

Legal body outlines 2017 agenda

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The new president of the Queensland Law Society has highlighted the legal body's goals to ensure an "exciting and prosperous 2017".

Newly elected president Christine Smyth (pictured) has released a welcome message to the legal profession, outlining her agenda for the Queensland Law Society's year ahead.



"QLS is a proud and dynamic membership organisation with a diverse membership of more than 10,000, and growing. It is the peak thought leader and voice, speaking both to and for the legal profession in Queensland and nationally," Ms Smyth said.

"As your 2017 president, I will continue the two-year platform I promulgated as deputy president last year, ensuring QLS remains a strong voice.

"I see my role as being a balanced and passionate advocate on behalf of Queensland solicitors with the support of the dedicated QLS team. Together, we will champion good law, good lawyers and good leadership."

Ms Smyth said she intends to continue some of the main objectives set by former president Bill Potts.

"Over the years, I have served on council, I have worked with immediate past president Bill Potts to ensure QLS fulfills its core objectives of representing members, defending the rule of law and the independence and integrity of the court system," she said.

"My objectives remain advancing our members' interests through advocacy, policy, professional standards and innovation, while respecting and promoting tradition, diversity and inclusivity.

"One of the themes of my presidency is to focus on the future of the legal profession, in an environment where technological advancements have seen the emergence of artificial intelligence resulting in new and diverse business models."

Overall, Ms Smyth said she is optimistic about what lies ahead for the legal profession in 2017.

"I am optimistic for the future and enthusiastic, safe in the knowledge our profession has the skills and talent to embrace these challenges, and to evolve and thrive," she said.

"I am here to serve your interests, confront these challenges and nurture QLS as the genuine membership organisation for all Queensland solicitors. This is regardless of area of practice, stage of career or region.

"I am looking forward to the year ahead – in particular working with you, our valued members, to meet the challenges that confront us and to celebrate our contribution to society and our achievements. I welcome your feedback."

In her new role, Ms Smyth becomes the fifth female and first Gold Coast woman lawyer to be appointed president of the Queensland Law Society.



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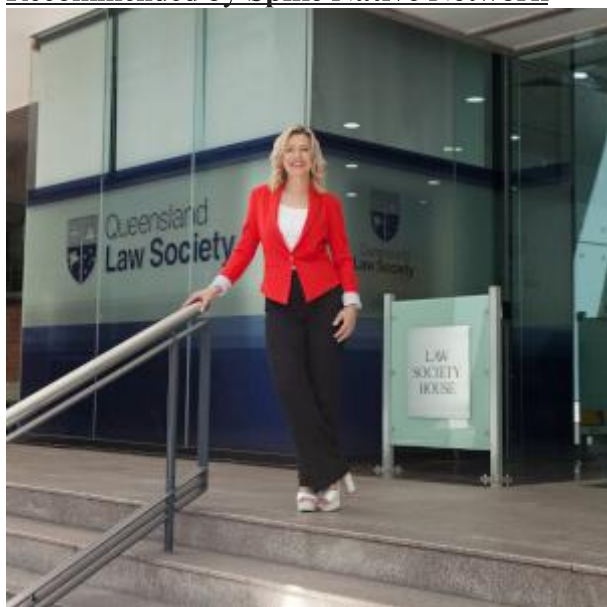
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