



**VICTORIAN WOMEN LAWYERS
COMMUNITY JUSTICE AWARD 2009**

Victorian Women Lawyers is pleased to invite nominations for the 2009 Community Justice Award. The Award is in recognition of a student or recently admitted lawyer who, on a pro bono or volunteer basis, demonstrates a commitment to issues related to women and justice.

Who is eligible to receive the Award?

A student enrolled in a recognized bachelor of laws at a Victorian University, or a law graduate up to one year post admission to legal practice.

Who can nominate?

Candidates may be nominated by their organization or may self-nominate.

Criteria

The successful candidate will demonstrate an ongoing commitment to issues related to women and justice through pro bono or volunteer work. The work does not have to fall strictly within the definition of legal advice or representation; for example contributions towards causes such as advocacy or work to improve access to justice for marginalized women in the community. For further details please see the guidelines attached.

Award

The successful nominee will receive a prize of \$1000, of which \$500 will be donated to their organization. The Award will be presented at the Women's Achievement Awards early 2010.

Nominations

Written nominations of 500 words or less should be submitted no later than **11 December 2009** to:

Tracey Spiller, Victorian Women Lawyers Administrator
C/O Law Institute Victoria
GPO Box 263C
Melbourne 3001
DX 350 Melbourne
Email Tspiller@liv.asn.au

Victorian Women Lawyers Justice Committee

Criteria and Guidelines for the VWL Community Justice Award

Aim: The aim of the award is to recognize dedication and commitment to justice in areas relevant to women via pro bono or volunteer work. This award is aimed at students and young practitioners.

Criteria for Selection:

- Candidates must be either enrolled in a Victorian university law degree or be no more than one year post admission to practice.
- Candidates may self nominate or be nominated by their organization.
- Nominations must be 500 words or less and contain a general description of the candidate and their role, the work of the organization, the length of involvement and any reflections.
- Nominations close 11 December 2009 and should be addressed to:

The Administrator, Tracey Spiller
Victorian Women Lawyers
C/o Law Institute Victoria
GPO Box 263C
Melbourne 3001
DX 350 Melbourne
Via email: Tspiller@liv.asn.au

Guidelines for selection of award recipient:

- The relevance of the work to justice issues which affect women. The issues do not have to be strictly legal nor does the work have to be strictly legal (e.g. legal advice or Court representation). The work could be, for example, advocacy for access to housing, assistance with the integration of refugees into the community, or care work with victims of human trafficking.
- Length of service or a commitment to ongoing future work will be considered.
- The vulnerability of the persons towards which the work is aimed as well as any difficulties experience in carrying out the work performed will be considered, for example dealing with cultural barriers, political unpopularity, low funding.
- Level and quality of work accomplished.
- Reflections or narrative of the experience which reveal a care or commitment to women and justice will be well regarded.

Selection Panel

- The selection panel for the award will be comprised of three members of the Victorian Women Lawyer's Justice Committee who shall forward three final nominations to the Victorian Women Lawyer's Executive Committee, together with a written statement as to why those candidates have been selected.
- The Victorian Women Lawyers Executive Committee shall then at the next meeting or whenever practicable make a selection from the three candidates by a majority of vote of voting members.

The Award

- The Award will be presented at the Victorian Women Lawyers Pro Bono evening on 10 September 2009.
- The Award will consist of \$500 prize money for the student and \$500 towards their organization.