

## **POSTGRADUATE STUDENT ELECTIONS 2011 CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

### **Anthony Hill (Faculty Board)**

The students of Monash University Law School are both diverse with a multitude of talent. Every student is different however there are many common goals amongst us of studying law. The experience from law school should be one that remains constant through every career path.

Whilst some persons find their niche, some wander campus searching to fill their void. Greater emphases on extra-curricular and career events is needed to support students in the right direction. Structured career grouping and communication amongst students across all campuses can benefit every student at law school. There is a geographical inconvenience between the campuses and particularly between the city campus and others. It has been suggested that a maturity distinction has also emerged from the postgraduate campus and others.

The need for a city campus society has been mentioned and I with fellow students will see it happen.

In order to appreciate and action these issues, knowledge of the inner workings of Monash University Law School as a business is required. My businesses experiences are diverse and have been stretched locally and abroad. Over the past eight years I have held a board position and representing Australian Snowsports nationally and internationally.

My fundamental yearn is that our law school remains dominant in the industry to ensure the career paths of the students.

### **Sana Malik (Faculty Board, Postgraduate Studies Committee and Equity and Diversity Committee)**

My name is Sana and I am in my first year of the Monash JD program, prior to this I completed my undergraduate degree in Arts at Monash with a major in Criminology and a minor in Comparative Literature. My studies in Criminology and work experience in the law were what interested me in pursuing a Law degree, and part of this inspiration was to make a difference in the lives of marginalised communities.

I have had the honour of being on the Equity and Diversity Committee for the 2010 term and I have thoroughly enjoyed this. It has given me the opportunity to work with other Committee members in raising awareness in areas including encouraging VCE students from low socio economic backgrounds to consider University, embracing diversity at Monash through cultural celebrations and Mental Health Week.

I am particularly interested in giving a voice to women and minority groups, and I hope that by being a member of the Equity and Diversity committee I can continue to work towards this. I also hope that as a first generation Australian, my input as a member will inspire students and others to participate and represent diverse community backgrounds.

I strongly believe that this can be achieved through career advancement for women and diverse groups that strive towards a common goal of achieving equity outcomes.

### **Jane Maginness (Faculty Board and Postgraduate Studies Committee)**

As Law Board Committee representative, I will improve the services available to students studying the JD at the Monash University Law Chambers (MULC). This will include:

- Improving communication between the MULC and the Monash Clayton Law campus. This will incorporate raising awareness of facilities available on the Clayton campus such as career advisors.
- A Secondhand Textbook Exchange for JD students to purchase and sell used textbooks at the start of the trimesters, as opposed to the semester based system which is already in place for LLB students. Concurrently, implement an earlier release of book lists to provide an opportunity for JD students to participate in the current semester system.
- An increase in career seminars held in the MULC after hours. This will provide JD students, many of whom are unable to attend the daytime Clayton seminars, with access to important career information.
- A Student Tutorial Service for top performing past students to tutor current students. This will enable students to revise course material and learn the best study techniques directly from their peers.
- Establishment of a uniform approach to assessment, particularly with regard to word count.

## **Sandeep Varma**

I am a JD student seeking to represent my fellow postgraduate students.

I have a strong understanding of university dynamics and have participated as a board member and manager in a number of professional and volunteer organisations. My background is in communications, media and crisis management, and I have a bachelor degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters degree from the University of Melbourne.

Since graduating from my Masters I have worked as the media manager of Australian Catholic University and the media and community engagement manager at the Red Cross. These experiences have given me an insight into community development, university representative bodies, issues advocacy and inclusive organisational marketing.

I believe the university needs to hear our issues, be inclusive of the diverse student body, place an emphasis on communication, support us with flexibility and recognise the many unique issues that postgraduate students face while trying to balance all the parts of their lives. My focus on the committee will be to build a strong community of postgraduate students, who are supported by each other and the university over the course of their degree.