

Law Council congratulates 2013 recipients of Indigenous Lawyer of the Year and Indigenous Law Student of the Year

Law Council of Australia President, Mr Michael Colbran QC, today congratulated the 2013 Indigenous Lawyer of the Year, Mr David Woodroffe, and the Indigenous Law Student of the Year, Ms Jill Gujlas.

“Mr Woodroffe and Ms Gujlas are outstanding role models and are deserving winners of this year's awards,” Mr Colbran said.

Mr Woodroffe is the Managing Solicitor for the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and worked for 14 years in a variety of Aboriginal legal agencies in the Northern Territory.

“Mr Woodroffe is a former member of the Law Council's Indigenous Legal Issues Committee and has established and built upon his reputation for hard work on behalf of his clients and a passion for protecting and promoting the rights of Indigenous people

“He manages the largest and busiest criminal law practice in the Northern Territory and is described as constantly seeking to improve internal procedures and practices to ensure that his team is working to its full potential and to ensure that his clients receive the best possible legal representation,” Mr Colbran said.

Ms Gujlas, a law student from the Griffith University, was named the Indigenous Law Student of the Year in recognition of her outstanding academic and other achievements.

“Ms Gujlas has shown her dedication and commitment to her studies by consistently performing at a high level academically whilst balancing the responsibilities of being a single mother of two

“The Panel was impressed with Ms Gujlas' aspiration to enter the legal profession to champion and empower other young mothers and women.”

Mr Colbran said the awards highlight the valuable contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lawyers make to the Australian legal profession.

“The Law Council is a proud supporter of these awards, which celebrate the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lawyers and law students,” Mr Colbran concluded.

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