flights and accommodation for the three weeks that the students spent in India.

The students had this to say about the program:

“The India Immersion Programme was an enriching experience where I learnt about law, business and society in India. I was able to receive a New Colombo Mobility Grant to assist with the cost of the unit and other expenses. During the programme, I spent three weeks being taught by eminent lecturers and industry professionals working in India. The O.P. Jindal International Office went above and beyond what you would expect and organised various field trips to a top Indian law firm, the Indian Supreme Court, the Australian High Commission in India, an elephant sanctuary, the Taj Mahal and a three-day site visit to Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. This immersion programme has not only taught me about the theoretical aspects of law, business and society in India but also given me an insight into the practice of doing business in India. I would recommend it to any student looking to study abroad.”  Brodie-Anne Skalko

Elephant Sanctuary visit

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd visit
Dr Shirley Quo presents paper at CLTA Annual Conference

The Griffith Business School’s Accounting, Finance & Economics Department and the Griffith Law School hosted the Corporate Law Teachers Association’s (CLTA) annual conference in 2017.

The conference was held from Sunday 5 February 2017 to Tuesday 7 February 2017 at Griffith University’s Gold Coast Campus.

The theme for the 2017 CLTA Conference was "Agile Corporate Law: CSR, Innovation & Environment". The 2017 conference theme focused on the challenges facing corporate law in responding to an agile and innovative corporate culture, and the impact this may have on ensuring a sustainable future for society both domestically and internationally.

Dr Shirley Quo, Senior Lecturer in Law, Murdoch Law School, presented a paper at the conference on, ‘Corporate Insolvency Reform: Safe Harbour Provisions for Directors from Personal Liability for Insolvent Trading’. As part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation, the Federal Government released a proposals paper in April 2016 on various measures to improve Australia’s bankruptcy and insolvency laws including introducing a safe harbour for directors from personal liability for insolvent trading. The proposed safe harbour model signifies real change ahead for corporate insolvency law following public discussion, consultation and scrutiny by stakeholders – if the safe harbour provisions are introduced, it is anticipated that the legislation will be passed in 2017.

The Productivity Commission acknowledged in a report released in December 2015 that the threat of directors’ personal liability together with uncertainty as to when a company actually becomes insolvent encouraged a culture of risk aversion among directors with the consequence that directors were forcing companies into voluntary administration when that company may only be experiencing temporary financial difficulties.

Dr Quo’s conference paper discussed the Federal Government’s proposed models to implement a safe harbour for directors from the insolvency provisions of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) (‘Corporations Act’).

Business Law Lecturer Ajantha Thinakaran admitted to Practice

In February 2017, our staff member Ajantha Thinakaran, usually based at our Singapore campus, made a special trip to Perth for the purposes of her admission.

She was admitted to legal practice on the 3rd of February by the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

Congratulations Ajantha!