

Legal Profession Comes Together For The Start Of The Legal Year

The Tasmanian legal profession celebrated the annual opening of the legal year dinner at MONA last night.

Her Excellency the Governor, Mr Warner, members of the profession, Judges and Magistrates were among the attendees.

The evening included the presentation of the Law Society of Tasmania's annual awards in recognition of individual and group contribution to the law and the legal profession.

Award winners were:

- **President's Award**

For outstanding contribution to the Tasmanian legal profession – Robert Manning

Mr Manning is a lawyer at Murdoch Clarke. He has served on the Society's Pro Bono Committee for a number of years including as its Chair. He has been a long term contributor to the Property & Commercial Law Committee and is a Director of Diabetes Tasmania and Diabetes Australia.

- **Young Lawyer of the Year Award**

Alexander McKenzie

Mr McKenzie practices in the North-West of the State at McLean McKenzie and Topfer. He is a board member of TasCOSS, a white ribbon ambassador and a volunteer for Reprieve Australia, the Future Business Council of Australia and Movember. He is a dedicated and vocal supporter of the Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation which aims to decrease work related psychological ill health in the legal community and to promote workplace psychological health and safety.

- **Access to Justice Outstanding Pro Bono Award**

Page Seager

Managing Partner of Page Seager Gerry Connolly said

"A desire to help people is why most lawyers got into the profession in the first place. Providing an avenue for our staff to do this for members of the community with less financial means is a great way to harness this enthusiasm and give back at the same time."

- **Committee of the Year**

Criminal Law Committee

Law Society President Will Justo said:

"The Opening of the Legal Year is an appropriate time to reflect on the year ahead, to renew old acquaintances and to recognize individual and group dedication and achievement. All of the award recipients tonight give a great deal to their profession and to their community on a voluntary basis and that is worth celebrating."

Will Justo
President
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