

Dates for your Diary:

- ❖ Fresher Bowling Party: 22nd March, tickets selling up until the 22nd!
- ❖ NDLSS Cake Stall: 27th of March, at the law courtyard to raise money for the Oaktree Foundation
- ❖ NDLSS Sundowner: 11th May at Maria's on the Tce.

Individual Highlights:

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FEATURE FIRM

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

FRESHER PERSPECTIVE

SOCIAL REPORT

EDUCATION REPORT



A Welcome From Don Hendo



- James Henderson , NDLSS President.

Hi all you good looking boys and girls,

Welcome back to another year of law. From the sounds of things we all had fantastic holidays filled with travel, work, clerkships and many a skin-full of the source of all good times, booze. Most of us are happy to be getting back into the swing of things, finding perhaps a little more purpose in our lives now we are studying again. Although by the time your reading this the novelty has no doubt well and truly worn off.

The semester has already kicked off with the Welcome Ceremony for the first years being a great event as usual, despite the oppressive heat. Thirty or so law students from first year braved the oppressive heat to march through our great town. Due to a conflict with the Careers Fair NDLSS attendance was limited to Eden, Michael, Gulshan and myself, however we had great support from three of the sexiest law students at Notre Dame, Alex, Erin and Kabwe. Although the parade itself presented too much of a daunting task for us on NDLSS we proudly took up station at the pub and were thinking of you brave souls out in the 40 degree heat.

A equally steamy Careers Fair took place at the Perth Convention Centre the same night- "steamy" due to the hot weather coupled with the high concentration of back-stabbing, career minded law students battling to get a word in with the unsuspecting HR's whilst at the same time grabbing all the free stuff, although many rated the USB's, my personal favourite was the bottle opener kindly provided by Jac Mac (its getting more use). The event was huge, and its success was in no small part due to the hard work of our very own beer guzzling Hercules, Ben Martin.

The Careers Guide launch was a great event, beginning with a CV workshop kindly presented by Minter Ellison who also kindly sponsored the event. NDLSS put on a BBQ and drinks for the students who attended and used the opportunity to mix it with the reps from Minters. The Careers Guide is now available on the NDLSS web page (www.ndlss.org.au) and many thanks for its publication must go to Ben Martin and Tom French.

And so another year kicks off in style. Still to come is the Fresher Bowling Night on the 22nd of March and the Open Moot beginning in week four. Both these event were hugely popular last year so if you haven't signed up. DO IT NOW!

DON'T FORGET!!!

ELECTIONS & VOTING
FOR 1ST AND 2ND YEARS
ON NOW

RUN: If you are interested in applying for 1st or 2nd year rep please contact a member of the NDLS as soon as possible because elections close the end of Week 4.

VOTE: Have your say and the person you want representing you, as the 1st and 2nd year reps.

NDLSS Team Members 2006:

James Henderson - President
Ben Martin - Education VP.
Matt O'Leary - Social VP
Mike Riley- Treasurer
Rosalie Poole - Secretary
Terry Francis- Sponsorship
Ruth Burnett - Competitions
Nick Wilson - Publications
Gulshan Price - Sports
Eden Code - Mature Age Rep.
Adele Nardizzi -
Social Justice Rep
Annabel Hay - 4th Year Rep.
Adele Kay - 3rd Year Rep.

Inside Cover

- Nick Wilson, Editor

Hi all, and welcome to the *Sundry Crimes* for 07. This year we've got dreams, big dreams of making the paper even *hotter* even *sexier* than ever before. Plus we're even trying to make the *Sundry Crimes* more *informative*, because any law student worth their weight in journals knows there's nothing sexier than the law – Just ask Michelle Evans.

So with these goals in mind I'd like to point out a couple of new initiatives. Firstly this year we're bringing in the 'page 6 staffer'. In each issue of the *Sundry Crimes* we go one on one with a member of the law school staff. Michelle Evans, is our first interviewee and gives the low down on why the law really is sexy, porn and life with Dr Phil.

Secondly the *Sundry Crimes* will now feature a firm in each issue. Minter Ellison is our first feature firm and their article is well worth a read.

Social Justice:

The lowdown

- Adele Nardizzi – Social Justice

Given that the Social Justice Rep is a new position I suppose you're all wondering what I'll be doing this year. I can tell you now that it will entail more than just partying. Well, this year there's a heap in store for all to enjoy and become involved in.

Some of the main Social Justice events this year include mentoring programs between ND students and firms, luncheons for us put on by some prominent firms, fundraiser days for charity and much more. There will also be plenty of opportunities for you to develop your community awareness and community service through some of the lectures and discussion forums that are to be delivered by some of the major community legal organizations in WA. I will provide specific details of such events on the NDLS website on (www.ndlss.org.au) and on the notice boards so keep an eye out for any info.

I really hope you have a great year. If there is anything you want to discuss with me don't hesitate to come and chat- after all I'm here to help you and make your time here enjoyable. I'm leaving you now with a quote to ponder (and I hope that you do!): *Justice is conscience, not a personal conscience but the conscience of the whole of humanity. Those who clearly recognize the voice of their own conscience usually recognize also the voice of justice* ([Alexander Solzhenitsyn](#)).

Education for Dummies

Ben Martin, Education VP

You may presume that the Education portfolio is run by a group over-achieving, Lexis Nexis loving dudes. Well fear not, NDLS is bringing Education down to street level. Education, thanks to the NDLS 2007 Education team, has got as much raw street cred as any Sports or Social rep. We kicked it off the year with the Tri-Law Careers Fair (big ups to Blackstone and Murdoch SLS for their contributions) which was a sterling success; students were being gobbled up like fresh meat by the mega-firm carnivores. We backed this up with the Careers Guide Launch and Minter Ellison CV Workshop. Even on a sweltering day and a room with no air conditioning, we managed to gather a rowdy crowd to get there CV's looking flash. Thanks to Minter Ellison for coming down and imparting well needed advice and chocolate.

We have set the standard high and we will keep delivering. We have a lecture series lined up, as well as presentations from the Law Society of WA and the College of Law. Keep an eye out on the notice boards and check your emails for updates on upcoming events. The Careers Guide is available at www.ndlss.org.au; it will be updated prior to Article Clerk applications.

I recommend that all students, regardless of what year you're in or what your favourite colour is, come along to the guest lectures & workshops because you get a refreshing insight into careers and life beyond the law library (and there is usually a barbie and drinks supplied afterwards).

If you have any problems or money you want to give me, send me an email...
bmartin@nd.edu.au

Stars and Stripes

- Chloe Mitchell, Foreign Correspondent

Prior to my arrival in the powerhouse of the world's politics, I thought that I had Washington D.C. all figured out. You know, pretty buildings, the American equivalent of Parliament and George Bush. However life in Washington D.C. is far from Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn in *Wedding Crashers* where they sit on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial with a bottle of scotch watching the sun rise above the Washington Monument.

That is not to say that it lacks drama in any capacity though. Interning on Capitol Hill is like being in a giant soap opera and life is busy, at times beyond busy, to the point where it wouldn't surprise you if you ran into Jack Bauer in your travels. And if boarding my connecting flight at LAX was any indication, the fact that armed guards were only outside the gate boarding to D.C. you can safely assume that what goes on in this city is not taken lightly.

I have been studying abroad at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. since August and as an extra to my studies, I have been flirting with my love of politics as an intern. In my first semester I was able to intern for the Congressman for All Alaska and this semester I am at a non-governmental organization. Being on the Hill and at an NGO has offered me a diverse experience of politics and has definitely added a bit of spice to life. While in the Congressional office I was able to see how politics works on a day-to-day level. It's not exactly the West Wing, but there were dramas that arose on a regular basis left and right-politically and literally.

I learned a lot about the structure and functioning of the political system here. The best part was being able to be in the office during the mid-term elections. For one, the campaigning is the dirtiest, scandalous and most entertaining. Policies were left in the dust of the skeletons that were being hauled out into the public arena. This election was very partisan in nature and the Congressman, a Republican, was a lucky one to have survived it!

My work at the International Republican Institute (IRI), the NGO in downtown D.C. has far surpassed all expectations that I had of working in an NGO. IRI aims to promote democracy worldwide and I am working



Capitol Hill: Full of politicians

within the faction of the Women's Democracy Network (WDN). In early March, we wrapped up a conference in Washington that was the second annual conference of the WDN and was arranged to coincide with International Women's Day.

We brought over an international delegation of women from around the world who were from varying sectors from within their community-there were businesswomen, politicians, lawyers, entrepreneurs and philanthropists among them. It was a great way to network with women from countries that I had never heard or had a working knowledge of and get to know a bit more about their country and also their work as a woman in their community. I was lucky enough to participate in the conference as the "Australian delegate" and that involved sitting in on seminars and taking part in working groups, brainstorming creatively about how to expand and improve on the Network.

We were also able to partake in some fun activities for International Women's Day and attend functions at the National Woman's Party Headquarters and the White House with women leaders here in America-who hold positions within the Bush Administration, the State Department and other factions of society. All in all, work at IRI has been great and has motivated me to aspire to new heights and seek new opportunities that were previously beyond my comprehension.

So life goes on for me here in America's capital. I always thought it was a cliché to say that it's not about what you know but who you know, but as I spend more time here, it is definitely about who you know and more importantly who likes you! It is a transitional and exciting city to be in, and there is always something going on. But this big city gets smaller by the day. Maybe one day I will run into Jack...

Sundry Crimes Contributors:

Nick Wilson- Editor

Chloe Mitchell

James Henderson

Matt O'Leary

Adele Nardizzi

Ben Martin

Gulshan Price

David O'Leary

Minter Ellison

*Thank you for your
invaluable
contributions.*

Orientation Day



Careers Fair & Careers Guide Launch



Notre Dame Law Society 07



James Henderson – Pres



Ben Martin – Ed VP



Matt O'Leary – Social VP



Ruth Burnertt – Comps



Nick Wilson- Publications



Eden Coad – Mature Age



Adele Nardizzi – Social Justice



Terri Francis – Sponsorship



Adele Kay – 3yr Rep

Q and A with Michelle Evans



-Nick Wilson, Editor

In this one on one interview we discuss the big issues with Michelle a Senior Lecturer of Law.

Michelle, when did you first gain an interest in the law?

In my last yr of my arts degree, I was doing an arts degree at Murdoch in English and Comparative Literature that was my major and I thought what am I going to do with my career? What am I going to do with my life? I didn't really fancy doing a yr of teaching and I thought if I do a year of honours I still won't know what to do. So I thought law sounded interesting so I thought I'd stay at uni for a few more years and study law.

Why did you stop practicing law and decide to focus on teaching it?

I wasn't enjoying it (practicing) as much as I had when I started out. I found myself working around the clock. I really liked the clients...I really liked the work I was doing...But I didn't really like the commercial side of it, like having a daily budget. I thought 'shouldn't we be doing the work as it comes through the door?' I found I was working all the time. I felt like I could only really look at areas of the law I was paid to look into, rather than areas I was interested at looking at. So I saw a job at Notre Dame and thought I'd give it a go.

Do you have a favourite area of law?

Well obviously I've started out as a property lawyer, so I really like property law. At the moment I'm teaching contract law and constitutional law and I'm really enjoying contract law, it's a good thing to teach, the students really enjoy it, and it's really fun. I'm really enjoying constitutional law it's a lot of work, but I feel like a knowledge of constitutional law is the key to the kingdom really, because it's what everything's based on. So I guess I would say those two areas contract and constitutional.

Why the continued fascination with pornography and its role within the law?

This is kind of all connected to...**constitutional law?** It is, connected to constitutional law and it's one of the reasons why I became interested in constitutional law. I've always been interested in the issue of equality and the law and equal opportunity and the law so it seemed to be a natural progression. When I was thinking about doing my masters I went to see my favourite lecturer Chris Kendall, who teaches Intellectual Property here and he ended up being my Masters supervisor and it was an area that he'd specialized in and he'd argued cases before the Canadian Supreme Court, he

suggested that I do something about pornography. I started researching it and realised I could go further with it. From an academic perspective, it's something that's challenging from a; philosophical perspective, civil rights perspective and a constitutional law perspective. There is also a lot of law reform that needs to be done, a lot that's been recommended and a lot that needs to be changed.

Is there any reason why you continue to describe areas of law, such as constitutional, administrative and property law as sexy, when my personal experiences in these subjects suggest otherwise?

...I did try and tell students when I was teaching administrative law that it was sexy, unfortunately they were unconvinced and so was I. I think constitutional law probably is because it's all about power and about what the government can and cant do and politics and that's all very sexy. But I don't think I'll try and pursue it further in my other subjects like contract law

So pornography isn't part of the reason law is sexy?

Well Pornography is not sexy at all. Pornography is very harmful on a number of levels, so no, pornography is definitely not sexy. I think anyone who comes to my lecturers realises that pretty quickly

What kind of student were you Michelle, hardworking and studious, laid back and pretty relaxed, or a wild party animal?

I would describe myself a stress bunny, I was quite hardworking and studious, I went to every lecture and every tute-not that we really had tutes. I went to every class without fail. So a bit of studying, well a lot of studying but some fun as well.

When you have a question who do you seek out in the law school for advice?

It depends what it is, if it's something about property or equity usually I speak to Robyn, all things building and construction law and contract based I would ask Dr Phil. Anything about censorship or pornography I'd ask Chris Kendall. Anything constitutional law I'd asked Greg Craven. (Ex Dean of Law school) Generally there [is] good discussion amongst the law staff and you can speak to anyone about issues and we bounce ideas off one another. Basically I'd say Robyn and Dr Phil.

What's it like working with your Dad?

It's quite good, we don't see each other in a work sense as much as people would think. Because we aren't teaching the same units, we're in different buildings. But it's nice to have a hotline for advice, whenever you need it, and have lunch with him occasionally. For me it's not really something that's really unusual a lot of people must think that's a bit strange working with your Dad. We've worked together for coming up to five yrs now, so it seems fairly normal to me now really.

Finally, what is the best advice Dr Phil gave you when you were growing up?

He's full of good pieces, very sensible pieces of advice. I would say in terms of studying law it was 'to do the best that you could possibly do and that's enough. Put in as much effort as you possibly can and the rewards will come, eventually'.

Michelle Evans thank you very much

In the beginning...

-David O'Leary,

At the commencement of each year, there will always be the new kids on campus walking around without a clue of where their next lecture is. And there will always be that first year who is somehow roped into writing a clichéd article about the terror they experience in their first few weeks of university.

I would name and blame the person who got me into this, but the legal ramifications of naming my brother in this article could be beyond me. The tale is one you will hear every year: that of the first year coming straight out of twelve years of school.

Wandering around with the unfamiliar faces of much older students is, as many would remember, incredibly intimidating. A reference back to the first day of school is a good example of the apprehension one may experience at this spectacle.

Thus every first year will have a personal in built technique to settle into this new association. Many will choose to step outside themselves and

make new friends, quickly striking up conversations with people sitting either side of them before a lecture begins. Often these will be the females or the slightly effeminate males who choose this technique.

Others will choose to sit in the comfortable atmosphere of a known person from school and slowly meet the friends of their friends as they come around. Often these will be the blokes coming out from the all boy schools who try to ease their masculinity into the unfamiliar surroundings of the mixed classes.

Lastly there is the group of people who, knowing nobody in that lecture and not having the confidence to begin a conversation, will sit quietly in these lectures to leave as quickly as possible once it is completed.

One can only hope that it won't be long before the above mentioned divisions will have been rendered just a bit little less obvious and all freshmen can meet up in the pub for a beer after class...

Sports: the meaning of life

-Gulshan Price, Sports Rep

I'm currently in my second year of a Law/Commerce double degree at Notre Dame. My main interest outside Uni, as most of you would have suspected, is sport! I feel very honoured to have been selected to represent the Law school as its sporting representative for 2007.

My main sporting interests include; Footy, Basketball, Tennis, Golf, Surfing and Drinking. I have also spent most of my life watching hours and hours of sport on T.V. So vast is my sporting knowledge, I am often considered the go to man by my friends for sporting questions on the most prestigious of events, the boozed up "trivia night". My aim this year is to help all you law students have the most fun you can possibly have, and I believe getting students involve sport is a great way to do it.

Now to the main question on everyone's lips..... What sporting events are on the 2007 NDLS sporting Calendar? This year is going to be massive! In first semester we have Basketball and Indoor Soccer, as well as Touch Rugby against Murdoch.

In the second semester we have the awesome City to Surf as well as the most important of all sporting events, the annual **Deans Cup Football** match. Mark my words people, this year we are BRINGING THE CUP HOME!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You will all be glad to know that planning/recruiting has already began for this all important match. Unfortunately Chris Judd does not come out [of] contract with the Eagles until the end of this year, however, so far the coaching staff have been very positive with early form indications of various other gun recruits that cannot be name as yet due to legal reasons.

So if you interested in getting involved in any of the above mentioned sporting events this year, please drop me an email. I look forward to seeing you all getting behind NDLS Sport this year.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Essay Competition has now started. So If you can write a coherent sentence; don't be a fool enter now, it's cool!

Feature Firm: Minter Ellison

NDLSS Newsletter

Editor Nick Wilson

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We would like to thank our generous sponsors:



Minter Ellison is an international law firm which was established in 1827. During this time we have built a legal group that today is ranked the largest in the Asia Pacific and amongst the largest in the world.

Minter Ellison Perth is a commercial firm specialising in corporate advisory, mergers and acquisitions, energy and resources, construction infrastructure, finance, planning and environment, native title, commercial property, human resources and industrial relations, insurance and corporate risk, insolvency and litigation.

At Minter Ellison we are currently going through many exciting changes especially since the appointment last September of our new Managing Partner, John Poulsen who has been with the firm since 1989. Those changes are focused around being the employer of choice for people at all levels and ensuring our clients success by utilising our legal, business and industry experience.

As you can imagine, business development is always high on an agenda for a large law firm. This is currently a big strategic focus for us and we are implementing a number of programs to support us in adding value for our clients and proactively assisting them to take their business to the next level. One of the benefits of this is that we get to do the best work for the best clients.

At Minter Ellison we are also committed to having a positive impact on the broader community in which we live and work and encourage members of the firm to get

involved in our Community Investment Program. This program has four pillars which include a Volunteer Day, the Minter Ellison Youth Arts Foundation, Pro Bono and the Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN).

At Minter Ellison we value professional and personal development of staff. We have a comprehensive graduate development program in place to assist junior lawyers which includes a thorough induction program, a junior continuing legal education program, technical skills and soft skills courses. In addition we also send our new articled clerks to one of our national offices to receive further core skills training and a networking opportunity with other graduates.

We also have a Responsible Person Role which is given very high priority in our firm. The responsible person role ensures everyone in the firm has a partner, senior lawyer or manager who has a 'hands-on', day to day role in coaching, mentoring, allocating work, providing work and generally creating the 'right' environment, for staff to develop and succeed.

Last but not least, the firm's Vacation Clerkship Program is also a wonderful opportunity to come onboard and experience what 'real life' is like at Minters by getting to know our people, our culture and be exposed to some of the exciting work that we are doing. With our 'friendly and serious about doing well' culture we are sure that you would enjoy your time with the firm, which is aimed at helping you be the best you can be.

Article contributed by Minter Ellison

Law Groupie's - NOT COOL

- Matt O'Leary

Many of my final year classmates have recently commented that my lecture attendance rate this semester has been drastically higher than was previously the norm. Some have suggested that I have finally realised that there is a correlation between high marks and attendance of class. Wrong. I have made no such realisation. My motives are far simpler and can be summarised as follows:

Unlike the previous three years of my law degree, I must attend law lectures in order to gain the participation marks necessary to graduate.

My attendance is, therefore, quite involuntary. This annoys me greatly, for I have always associated attendance of class with the dreaded tag "law-groupie". A "law-groupie", as far as I am concerned, is an individual whose only goal at law school is to study and get a job upon graduation. I have spent time at law school desperately avoiding this tag by:

- (1) Shunning class; and
- (2) Attending as many social events as possible.

Having been forced to attend class (which is not such a bad thing I guess) I am now focused upon avoiding the tag "law groupie" by doubling my participation in the social scene around Notre Dame. You can do the same by attending the following NDLSS events this semester:

- (1) Boozy Bowling/ Fresher Night - 22 March at Superbowl Melville; and
- (2) Sundowner - 11 May at Maria's on the Terrace.

There will be no excuse for non-attendance of these events. If Daniel Kerr can ignore the law constantly, then you can ignore the study of said law for at least a couple of nights. Don't be a law groupie.