

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: FRIDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS lawyers get a little bit of SOUL

Over 100 interstate and international lawyers from the higher education sector and private practice will converge in Hobart to share insights on various legal issues affecting the sector.

The University of Tasmania will today host the Society of University Lawyers (SOUL) 2010 Annual Conference.

SOUL is the peak advisory body for lawyers working in Australian universities and their related organisations.

Saveria Dimasi, President of SOUL, said the Annual Conference is an ideal way for lawyers to be informed of legal issues that could be relevant in their own University environment as well as the higher education sector in general.

“Key topics to be discussed at the Conference include how to ensure file sharing technology is used legitimately, the concept of academic freedom, student placements and volunteer activities and university commercialisation activities - all very relevant topics within the University environment. Another key presentation will focus on how to identify and manage aberrant behaviour on campus, something that unfortunately affects all universities from time to time,” Ms Dimasi said.

“As in-house legal counsel to universities we often face unique challenges. We advise on legal issues which may not be experienced in the corporate and government sectors.”

“What is also really important about the Society and the Conference is that it allows all University lawyers from around the country, particularly those from smaller Universities, to connect and share information with those who face similar issues.”

The keynote address, *Lawyers and Ethics*, will be delivered by Dr Helen Durham, Strategic Adviser with the International Law for Australian Red Cross and Senior Fellow at Melbourne Law School. Dr Durham will speak on the unique situation faced by University lawyers and will draw upon her experience of working in the sector.

The Annual Conference will be opened today by Mr Damian Bugg AM QC, Chancellor of the University of Tasmania.

Photo Opportunity:

What: The Society of University Lawyers 2010 Annual Conference

When: Friday 5th November 2010 from 9.00am

Where: Hobart Function and Conference Centre, Elizabeth Street Pier

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