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Australian Young Lawyer Awards

An innovative Victorian-based program designed to connect and support early career lawyers and a Western Australian lawyer improving access to justice within her community, across the country, and around the world, took home top honours at last night's Australian Young Lawyer Awards ceremony in Brisbane.

"Each year the nominees for the Australian Young Lawyer Awards inspire and impress. Our profession is in very good hands," Law Council of Australia President, Dr Jacoba Brasch QC said.

The 2021 Australian Young Lawyer of the Year is Kendra Turner.

Kendra was admitted to practice in December 2020. She is a member of Corrs Chambers Westgarth's national Diversity and Inclusion program, through which she has presented locally and nationally on the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Kendra is a Management Committee Member of the Society of African Australian Lawyers Inc., a not-for-profit which she helped launch and which aims to improve access to justice in Western Australia, particularly within the African community. She has also worked with the youth-run Indigenous Communities Education and Awareness Foundation and undertaken a secondment to the Aboriginal Legal Services of WA, assisting lawyers in its Civil and Human Rights team.

In addition, Kendra has volunteered at national and international not-for-profit organisations, including the Women's Legal Service WA, Tenancy WA, and Legal Aid Cambodia.

The 2021 Organisation Award was presented to LIV Young Lawyers (YL). LIV YL was recognised for its 'Young Lawyers Bootcamp 2021'.

The Young Lawyers Bootcamp was held for the first time this year and was designed to address a gap in the support of students from legal study through to practice. It was delivered virtually using interactive technologies. Over 1,000 people registered across four workshops covering topics including Study and Practice of Law and Reading and Understanding the Law. The Bootcamp highlighted that law students graduate with multiple skills and encouraged lateral thinking on how to use their learning in all expressions of legal practice, including in legal technology, policy, government and education roles.

"Congratulations to Kendra, LIV YL and all the nominees," Dr Brasch praised. "The contributions you have all already made, and I know you will continue to make to our profession and community, fill me with confidence for the future."

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