



# The Gavel

Volume I, Issue II

24 August 2006

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## Comm/Law Students Happy

**Enoch Lau**

*Funniest resident satirist*

Over 90% of commerce/law graduates are satisfied with their existence, UNWS research shows.

The paper identifies attributes found most valuable by commerce/law graduates, including drawing pie graphs in Microsoft Excel, shopping using microeconomic theory, and interactions with real people on a daily basis.

“i guess im prolly quite happi wif my existence,” explained one respondent. “i fink i learnt gd things at uni la ^\_^”

The vast majority of commerce/law graduates were in existence when surveyed, and on average, they appeared to be literate, have fresh breath and wear Rolexes on their left wrist.

The authors of the report credited the success of the commerce/law graduate with the unique style of education to which they are subjected.

A senior lecturer at UNWS, who spoke on condition of anonymity, suggested that it was due to “our focus on legal ethics, social responsibility and the place of the lawyer in the commercial world of today that permeates the courses we offer”.

This is confirmed by a twenty-eight year old respondent, who is now a partner in a suburban legal practice. He wrote, “I am thankful for the

lecturers telling us that lawyers are special – because we are just better than everyone else.”

“I can earn much, much more than those suckers who just graduated with a commerce degree.”

“I remember fondly my lectures on legal activism, and feeling sorry for those who will be paid less than me to do that kind of stuff.”



UNWS, whose research found that 90% of commerce law students exist one year after graduation.

## Free\* Food!

\* Standard costs and charges apply. “Free” to be construed to mean “unfree” in this context. Service costs, administrative costs, taxes and other government charges not included. A health surcharge of \$20.00 pp may apply.

### CLSS BBQ

CLSS is holding its Semester 2 BBQ on **Thursday 24 August**. Be sure to attend and grab a lunch! Catch up with execs and members before you are swamped with assignments. It’s

Free for CLSS members. For others, it’s **\$2** (union members; \$6 non-union members).

### CLSS Career Centre

CLSS’s careers service goes on line with a bang. Check out:

### CLSS events

[usydclss.tripod.com/resources/careers.htm](http://usydclss.tripod.com/resources/careers.htm)

### Annual Dinner

The CLSS Annual Dinner 2006 will be held on **Saturday 26 August**. To book or for more details email

*If you would like to contribute...*

To contribute items to the newsletter, please email [usydclss@gmail.com](mailto:usydclss@gmail.com)

# Legal Digest

## Juries in sentencing?

In a recent discussion paper, the NSW Law Reform Commission has raised the idea that juries may have a role to play in deciding the sentence of convicted criminal defendants.

In an interview with ABC radio, **Professor Mark Finlay** of the University of Sydney, said that while the jury was a way to get the public involved in the criminal justice system, juries may not have the expertise or knowledge to produce consistent, proportional, and fair sentences. He also raised alternative ways for the jury to have input into the sentencing process.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lawreport/stories/2006/1697580.htm>

Report: [http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/lrc/ll\\_lrc.nsf/pages/LRC\\_ip27toc](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/lrc/ll_lrc.nsf/pages/LRC_ip27toc)

## No money for Legal Centres

The Attorney-General, Phillip Ruddock, refused to fund this year's conference of National Community Legal Centres. In the past, the A-G's department has contrib-

uted to these conferences, and this year the department proposed a \$25,000 budget. However, this was rejected by the A-G because of the "tone" of the conference. The conference plans to focus on law reform, and in particular IR law reform. The speakers' list includes the ACTU president. According to the A-G's department, this is evidence of the "politicisation of community legal centres".

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/ruddock-snubs-legal-centres/2006/08/01/1154198137621.html>

## Norfolk Island murder trial



Norfolk Island

The trial of Glenn McNeill, accused of the murder of Janelle Patton, began on Norfolk Island on Monday. The court has held that there is no DNA evidence linked to the accused.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200608/s1709217.htm>

## Transit Officer Shame

A **NSW Transit Officer** accused of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl while on duty was finally suspended, 9 months after the event. The NSW opposition has

*Without fear of irony, the NSW government defended its actions citing the "position of trust" that transit officers have in the community.*

called the government's actions "unacceptable". Without fear of irony, the NSW government defended its actions citing the "position of trust" that transit officers have in

the community.

This event follows several publicised events of transit officers assaulting passengers, and a call by the NSW Police that these quasi-security guards be abolished in favour of patrolling by qualified law enforcement agencies.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200608/s1709166.htm>

## Conscience Vote on Stem Cells

The prime minister John Howard announced that he will allow a conscience vote on proposed stem cells research laws. This has raised speculation that the ban on stem cell research may be lifted.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/pm-caves-in-on-stemcell-vote/2006/08/15/1155407789265.htm>

## Information

The Gavel is published by the Chinese Law Students Society and distributed free at the University of Sydney.

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### President of the CLSS

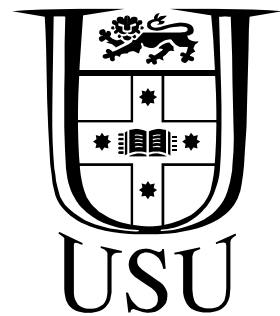
Collin Wong

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