AGM Report – Social Justice

# The Social Justice Team

**Vice-President**: Nila Norbu

**Directors**: Brianna Woodhead and Annika Reynolds

**First Year Representative**: Vy Tsan

# Outline

1. Social Justice Mentoring Program
2. Law in Action: Cambodia Initiative
3. Women in Law Breakfast
4. LGBTIQ\* Q&A Panel
5. LRSJ Collaboration
6. Future events

## Social Justice Mentoring Program

This is only the second year we are running the Social Justice Mentoring Program. Early in the year we looked to re-define the scope and objectives of the program. We did this by drawing on the feedback we received from both mentors and mentees at the end of the 2018 program. We also had some preliminary discussions with WILO who runs a very successful mentoring program. Upon reflection we decided to expand the program to include people working outside of academia. We reached out to a number of community legal centres and legal aid.

This year we have 13 mentor-mentee partnerships. This is slightly larger than last year. We retained a number of mentors from last year as well which is fantastic! A smaller number of students applied this year (~25 people as opposed to 45 last year). This is likely due to a number of mentoring programs similar to this one being advertised at the same time (ie. ILS mentoring, WILO mentoring etc). We also offered the option for students to set up their own mentoring partnership that we offered to facilitate (ie. They will be invited to and included in all our social mingling events for the program and there is a sort of structure their partnership can follow).

We hosted a meet and greet to ensure all mentors and mentees had the opportunity to meet. In Term 3, we will host another mingling event to ensure all partnerships are meeting their goals.

## Law in Action: Cambodia Initiative

This year there was a significant increase in the number of applicants for the Cambodia Initiative compared to last year – this is likely due to us advertising the possibility of it falling under the College of Law ‘shelf course’ program. Unfortunately, Jo Ford and Anne MacDuff later clarified that the initiative would require a number of significant changes to become a shelf course. The Social Justice Team with the help of Rocky decided that the changes needed to be made would take away a huge part of the Initiative and considering there are no other programs quite like the LSS Law in Action one we wanted to keep it the way it is and therefore it will not be a shelf course. All team members are aware and had the option to reconsider their decision to be a part of the initiative since we found out it could not be a course.

Once again we kept the group small as we found it worked better for team dynamics in 2018. The team has 11 members with 3 of those members being part of the formal subcommittee known as the organising committee. Both the wider Cambodia team and the organising committee will be closely supported by the SJ portfolio. This continuous, supportive relationship is crucial to the success of the trip. It is also incredibly useful that half of the SJ portfolio has been on the trip. We are working to create a “Cambodia Guide” for future teams so the success of the trip does not rely on the expertise and experience of the SJ portfolio having been on the team.

## Women in Law Breakfast

This was a hit!!!! Despite initial concerns that we would not have enough numbers we ended up with about 60 people attending the annual breakfast sponsored by Clayton Utz at Uni House on a rainy Monday morning. We were honoured to have Chief Justice Helen Murrell speak for us – she was fantastic and her associates were lovely. Throughout the event the CJ and her associates went around to all the tables to mingle with students. Focus of her speech was on resilience through all walks of life. Feedback was very positive!

We had some issues with Uni House catering and will take this into consideration the next time we decide to hold an event there.

## LGBTIQ\* Q&A Panel

We steered away from previous years where there was a very defined theme. The public was able to ask questions prior to the event and we went mostly off those questions. Discussion surrounded the way the justice system (law enforcement, correctional services and legal system) treats LGBTIQ\* people and future law reform that still needs to happen. Nicholas Stewart, Steph Lum and Rebecca Minty were our speakers and Annika Reynolds mediated. Unfortunately, the event did not get a large turnout with only 20 people showing up. This is likely due to a much smaller push in advertising and a number of clashing events on at the same time. The venue was the new Fellow Theatre. This was a nice space and we used the couches from the foyer to keep it nice and intimate. Catering was done by Dobinson’s and was delicious. Huge thanks to Clayton Utz who once again sponsored this event.

## LRSJ Collaboration

The SJ team has been in talks all year with LRSJ to see where we can collaborate as our goals are quite similar. At this point, we have not formally defined anything but have been receiving recommendations for things such as mentors and possible careers people to invite to our SJ Careers panel next semester. By the end of the year we are hoping to have something formal set up so that the SJ teams in years to come can understand where they fit into the SJ space at ANU.

## Future Events

Next semester we have Social Justice Careers Panel with the Careers team and Social Justice Dinner. We are hoping to get a SJ Careers speakers from our mentoring program and really diversify the Panel as last years was relatively unengaging. At the end of the year we have SJ Dinner and are hoping for the theme to surround freedom of speech and it might even spill into security a little (which will give us a bigger turnout hopefully!). Venue is currently undecided as we are unsure if we’d like to go with Uni House again. SJ Dinner will also act as a celebratory event for the Mentoring Program and we are hoping the mentor-mentee partnerships will come along!

We are also keen to do a movie screening through ANU Film Group which would include a discussion and mingling with professionals afterwards. If this goes ahead it is likely that we will also use this event to raise funds for Cambodian NGOs.