

Kingsford Legal Centre Awarded \$42,000 Family Law Grant

KLC was successful in its bid to the Federal Attorney General's Department grant for Family Law Focussed Clinical Legal Education. KLC will be developing a program of community legal education on family law and domestic violence issues which will be developed and delivered by students in a clinical setting. This is a great opportunity for UNSW students to participate in clinical legal education. It is anticipated that the course will be up and running in semester 2, 2010.

Kingsford Legal Centre Appoints New Principal Solicitor

KLC is delighted to announce that Emma Golledge has been appointed as the Centre's new Principal Solicitor. Emma has an extensive background in the community legal sector including stints at Redfern Legal Centre, Eastern Area Tenancy Service and the Homeless Persons Legal Service. She was also a KLC volunteer for a number of years. All at KLC are looking forward to working with Emma in her new role.



KLC Principal Solicitor, Emma Golledge

KLC Solicitor Teena Balgi Resigns

Teena had taken a year's leave without pay from KLC to work at the WLS in Darwin. She feels that her work there is not yet done and has decided to stay up North for a while longer and has reluctantly resigned from KLC. Teena is an absolute gem and we are going to miss her. Over her 5 years at the Centre we have seen her blossom to become a first class community lawyer whose intelligence and curiosity saw her contribute to every aspect of the Centre. A highlight of her time here was her work coordinating 2 non government organisation reports to the United Nations Committees on Economic, Social and Cultural rights and Civil and Political rights. Teena also appeared before the Human Rights Committee in New York in 2009. She also proved to be a powerful evacuation officer who, when she donned her yellow hardhat, showed her more forceful and authoritative (scary) side. We wish her all the very best for the future.



Teena Balgi and Lily (student)

Solicitor/Clinical Supervisor Vacancy at KLC

With Teena's resignation KLC is currently recruiting for the above position. If you are interested the position is advertised at seek.com and on UNSW website at: <http://www.hr.unsw.edu.au/services/recruitment/jobs/19021008.html> Applications for the position must be directed to UNSW Human Resources Department (not to KLC) by Monday 5 March.

New Allens Arthur Robinson Secondee Joins KLC Staff

Alex Salib is KLC's new secondee from Allens Arthur Robinson. In 2008, Alex completed an Arts/Law degree at the University of Sydney where she spent her last semester on exchange at New York University. Alex has spent the past year working in the Corporate Insolvency and Restructuring group at Allens. Outside of work, Alex enjoys life drawing and pottery.



Alex Salib, new KLC secondee solicitor from Allens Arthur Robinson

Volunteer Solicitors Needed

KLC currently has vacancies on its fortnightly Tuesday night roster for experienced solicitors with current NSW practising certificates. At KLC volunteering involves not only giving advice to clients but working with, and mentoring UNSW law students who attend our advice sessions and interview clients. So if you have some free time and want to help make a difference to our community, email Denise at: d.wasley@unsw.edu.au for an information sheet and application form.

Yabun

On January, 26 Kingsford Legal Centre's Aboriginal Access Worker, shared a stall at the Yabun festival with Redfern and Marrickville Legal Centres. During the day people visiting the stall received information about what services our Centre's offers. Stall attendees were also asked to show their support of an Australian Human Rights Act, by reading and signing a pre completed letter. These letters have been mailed to Prime Minister Rudd to ensure the Federal government does enact a National Human Rights Act in Australia. During the day, Kingsford Legal Centre's Aboriginal Access Worker Keith Ball also had an opportunity to briefly meet with NSW Premier Keneally.



KLC Aboriginal Access Worker with Premier Kenneally at Yabun 2010

KLC Indigenous Statistics Increase

The number of clients accessing Kingsford Legal Centre's services who identified as being Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander has seen a significant increase; from 3.5% in 2008 to 6% in 2009. This figure only reflects advice given, much more work has been done by our Aboriginal Access Worker, Keith Ball, in terms of referrals and relationship building with the community.

Professional and Technical staff award for Anna Hartree

Anna Hartree was awarded a professional and technical staff award for excellence in January 2010. This was in recognition of work she had done updating student induction and community work in conjunction with teaching students.

Human Rights Defender

Kingsford Legal Centre guest edited the December 2009 edition of the Human Rights Defender. It focussed on the practice of economic and social rights both domestically and internationally. It included articles from Emma Golledge about homelessness, and an editorial by Anna Cody. It drew on domestic human rights practices as well as the way that economic and social rights have grown and been litigated in the USA and Argentina.

Community Legal Education

KLC's continues to provide legal education to those in our local community. We have resumed the Community Worker Legal Education series for 2010. Our next session will be on Family Relationship Centres and family law on 9 March 2010. We also are available to come and provide specific training to local community organisations – we are currently planning training with welfare workers at Long Bay Jail so that they may be better able to identify the legal issues of prisoners.

KLC Casework

The discrimination practice has been busy with quite a few conciliations. We obtained a successful settlement in a race discrimination in employment case for our client who was extremely happy with the outcome. As part of the settlement the other side agreed to develop anti-discrimination policies and training for all staff. We also successfully settled a pregnancy discrimination in employment case for a client who lost her job when she revealed her pregnancy to her employer. In both cases our clients were able to explain their position to their former employers at the conciliation and received genuine apologies for the conduct. Receiving a genuine apology is often one of the most important things to our clients but it can be very difficult to obtain!

We also successfully obtained two maximum awards of compensation for our client who experienced ongoing domestic violence. Many students and solicitors worked on this file as victim's compensation matters are taking about 18 months to finalise – we hope the money will help our client move on with her life.

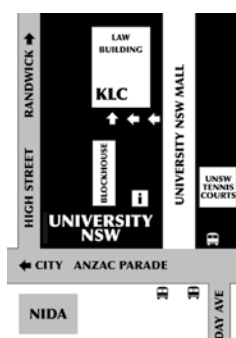
Employment Clinic

The employment clinic has recently settled a long running matter in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission for a client who was medically retired. The client had worked for this employer for 22 years and initially hoped to be reinstated. The ravages of litigation unfortunately deterred the client from wanting to return to the workplace and she was very happy to settle which, in a predictable scenario, occurred the day before the hearing.

We also settled a matter for an Aboriginal client on the mid-north coast who had filed a complaint in the Human Rights Commission about discrimination in his educational institution. The client came to us some months after his first conciliation at the Commission had been set down. He had not attended because of his uncertainty about the process. The Commission had subsequently terminated the complaint. Our first step in this matter was to get the termination revoked and we successfully lobbied the Commission to revoke the complaint. We then had an extremely productive conciliation in which the representatives of the institution acknowledged the problems, commended our client on pursuing the matter and agreed to compensation, a written apology and statement on his abilities as a student to help him in finding work. The conciliation process and outcome seemed to make a huge difference to our client who had been extremely disenchanted with the legal system at the time he first sought our advice.

Employment clinic students have done excellent project work in gathering data on the experiences of CLC clients in the first six months of the Fair Work regime. The students developed and sent out a survey to CLCs around Australia and had a great response rate. Linda will be using this in her role as NACLCL employment network convenor to approach Fair Work Australia and the Fair Work Ombudsman on the good, bad and ugly of life in the brave new Fair Work world. If anyone would like to contact us to add feedback on their experiences under the new system, please contact Linda at KLC.

If you would like to subscribe (free) to this eBulletin or would like further information please email Denise Wasley at: d.wasley@unsw.edu.au. If you would like to unsubscribe to this eBulletin please email Denise Wasley at d.wasley@unsw.edu.au with "unsubscribe eBulletin" in the subject field.



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.

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