

## Outstanding young lawyers recognised at 2013 Australian Young Lawyer of the Year Award

The Law Council of Australia has announced the winners of its annual Australian Young Lawyer of the Year Award.

The individual category was won by South Australian Barrister, Mr Stephen Mitchell, and the organisation award was presented to the New South Wales Young Lawyers.

Law Council of Australia President, Mr Michael Colbran QC, said the award demonstrated the high calibre of work young lawyers across the Australian legal profession undertake on a daily basis.

“The Law Council of Australia’s Australian Young Lawyer Award highlights the important contribution young lawyers make in the Australian community at both an individual and organisational level.

“I congratulate Mr Mitchell and the New South Wales Young Lawyers for their outstanding achievements,” Mr Colbran said.

First presented in 1999, the Australian Young Lawyer of the Year Award aims to encourage and foster Young Lawyer organisations to establish programs for the benefit and assistance of the profession and the community, and to recognise and reward the achievements and contributions of individual lawyers.

Mr Mitchell was awarded the individual award for significant contribution to the profession and the community through his commitment to professional networking, mentoring and education as well as urban renewal and other community projects.

“Mr Mitchell dedicated his expertise to co-founding a young professional networking group now known as Tier 1 and is a co-founder of the urban renewal group Renew Adelaide.

“He is a member of the South Australian Bar Council as well as the Law Society of South Australia’s Professional Development Advisory Group and was a member of the Property Council of Australia’s Future Directions SA committee for several years.

“Mr Mitchell is also a member of the South Australian Young Lawyers Support Group,” Mr Colbran said.

The New South Wales Young Lawyers received the organisation award for its *Justice Education Conference* program.

In its third year, the Justice Education Conference program consists of a full day workshop and discussions aimed at later primary school and early high school students.

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“The aim of the Conference is to bring students from a variety of public and private schools together to learn about and reflect upon the law, justice and the legal system as well as to equip them with the knowledge and skills to assist them in working towards leadership roles in the future,” Mr Colbran said.

Chair of the Law Council’s Australian Young Lawyers Committee, Mr Matthew Keogh, said the recipients of the Australian Young Lawyer Awards demonstrate the great work that lawyers do in their communities by volunteering their time, skill and effort.

“As individuals involved in community groups and as organisations supporting community projects and their young lawyer colleagues, the recipients stand as an example to all young lawyers to continue their volunteer contribution,” Mr Keogh said.

Further information on the Australian Young Lawyer of the Year Award is available [online](#).

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