



**NOTRE DAME SYDNEY LAW SOCIETY**

# HALF-YEARLY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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JULY 2021 // PREPARED BY EBONY BILLETT



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## **YEAR REPRESENTATIVES**

Eden Donovan, Brooke Nguyen, Imogen Mahony,  
Rebecca Saleme + Georgina Morton

# Where we are TODAY

I am immensely proud to present to you the first ever half-yearly President's report for the Notre Dame Sydney Law Society. I have been proud to lead this year's NDSLS Committee comprising of twenty-one diligent student representatives. This report outlines the wonderful work each Director, Assistant and Year Representative has done to ensure we are still present amongst the student body.

As a team, we have worked tirelessly to keep students engaged, particularly throughout the height of the pandemic. During semester one we were able to hold our events in person due to the wonderful work of our Society and in light of the current circumstances in NSW we have to take to online initiatives during the foreseeable future of semester two.

Each portfolio has developed a new initiative or event to help enhance the student experience at the University of Notre Dame. In doing so, collectively we have been able to reach students that perhaps we weren't able to reach offline, including regional and international students.



**EBONY BILLETT**  
**PRESIDENT 2021**

*Semester One 2021*

## WE'VE REACHED MORE STUDENTS THAN EVER

Although the pandemic has certainly been a challenge and an unprecedented time for all, meaning various NDSLS events weren't able to go ahead or had to be postponed, the positivity of the NDSLS has shown through, particularly on our socials.

We remain committed to serving the students of the University of the Notre Dame, through creativity and being adaptable to everything that comes our way.

I am grateful for all of the support the NDSLS has received this year through our students, sponsors, the Notre Dame Sydney Law School and the members of the NDSLS.

**GOD BLESS**

The vision of the 2021 NDSLS has always been to be present for the students of Notre Dame. It has included:

- Ensuring everything we do is in the best interests of the Society and the wider Notre Dame community.
- Creating an engaging platform for students to feel connected even in lockdown.
- Providing wonderful opportunities for students to take advantage of the online world including those from sponsor Firms and the College of Law.
- Facilitate the NDSLS' return to the Sydney campus and welcoming feedback from all students to help the NDSLS thrive through a challenging time.

The NDSLS has achieved this 2021 vision and we cannot wait to continue serving the Law Students of Notre Dame during Semester Two.



Our 2021  
VISION

TO REPRESENT ALL LAW  
STUDENTS AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE  
DAME

# THE EXECUTIVE



**JASMINE ROBERTSON**  
**VICE PRESIDENT 2021**



**JOSE CORPUS**  
**TREASURER 2021**



**JACK TOBIN**  
**SECRETARY 2021**

## *Semester One*

During Semester One, the NDSLS Executive have been able to collectively oversee each portfolio and allow each Director to bring their ideas to fruition. It has been a very successful semester and the Executive are proud to lead a team of passionate and driven individuals. Semester One allowed the NDSLS to host brand new initiatives and maintain an incredible presence for students both online and on campus. We are so excited for what is to come in Semester Two for the 2021 NDSLS.



**SEMESTER ONE**

# DIRECTOR PORTFOLIOS

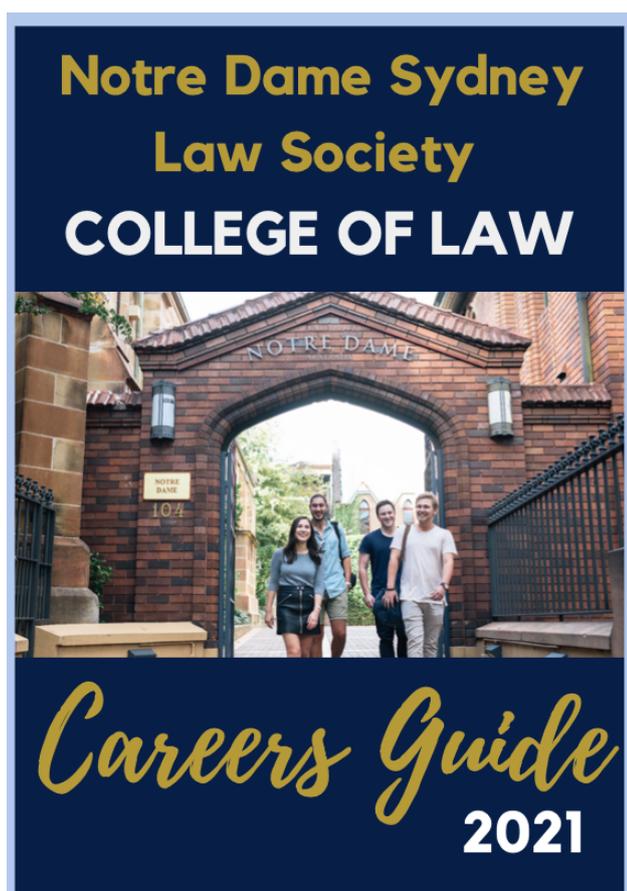


# CAREERS

The NDSLS Careers portfolio has been thriving during 2021. Careers Director, Paige Gavenlock-Ginns and Amy Skinstad have worked tirelessly to ensure that all students are provided with the best opportunities.

Semester One allowed the Careers Representatives to hold both in person and online events to cater for all students. Our major firm presentations included Ashurst, Allens Linklaters, Carrol & O’Dea, College of Law, Gilbert + Tobin and Herbert Smith Freehills. These firms were able to provide a valuable insight into working at top and mid tier firms and what the day in the life of a lawyer actually looks like.

An incredible amount of work was put into this years Careers Guide. It was released at the end of April in time for the clerkship application process. It’s an extremely invaluable guide with incredible profiles, including alumni who were fortunate to receive clerkships. They detail their experience and allow students to gain an insight into what a clerkship actually is.



**PAIGE GAVENLOCK-GINNS**  
**CAREERS DIRECTOR 2021**



**AMY SKINSTAD**  
**CAREERS ASSISTANT 2021**



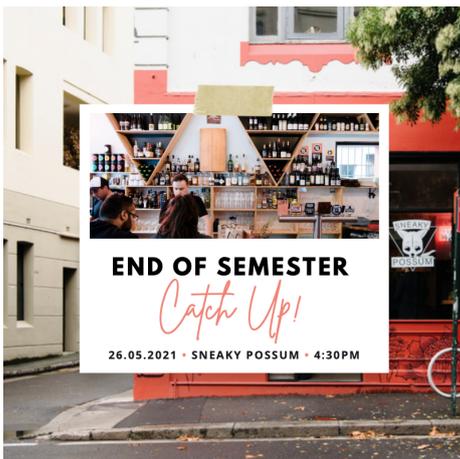
# COMMUNICATIONS



**CHRISTINA BUHAGIAR**  
**COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**  
**2021**

The 2021 Communications portfolio has been better than ever this year. Our wonderful Communications Director, Christina Buhagiar has worked so hard to maintain and grow our social media presence. Through professional marketing, the NDSLS social media channels have gained significant engagement and we have been able to collectively reach more people than ever.

Not only have we have been able to create aesthetic and effective marketing posts, we have also been able to make it very personable. Each Committee Member has creatively made an informative post about lockdown initiatives, allowing us to connect with students and firms.



**Calendar** **UPDATED**  
 OF CAREERS PRESENTATIONS

- 27 APRIL**  
 Gilbert + Tobin  
 Careers Presentation 12:30pm on Campus  
 Ashurst  
 Careers Presentation 5pm 11/5 Martin Place
- 28 APRIL**  
 Carroll & O'Dea  
 Careers Presentation from 12:00pm in Courtyard
- 29 APRIL**  
 Allens Linktakers  
 Careers Presentation from 12:30pm via Zoom
- 30 APRIL**  
 Herbert Smith Freehills  
 Careers Presentation 12:00pm via Zoom
- 5 MAY**  
 College of Law  
 Careers Presentation 12:30pm on Campus

**LEST WE FORGET**

ANZAC DAY  
 25 APRIL 1915

**NOTRE DAME SYDNEY LAW SOCIETY**  
**welcome!**

**OPEN DAY 2021**  
**WEDNESDAY 28TH JULY**  
**11 - 1 PM**  
**ZOOM LINK IN BIO**

# COMPETITIONS



**RILEY FOTOPOULOS**  
**COMPETITIONS DIRECTOR**  
**2021**



**TAYLOR CAMPBELL**  
**COMPETITIONS**  
**ASSISTANT 2021**

In 2021 semester one, the NDSLS Competitions portfolio has been able to facilitate competitions in person. Our internal competitions included junior and open mooting, and negotiations. We were also very fortunate to send competitors to the virtual Australian Law Student's Association Competitions. Jemima Barlow and Katherine Gurney represented the NDSLS in the Championship Mooting, whilst Meg Abbott and Dominique Bergman represented the NDSLS in the Negotiations Competition. Although neither team made it to the grand final, we are incredibly proud they had the opportunity to compete virtually and represent our Society. We commend them on their efforts.

Next semester we hope to expand the competitions portfolio and provide a wider variety of competitions for students to compete in. We look forward to the work of our newly appointed Competitions Director, Riley Fotopolous and Competitions Assistant, Taylor Campbell. I look forward for what is to come and I would like to thank all competitors, external Judges, internal staff and students for their support of the NDSLS Competitions Portfolio.



## OVERVIEW



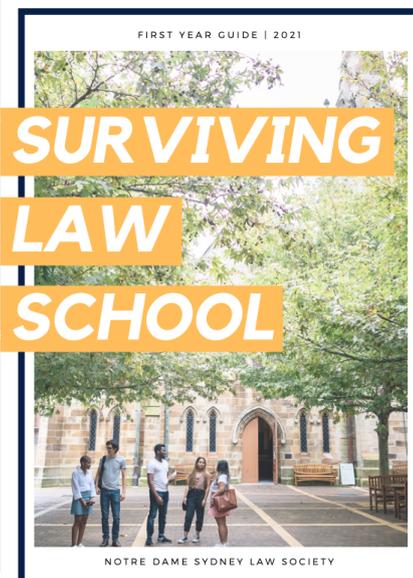
### THE DOS AND DON'TS OF LAW SCHOOL

The Notre Dame Sydney Law Society presents what to do (and what not to do) during your time at Law School. Do get involved in campus...



### WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER

If you know me at all you might be wondering, "why is Alicia writing a blog about time management? I'm pretty sure she pulled another..."



# education



**ALICIA HULL**  
**EDUCATION DIRECTOR 2021**

The NDSLS is committed to providing the best events to its students. Our Education Director, Alicia Hull, has introduced some wonderful brand new initiatives for the Education Portfolio and worked incredibly hard to put her own personal touch on it that can be carried on for years to come. This includes the Education Blog. Posts are made available every Monday through the NDSLS website and range from the Do's and Dont's of Law School to zoom etiquette and finding your feet in Careers week.

The NDSLS Education Portfolio was responsible for the new and improved First Year Guide, as well as the facilitation of the annual Student Golden Gavel in connection with the Law Society of NSW and NSW Young Lawyers. Two student representatives from Notre Dame Law School attended, including our very own NDSLS Directors, Taylor Campbell and James Pelosi. This year's topic was 'tell me you're a law student, without telling me you're a law student' and the comedic pieces were very impressive.

The Education Portfolio has also been involved with the Lawcademy, a platform of interactive workshops to provide students with relevant legal skills necessary for the real world. We have some upcoming workshops for Notre Dame students in semester two.

The annual Australian Law Students Association mid-year conference was held in July. Alicia and myself had the privilege of attending virtually to discuss with other National Law Student Societies' how to keep students engaged throughout a pandemic.

# SOCIAL EVENTS



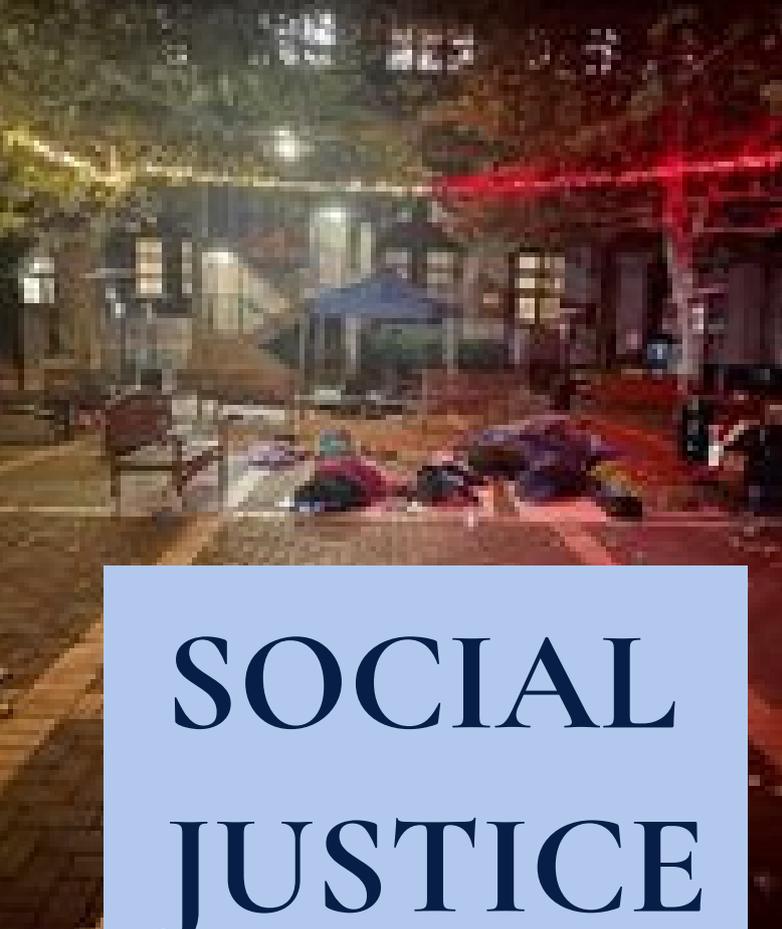
**FLEUR MULCAHY**  
**SOCIAL EVENTS DIRECTOR 2021**



The 2021 Social Events portfolio has been brought back to life after a plethora of setbacks during 2020. Fleur Mulachy has worked incredibly hard to bring Socials back. The NDSLS was able to host Start of the Semester Meet + Greet which was a huge success, Mid Semester Catch Up and End of Semester Catch Up.

Fleur has been working closely with external venues to facilitate the 2020 Law Ball in 2021. I am so excited to see Law Ball come to fruition and see everyone looking schmick at the end of the year.

I believe that the Social Events portfolio under the guise of Fleur will be incredible in Semester Two.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE



**MEG ABBOTT**  
**SOCIAL JUSTICE DIRECTOR**  
**2021**

The NDSLS is proud to be able to facilitate Social Justice initiatives. Our Social Justice Director, Meg Abbott is passionate about Social Justice and helping the less vulnerable in our community, a true depiction of her selfless, committed and driven nature.

In Semester One, the Social Justice Portfolio was able to maintain a good presence both on campus and through the socials. In connection with SAUNDA and the Notre Dame Social Justice Society, the NDSLS was able to hold its annual Winter Sleepout. We were able to provide catering from the Two Wolves, a not for profit organisation providing service opportunities for Australia's youth in disadvantaged communities overseas and within Australia. All of the proceeds we made were donated to Kingsway Care, an organisation supporting vulnerable individuals and families through housing, personal development programs and supplying life's basics.

The Social Justice Portfolio has some wonderful initiatives planned for Semester Two, including a Social Justice Forum and I cannot wait to see these come to fruition.

'If you can't feed one hundred people, then feed just one'

*Mother Teresa*

# Sponsorship

The Sponsorship Portfolio has done outstanding work in gaining new sponsors and maintaining old ones. Sponsorship Director, Taylor Campbell and Sponsorship Assistant, Amy Oreshkin, have worked incredibly hard to allow the NDSLS to be able to run events and keep functioning as a Society. This year's sponsors include Glibet + Tobin, Allens Linklaters, Ashurst, Carrol & O'Dea, Clayton Utz, Herbert Smith Freehills, King Wood and Mallesons, and the College of Law.

The Sponsorship Prospectus was incredibly professional and an immense amount of effort and hard work was put into making it the best Prospectus the NDSLS has ever seen.

Well done to Taylor and Amy for an amazing and incredibly successful Semester.



**TAYLOR CAMPBELL**  
SPONSORSHIP  
DIRECTOR 2021



**AMY ORESHKIN**  
SPONSORSHIP  
ASSISTANT 2021



# SPORTS

With a few setbacks in Semester One due to the pandemic, Sports Director, James Pelosi was able to pull off one of the most successful Sports Events for the NDSLS. This year we held our first Tennis Staff Vs Students sports day at Trumper Park Tennis Centre. James did a wonderful job facilitating this event for students and provided a fabulous BBQ lunch for all who attended.

With the Notre Dame Gift cancelled for Semester One, we hope to see this back in Semester Two and cannot wait to see what James has planned.



**JAMES PELOSI**  
**SPORTS DIRECTOR 2021**

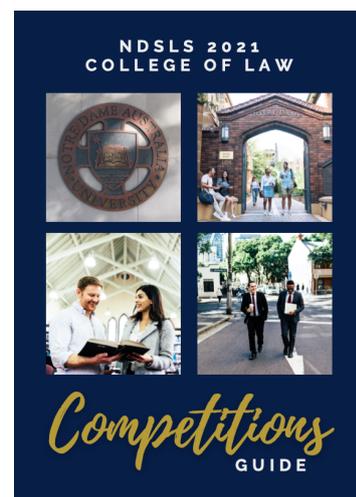
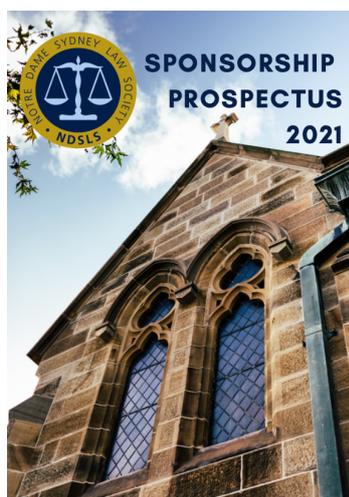
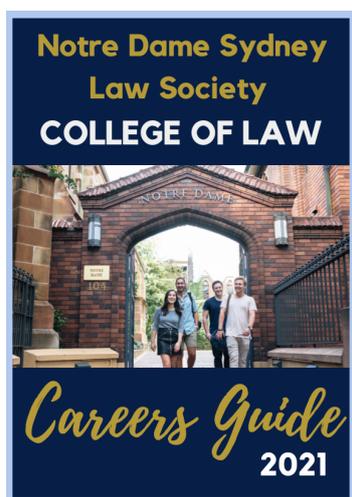
# IT PORTFOLIO



**JEMIMA BARLOW**  
IT DIRECTOR 2021

The IT Portfolio has certainly made a name for itself. The 2021 IT Director, Jemima Barlow, has produced professional and high-quality content for all NDSLS members.

At the beginning of Semester One, the NDSLS website was completely re-designed from scratch providing students with informative resources. All respective Guides from the Careers, Competition, Education and Sponsorship Portfolios can be found through our website. The Education Blog can also be found through the NDSLS website. Jemima has done a wonderful job in facilitating this revamped website for all law students and the NDSLS Committee.



[About](#)

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[Social Justice](#)

[Education](#)

[Events](#)



**Notre Dame  
Sydney  
Law Society**





**EDEN DONOVAN**  
**FIRST YEAR REP**



**BROOKE NGUYEN**  
**SECOND YEAR REP**



**IMOGEN**  
**MAHONEY THIRD**  
**YEAR REP**



**REBECCA SALEME**  
**FOURTH YEAR REP**



**GEORGINA MORTON**  
**FIFTH YEAR REP**

## *Year Representatives*

They have been incredible leaders of their respective cohorts and being the voice of all of their peers.

Each Year Representative has communicated to their cohort messages from the NDSLS, sharing NDSLS initiatives to their Facebook Year Groups and bringing forward any concerns or questions their peers have had.

I am proud to be able to lead these wonderful representatives and I look forward to watching them do their cohorts proud in Semester Two.

# GRATITUDE + THANKS



The Notre Dame Sydney Law Society was introduced in 2007 and ever since has continued to evolve to ensure all Law Students at the University of Notre Dame feel included and represented. The NDSLS would not be able to facilitate amazing events if it wasn't for the dedicated, driven and passionate individuals who volunteer so much of their time to ensuring we collectively deliver the best and most successful events possible.



I would like to acknowledge all of our wonderful 2021 Sponsors and providing support to the NDSLS to be able to provide wonderful initiatives including major Firm presentations for the benefit of our Law Students.



I extend my thank you and gratitude to all of the NDSLS Executive, Directors, Assistants, and Year Representatives. The way you lead with such professionalism and drive makes me proud to be the 2021 President, to not only be a President, but to be a friend to you all. It makes me so incredibly proud to watch the NDSLS succeed as a direct result of the NDSLS Committee and Sponsors.



I am beyond excited for Semester Two and to see what we can achieve and deliver together to continue to enhance the student experience at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any feedback, questions or feedback.

**Ebony Billett**  
**President, NDSLS**  
**president@ndsls.org**