



NEW ZEALAND

Women's

Law Journal

Te Aho Kawe Kaupapa

Ture a ngā Wāhine

Quarterly
Newsletter
Q1 2021

WELCOME

Tēnā tātou, nau mai ki te New Zealand Women's Law Journal, Te Aho Kawe Kaupapa
Ture a ngā Wāhine 2021!

We hope that everyone is having a safe and happy start to the year. As a nation we are still continuing to navigate a world with Covid-19, and acknowledge that this will still be impacting many whānau across the motu. Remember to be kind and continue to look after those around you.

Planning for this year's Journal is well underway. We are having exciting conversations with potential authors and are continuing to receive thought-provoking submissions. Our focus for the next few weeks is filling our whānau as we review the staff applications for editor roles. A huge mihi to everyone who has applied.

This year we want to continue to bring issues to the fore, celebrate and tautoko the successes and challenges of different wāhine and individuals both within and outside of the profession, and create a platform and safe space for us to continue to talk about gender equality in the law. We welcome kōrero with anyone who is passionate about this and wants to be involved.

Recently the Honourable Kiritapu Allan shared with the nation that she had been diagnosed with cervical cancer. We send all of our love and strength to Kiri, and acknowledge her desire to continue to share the message of the late Talei Morrison to #smearyourmea.

Be brave everyone and remember to #SmileforKiri.

Noho ora mai

Alice and Ella.

Interview with ALICE ANDERSON



TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF

Ko Kāi Tahu te iwi, nō Murihiku ahau, kei te Whanganui-a-Tara tōku kāinga ināianeī, he pou ture o Dundas Street Employment Lawyers. I grew up down south in a small rural town called Winton, before moving to Ōtepoti to study Law and Indigenous Development at the University of Otago. After graduating, I returned home to Waihōpai (Invercargill) to begin my legal career. I moved to Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) in 2019, before following my passion for employment law to Dundas Street Employment Lawyers in Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington) at the end of 2019, where I am currently practising.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE JOURNAL?

Coming from a strong line of wāhine Māori, I have always been acutely aware of the challenges that women face in this world. I predominantly grew up with a single māmā and could see how hard she worked to ensure my sister and I had every opportunity to pursue our dreams. I have always thought about my māmā when I think about access to justice; would she have been able to afford a lawyer if she needed one? As I have grown up and gained my own life experiences, I have seen first-hand the discrimination that women can face in employment and in healthcare, which were a real driving force behind me joining the Journal. In addition to the actual issues themselves, however, I also really believe that we need to continue to connect and unite as wāhine in the law, so I welcomed the opportunity to be a part of whānau that could bring wāhine together and help some of our teina engage in positive networks in the profession and build relationships outside of their own mahi. I previously contributed to the 2019 Edition of the Journal so felt I was ready to get back on the waka in a different role this time in an editorial position.

WHAT IS AN ISSUE YOU SEE FACING THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS?

I think that the issues that have existed for years will continue to be problematic over the next 5-10 years; lawyers being underpaid and overworked, lack of diversity, failure to engage with or understand te ao Māori/Te Tiriti o Waitangi (I think this should be a requirement to be admitted to the bar), sexual harassment, bullying, the pressure of the professional responsibilities - the very nature of the role itself is difficult and the problems will not go away overnight. There needs to be a major shift in attitude, followed with actual professional accountability if there is to be change.

WHAT IS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU HAVE FOR BUDDING LEGAL WRITERS?

You have to take opportunities with both hands when they arise; every single voice within our profession is worthy of being heard. Do not doubt yourself - if you want to be a part of a kaupapa, put your name forward and give it a go. Be organised and allow yourself plenty of time and space to craft your piece of writing. Test your ideas with others and challenge your own thinking as well. I think that is more than one piece of advice... hei aha, just enjoy the writing journey!

Interview with ELLA MAIDEN



TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF

I grew up in Tāmaki Makaurau, where I went to school and University, and now where I work (I really should leave Auckland at some point...). I almost didn't go into law, as my original plan out of high school was to become a film director. I did end up enrolling in the television and media course at the University of Auckland, but after some wise counsel from my parents, I also added on an LLB. I ended up really loving my law degree and also changed my Arts degree from Television to Philosophy! I'm very happy with the way it all panned out, as I met some of my best friends at law school and my husband (we got married on the Saturday in February when the lockdown got announced --- I'm still finding it very weird to say the word "husband"). I started my career at Meredith Connell, where I worked in a commercial litigation team, as well as doing Crown prosecution work. I recently moved to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care, in the Disability investigation team.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE JOURNAL?

I've always wanted to be involved in the Journal's kaupapa, but I didn't feel like I could give my time to it in a meaningful way. Now, I'm so excited to be part of it and work with the really awesome wāhine who have helped make the Journal what it is today. I think it's so important to have legal scholarship about women's and gender issues because so much of our law, legal system and our profession is based on a pākeha male viewpoint and so we need this kind of scholarship to challenge the status quo. It's disappointing that it falls to our rōia wāhine to speak up and call for changes in our profession, but for now, that's where we are, and it's great to be part of an organisation that can help provide this platform

WHAT IS AN ISSUE YOU SEE FACING THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS?

It's an issue that doesn't really seem to be going away, which is a lack of diversity in the legal profession. Our profession really needs to consider how it can support rōia Māori and Pasifika, in a way that isn't simply tokenistic. That will require some real reflections on the ways we work, which are generally based on a Pākeha model of working. I'm also particularly concerned about the lack of disabled and Deaf lawyers in our profession, which requires examination of not only the profession but the law degree itself and how we can change our learning to allow more disabled and Deaf persons to complete a law degree.

WHAT IS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU HAVE FOR BUDDING LEGAL WRITERS?

If you've got an idea you are passionate about - just start writing! I was always a bit daunted by academic writing; constantly doubting myself and thinking it was all a bit too hard (I cried a lot during my diss). It does require some work, but ultimately, you can write something that might make a difference or start a really important discussion, and that's so worth it.

Interview with EMMA LITTLEWOOD



TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF

I am a solicitor at Morris Legal, a private client firm specialising in trust, estate and relationship property matters. Before I started working at Morris Legal, I completed a BA/LLB(Hons) degree at the University of Auckland. While I was studying at Auckland, I did two summer school exchanges as part of my Arts degree. The first to the Universidad de Salamanca in Spain and the second to Brazil as part of the Prime Minister's Scholarship for Latin America. I feel very lucky to have been able to do so much travel as part of my degree, particularly now!

WHY DID YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE JOURNAL?

I remember seeing that Ana and Allanah had founded the journal while I was at University and thinking that it was such an amazing thing for two young women in the profession to start and also being shocked that New Zealand didn't have a law journal that was dedicated to supporting and publishing research about gender issues already. After getting some more experience in writing, editing and publishing articles, I decided to apply to the Journal as an editor and then Deputy Editor and have loved being involved with the Journal so far.

WHAT IS AN ISSUE YOU SEE FACING THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS?

One issue that I see facing the legal profession in the next five to ten years is a large number of law graduates without enough job opportunities. There are a lot more students graduating with law degrees now, but not enough jobs to meet the demand. I am concerned that this problem will be exacerbated due to the impact of COVID-19

WHAT IS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU HAVE FOR BUDDING LEGAL WRITERS?

The best piece of advice I ever received about legal writing was that when you are writing something you should have an imaginary audience of five people reading your work. The audience should consist of: (1) someone who is academic, but not a lawyer (for example, your mum, dad or a family friend); (2) the person you are writing the piece of work for (for example, your honours supervisor, your boss, or the editor of the journal you are submitting to); (3) a lawyer who is not familiar with the area you are writing about (a friend or a lecturer who specialises in a different area); (4) someone who doesn't usually read academic writing and isn't a lawyer (maybe a friend or a flatmate); and (5) someone who is familiar with the area you're writing about, like a colleague or someone else in your honour's class. Imagining all of these people reading your work should help make sure that it is clear, easy to read, accurate and interesting (I hope!).

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the 2021 edition of the Journal are due on 1 May 2021.

The best article will be awarded the ADLS Writing Prize of \$1,500

Articles and commentaries for the 2021 edition will be accepted that relate to any domestic or international topic concerning women, gender perspectives and the law. We encourage submissions that take an intersectional approach and simultaneously examine issues of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation.

Articles will be considered that are up to 12,000 words in length. However, if you have a longer piece we encourage you to contact us to discuss your submission. Please include an abstract.

Commentaries such as case and legislation notes and book reviews of between 2,000 to 3,000 words in length will also be considered.

To submit an article or commentary, please send it to the Editors-in-Chief at editors.nzwlj@gmail.com. Feel free to get in touch with us in advance of submitting to discuss your ideas further. Please ensure your submission complies with the New Zealand Law Style Guide.



#SmearYourMea