

ACLA AUSTRALIAN CORPORATE LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

WINNER – WILL IRVING

Will Irving has been the Group General Counsel for Telstra since January 2005. He has been with Australia's largest telco company in various legal roles since 1997.

In his current role, Will is responsible for the delivery of legal services by his team to the myriad parts of Telstra, as well as being personally involved in providing legal advice on the key strategic issues facing its Board. Primarily, these involve major regulatory issues in the telecommunications and competition law areas, and more recently the complex issues surrounding the final sell-off of the Commonwealth's remaining interests in Telstra through the T3 sale. In 2006, other projects that he has particular legal responsibility for have included the building and launch of the 3G mobile network, the Channel 7 litigation, and international M&A activity, including a \$215 m divestment and a \$342 m acquisition in China.

Will has been widely regarded in the in-house community for many years for his willingness to find time in his increasingly busy schedule to take part in in-house lawyer activities and promote the interests of the profession. Until the pressure of work became too great, Will was also a significant contributor to ACLA, as a Victorian Committee member (and former Vice President), as a National Board member and, in particular, his contribution as chair of ACLA's Professional Issues committee.

In support of Will's nomination, Solomon Trujillo, the CEO of Telstra, stated:

'(Will) has shown he will fight for the company's interests, proactively look for solutions not problems and, when needed, fearlessly provide principled advice to ensure we meet our legal obligations.... In my experience Will leads by example and his leadership skills include embracing change'

ACLA AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

WINNER – GEORGE KRIZ

George Kriz is chief lawyer for the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training.

In his current role, George regularly provides high level legal advice to his Minister, his Secretary, and the Executive of his Department.

He has developed the Procurement, Assurance and Legal Group of his Department into a team which is widely recognised as providing a highly professional legal advice service, as well as excellent risk, contract and litigation management services to his clients.

He has always been generous in assisting legal branches in other departments with access to ideas and systems that he has implemented in DEST. The legal services model that George has developed over many years in DEST has now been picked up in various ways by other government agencies.

George has been extremely active over a long period of time in promoting the role of the government in-house legal services provider. He has been a frequent speaker at local and national conferences on issues relating to the in-house legal profession, and was for many years very active in ACLA.

Most recently, George has made a significant contribution to the Australian National Audit Office's (ANAO) Commonwealth wide performance audit of legal services arrangements in government agencies, and in particular he provided assistance to ANAO in the subsequent development of its seminal 'Better Practice Guide for the provision of Legal Services arrangements in Australian Government Agencies.'

ACLA AUSTRALIAN IN-HOUSE LAWYER YOUNG ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Winner: - Bronwyn Magdulski

The standard of nominees in the Young Achiever Award category was extraordinarily high this year and all the short-listed Nominees and even the non-short-listed Nominees would have been worthy winners.

Our winner Bronwyn Magdulski demonstrates all the attributes that this award is designed to reward.

Bronwyn has been employed since 2000 as the Head of the Legal Department of Country Energy a large state owned corporation with almost 4,000 employees and a network region covering 95% of NSW.

In this role she manages the provision of external legal service providers, provides legal advice internally on a wide range of legal issues and has been involved in a number of major projects. These have included restructuring the corporation's records department and document retention policies, involvement in tender evaluation and document preparation for the NSW Gas Retail Market Regulator, advising the Ministry of Energy and Utilities (including redrafting of legislation), dealing with a merger with Australian Inland Energy and multiple reorganisations of the arrangements for the provision of external legal services to the Corporation.

Apart from her "day job" Bronwyn has participated in a wide range of external interests including:

- Being Honorary Counsel for a number of sporting organisations.
- Being Residential Athlete Tutor and Supervisor for the Australian Institute of Sport.
- Involvement (as a magistrate and a coach) in the NSW Law Society's Mock Trial Competition.
- Being a member of the Australian Bobsleigh Team.
- Competitive involvement in a number of other sporting activities including athletics, skeleton, AFL, hockey, equestrian as well as social sporting activities.
- Completing a Masters paper for the University of Melbourne which formed part of the AFL's internal risk assessment strategy.
- Involvement in a number of fundraising events.
- A nomination in 2002 Telstra Businesswoman of the Year.
- Being short listed for the ACT Fellowship of the Churchill Fellowship Trust.
- Co-hosting on a casual relief basis of ABC Radio's Local Grandstand Program
- Writing a travel guidebook (Harvard University's *Let's Go Turkey*).

ACLA AUSTRALIAN IN-HOUSE LEGAL TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

WINNER - ST. JOHN OF GOD HEALTH CARE

St. John of God Health Care Inc. (SJGHC) is Australia's third largest private hospital operator and the largest Catholic not for profit private health care group. It owns and operates 11 hospitals plus a pathology business throughout Victoria and Western Australia and runs outreach programs in Northern Australia and overseas.

The range and scope of the legal work performed by the legal department is impressive. Their work ranges through significant acquisitions of hospitals and other health related businesses, redevelopment projects management of medical malpractice claims, IT procurement, and management of the real property portfolio of some 280 property investments. Workers' compensation contracts, legislative compliance and corporate governance relating to Board issues.

The team works closely and effectively and to quote one referee, exercising in decision making and team work the core values of the organisation being compassion, respect, justice, excellence and hospitality.

The two senior members, Joe O'Halloran and Mark Murphy have broad and in-depth knowledge which they willingly share with junior team members.

In closing, to quote Tony Joyner, partner Freehills, Perth:

"They're really sensible lawyers – they've got a job to do, and they just get on with it. There's no ego, no posturing, no messing around. They just do it. It means they're very efficient, they have good relationships with people backed by trust, and they really deliver.

They're also very committed, so they make sure they do it properly and on time. They feel a real sense of responsibility to the organisation. They care".

The team is the first ACLA Award winner from Western Australia.