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THIS MONTH AT CLI

I've had my head buried in the many reports that have been published over the last couple of months about the future of legal practice. There are many important takeaways but, what struck me most is that while some things have changed, much has stayed the same. We seem to be doing more of the same stuff differently when we've been presented with the opportunity to do different stuff, differently.

That started me thinking about how best to move the needle forward – way forward. This is a time for big leaps not small, we are at a tipping point but, it's likely obscured because we typically look to our near left or right and benchmark ourselves (individually and collectively) accordingly. If that's all we do, then those reports I've been reading would suggest, at first glance, that we are mostly doing well, a little patchy in some practice areas and jurisdictions but generally better than anticipated. But a deeper reading of those reports and, digging a little between the lines too, suggests that our business models have reached their use by date – they're strained, been patched just about as much as they can bear, and won't (and increasingly aren't) hold up against the "new" competition which is more closely aligned with a changed market and world. As a one profession in many in a legal ecosystem, today we need to look way beyond the peers nearest to us and expand our view to see the void below us if we don't change!

At CLI, that expanded view and the possibilities excites us. It is so full of amazing opportunities – we see them every day and their proofs of concept. We're committed to being part of the solution and providing safe environments for everyone to learn, share, connect, discuss and debate change, experiment, fail and succeed. That's our mission and what led us to a few new/refocused initiatives since our last Newsletter – we hope you'll join in as we roll them out:

- **We opened the [CLI Distinguished Fellowship Program 2021/22 for expressions of interest](#) this month.** We're seeking projects in three of the game changing areas in the legal industry right now: blockchain, digital contracting, and ethics in artificial intelligence. It's time to connect legal to and with these areas big time, so we hope to find Fellows who are excited to do that with us.
- **Next, we launched of our six-episode [Legal Innovation – From changing mindsets to metrics \(and everything in between\) Series](#) this week.** We offered this series as part of our Innovation Incubator Program 2021/22 and it proved to be so popular that we thought we should open it up as a free, virtual series to everyone working in legal innovation. Our outstanding faculty will provide tools, tips, and candid, practical advice that we know will be instructive and inspiring.
- **And last, we officially launched our [Disrupting Legal Education Series](#) this month too.** To embrace change, we need to see, understand, and do different things, differently. We wanted to showcase where, why, and how legal education is supporting this around the world – it's going to be a fascinating journey from law schools to Alternative Legal Education Providers and, everything and everyone in between!

And now, to the Newsletter – enjoy!

Terri

Terri Mottershead

Executive Director

Centre for Legal Innovation (Australia, New Zealand, and Asia-Pacific)

**Alternative Legal Careers in Law Firms – New opportunities for a transforming legal world!**

Alternative legal careers – that’s a hot topic in industry media. There’s lots of layers to this and all of them confirm significant change in the legal ecosystem. There’s no doubt that legaltech and data have been enablers for different work, different capabilities, and the different revenue streams that continue to evolve in law firms to match changing clients demands. Legal practice today is about different people doing different things, differently! So, it’s not surprising that the “different” bits have consolidated to create new roles and specialisms...not new to every industry, but new to the legal world or, at least, nuanced to support changing needs and expectations. In this evolving space, law firms are emerging as key education providers and employers of a new, second wave of alternate (but increasingly mainstream) legal careerists - we’re going to exploring that in this post!

[Read more...](#)



We love the storytelling part of the Spotlight series - the journeys of our featured legalpreneurs have are inspiring. Over the last couple of months, we chatted with three truly amazing people from different parts of the legal ecosystem and the world, all with a common purpose to do more and do better:

- [Christina Blacklaws](#), Managing Director of [Blacklaws Consulting](#): [Embracing LawTech isn't just in lawyers' best interests. It's in everybody's.](#)
- [Ian Nelson](#), Co-Founder, [Hotshot](#): [Legal Learning has changed for the better, and tech is playing a major role.](#)
- [Connie Brenton](#), Vice President, Law, Technology and Operations, [NetApp Inc.](#): [Technology is an enabler of simplification: It's an opportunity for lawyers, not a threat.](#)



We’ve had quite the focus on innovation this last month or two...

First, we launched the CLI [Distinguished Fellowship](#) (DF) Program 2021/22 for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) this month. CLI has three new DF positions open in AUSTRALIA for 2021/22. The EOI Form can be found [here](#). **EOIs close at 5pm AEST on 25 October 2021**. Those invited to apply for a Fellowship will need to complete additional documentation.

We are looking for projects that will advance knowledge of (learning), application in (experience), or transformation of legal practice in your chosen project area.

For the 2021/22 round of Distinguished Fellowships, CLI will give preference to projects that focus on the current and future application of:

- blockchain in legal practice
- digital contracting (including visual contracting, contracts as code, contract life cycle management, self-help/DIY contract platforms, etc.)
- ethics and the role of lawyers in the evolution of artificial intelligence

Fellowships can begin at any time and typically run for one year. Fellows are paid a stipend.

Fellows are engaged as independent contractors, need to be permitted to work in Australia, and must have an ABN.

If you would like to discuss this further before you submit your EOI, please contact me: CLI@collaw.edu.au.

Second, this week we launched of our [Legal Innovation – From changing mindsets to metrics \(and everything in between\) Series](#). We offered this series as part of our Innovation Incubator Program 2021/22 and it proved to be so popular that we thought we should open it up as a free, virtual series to everyone working in legal innovation.

If you're looking for an A-Z six-episode video and podcast series about everything you need to know to successfully launch an innovation project in your legal firm/department/organisation, this one is for you. All these sessions are being offered live and captured. [You'll find the timetable here](#). The faculty is outstanding and we've no doubt this will prove to be an amazing resource and opportunity to share in the experience of people who have been there and done it! **PLEASE DO NOT MISS THIS SERIES!**



It's been a pleasure to feature 12 amazing legal businesses in the [ReinventED Legal Business: The Case Studies](#) since the inception of this series a year ago....WOW, what a year it has been!

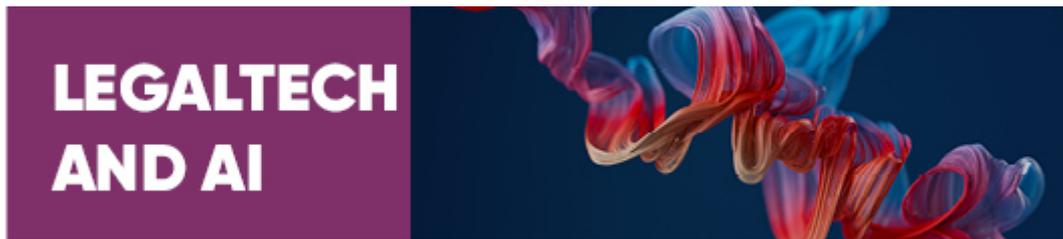
We've connected with people (and connected them with each other) doing legal practice differently all around the world. They're great stories but more, the generous and candid experience sharing that has become a hallmark of this series, has been and is as instructive as it is inspiring.

If you've been looking for proof of legal innovation in different types and sizes of legal businesses – **STOP, GO NO FURTHER** – we have fabulous videos and podcasts for you!

Here's what you missed since the last Newsletter:

- [Catherine O'Connell Law](#) - a fabulous legal business journey that started in the southern hemisphere and moved way north. Catherine is human dynamo and a New Zealand foreign lawyer living and working in her own firm in Tokyo: [Watch Now Listen Now](#)

- [Lacuna Legal Providers \(LLP\)](#) – an innovative legal outsourcing business for lawyers who need support with their business and operational services. LLP is based on a flexible and transparent subscription model for a fixed fee on a month to month basis as needed: [Watch Now](#) [Listen Now](#)



CLI Distinguished Fellow, [Sam Burrett](#) wrapped up his year-long Fellowship with a fabulous three part series on ***A quick guide to purchasing legal technology in 2021*** – you'll definitely want to read all the parts: Stage 1: Preparation [Read Now](#); Stage 2: Evaluation [Read Now](#); and Stage 3: Implementation [Read Now](#).

If you're looking for virtual demos of legaltech, don't forget our [Legal Techy Tuesday Series](#) – you can catch a couple of great sessions in replay:

- [Rulestar](#): no-code automation platform that enables law firms to automate complex documents easily [Watch Now](#)
- [Dazychain](#): legal ops management software which focuses on helping in-house legal work better together [Watch Now](#)

And...there's also still time to register for the [StructureFlow](#) Virtual Demo on 19 October @ 4pm – 5pm AEDT [here](#). Designed specifically for the visual modelling of legal and corporate structures, transactions, and related processes, **StructureFlow** enables rapid creation of visualisations to help people explain and understand complexity – this is going to be a fascinating session.

We also dipped a toe into water to hear about what's happening in legaltech and innovation in the UK - there's a lot! Do tune into this amazing discussion with the always wonderful [Christina Blacklaws](#), Managing Director, [Blacklaws Consulting](#) and former President of the [Law Society of England & Wales: TLPS Podcast – Episode 79 – Legal innovation, tech and practice in the UK – Making different the new norm?](#)

Finally on all things tech, don't forget this month brings to a close our popular [Digital Literacy Series: Automation Mini Series](#), Episodes 5-7 are coming up in October:

- Episode 5 – They all just look like tools to me – How to choose a solution – 1 October @ 1pm – 2pm AEST [Register Now](#)
- Episode 6 – Legal workflow automation and data deep dive – 11 October @ 1pm – 2pm AEDT [Register Now](#)
- Episode 7 – Lessons learned about automation and what's to come? – 26 October @ 4pm – 5pm AEDT [Register Now](#)

If you haven't had a chance to view or listen to Episodes 1-4, you'll find the videos and podcasts [here](#).



Legal education is being redefined in just about every place it's happening – law schools, law firms, in-house legal departments, and legal education consultancies. Like the legal ecosystem itself, legal education is in transition.

The traditional silos of academic, vocation and continuing legal education are being challenged and restructured. How we learn, who needs to learn, what they need to learn, why they need to learn, when and from whom, has changed. It's exciting, new, different,

and digital – just like the capabilities needed by lawyers and allied professionals in contemporary legal practice.

So, we thought it was time to make our **Disrupting Legal Education Series** “official” and chat about all of this – we launched the series this month! We’ve also added a LinkedIn Disrupting Legal Education public group to keep the conversations going – we would love you to join – you’ll find it [here](#).

Here’s some of the chats we’ve had so far...

- [TLPS Podcast – Episode 83 – Taking on demand legal learning to a whole new stratosphere – Skillburst Interactive!](#)
- [TLPS Podcast – Episode 84 – Legal Learning Done Digital – Hotshot](#)
- [TLPS Podcast – Episode 87 – From alternative mainstream legal careers in innovation & legaltech at Addleshaw Goddard \(UK\)](#)



A quick reminder that LP Lab Membership is FREE. You’ll find details and the Application Form [here](#) or contact us: LPLab@collaw.edu.au

Don’t forget to also check out the [Lab’s seven Special Interest Groups](#) – they’re a great way to dive into those things that are most relevant to you or of most interest, connect with others working in these spaces, learn and share experience too.

In 2021, we’re focussing on three SIGs and here is what is coming up or sessions you can catch up on in each if you missed them live:

- **Innovation and Legal Ops Leaders SIG: How to select your innovation project** – [Watch Now](#) [Listen Now](#)
- **Women Legalpreneurs SIG Series: How to choose the right tech for your new digital legal business** [Watch Now](#) [Listen Now](#)
- **Young Legalpreneurs SIG:**
 - **Legal Project Management Foundations: How to deliver legal work in real-world scenarios** 18 October @ 1pm – 2pm AEDT [Register Now](#)
 - **Young Legalpreneurs SIG Launch – Building the Next Legal Practice – Yes, YOU Can!** [Listen Now](#)



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