



2010 CHILDREN'S LAW AWARDS

Promoting the Rights of Children and Young People

Nomination Form

The National Children's and Youth Law Centre is seeking nominations for the 2010 Children's Law Awards to be presented during National Youth Week (10-18 April) 2010. The 2010 Children's Law Awards recognise the achievements and commitment of those individuals and organisations who advance the legal rights and interests of children and young people across Australia.

The Awards aim to effect real and lasting change for children, and to ensure that children, one of the most vulnerable groups in our society, receive the best possible start to life. The November 2008 Wood Inquiry recognised that "real issues arise in relation to the processes by which significant decisions about the lives of children and young persons are made."¹ Children and young people are not always adequately protected by the substantive law that exists in relation to children and the legal processes in family law and the Children's Court. Over the last 10 years, the number of children found to be at risk of abuse or neglect, and children under care and protection orders has continued to rise nationally.²

The Awards highlight the important legal issues in the area of children and young people and serve as a means to focus the Australian community on the need to continually promote and advocate for children's legal rights. The Awards themselves recognise that the tireless efforts of those who work to represent, advocate for, and raise awareness of children's legal rights are worthy of public recognition and support.

The Children's Law Awards were last presented by the National Children's and Youth Law Centre (NCYLC) in 2002. The awards will be held biannually from 2010.

**For further information contact Jane Timbs on
(02) 9296 3144 or jane.timbs@malleasons.com**

Award criteria

Nominations are open to the public in the following categories

The National Award for Outstanding Legal Representation of the Rights and Interests of Children and Young People

This Award is presented to **ONE** organisation or individual that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the legal representation of children and young people in striving to promote their legal rights and interests within Australia.

Nominations must address the following selection criteria:

Outstanding dedication and commitment to the legal representation within Australia of the rights and interests of children and young people

How did the Nominee demonstrate exceptional dedication and commitment, beyond the call of duty, to the legal representation of children and young people within Australia? This may have been demonstrated by representative work performed over many years or, alternatively, a single legal representation that has been noteworthy.

The significance of the legal representation for children or young people

Were there any pressing circumstances that meant the legal representation of the children or young people was particularly required (for example, the nature of the offence that a child or young person was charged with)?

The unique or exceptional nature of the legal representation

Were there any circumstances surrounding the legal representation that make it particularly challenging or exceptional?

Any positive outcome or influence that was achieved

What positive outcomes were achieved as a result of the legal representation or what was the influential affect that the legal representation had?

The National Award for Outstanding Contribution to Policy or Law Reform to Advance the Legal Rights and Interests of Children and Young People

This Award is presented to **ONE** organisation or individual that demonstrates an exceptional contribution in policy or law reform in order to advance the legal rights and interests of children and young people in Australia.

Nominations must address the following selection criteria:

Outstanding dedication and commitment to the legal rights and interests of children and young people in Australian policy or law reform

How does the Nominee demonstrate tireless dedication and commitment to the advocacy of the legal rights and interests of children and young people in the areas of Australian policy or law reform? This may be demonstrated by commitment over a longer period of time or for a single noteworthy activity.

The significance of the issues that the contribution sought to address

How were the issues that the Nominee sought to address or raise awareness about significant?

The unique or exceptional nature of the contribution

Were there any circumstances surrounding the contribution itself that make it particularly challenging or exceptional?

Any positive reform outcome or influence that was achieved

What positive reform outcomes were achieved as a result of the contribution or was there any influential affect that the advocacy had?

The Media Award for Raising Awareness of Important Children's Legal Rights Issues

This Award is presented to **ONE** individual or organisation that has shown exceptional dedication and commitment in striving to raise awareness of important children's legal rights issues in Australia.

Nominations must address the following selection criteria:

Outstanding dedication and commitment to increasing awareness of issues concerning the legal rights and interests of children and young people within Australia

How does the Nominee demonstrate an exceptional dedication and commitment to increasing awareness of issues concerning the legal rights and interests of children and young people within Australia? This may have been demonstrated by media work performed over many years or, alternatively, a single media piece that has been especially noteworthy.

The significance of the issues that the expose, report or documentary sought to address

How were the issues that the Nominee sought to address or raise awareness about significant?

The unique or exceptional nature of the expose, report or documentary in highlighting the legal rights and interests of children and young people

What circumstances surrounding the making or the contents of the media piece (whether it be an expose, report or documentary) make it particularly extraordinary or exceptional?

Any positive outcome or influence that was achieved

What positive reform outcome was achieved as a result of the media piece or was there any influential affect that the media piece had.

Award conditions

- (a) The closing date for nominations is Friday 19 February 2010.
- (b) Nominations must be entered by completing the attached form. Additional nomination forms can be downloaded from the NCYLC website at www.ncylc.org.au.
- (c) Nominees must be nominated by a Nominator. Nominees cannot nominate themselves for an award under any of the categories.
- (d) The National Children's and Youth Law Centre and Mallesons Stephen Jaques, including staff and Board members, may not nominate or be nominated for an award.
- (e) The judging panel's decision is final and no correspondence concerning their decision will be entered into.
- (f) The judging panel will announce nominees that have been shortlisted for an award in March 2010.
- (g) The judges' decision will be announced at the 2010 Children's Law Awards Presentation during Youth Week (10-18 April) 2010.
- (h) The National Children's and Youth Law Centre and Mallesons Stephen Jaques reserve the right to accept, decline, progress, withdraw or otherwise deal with any nominations as they see fit upon submission.

Timeline

Nominations for Awards open	Early December 2009
Nominations for Awards close	Friday 19 February 2010
Award presentation	Between 10-18 April 2010 (date to be confirmed)

2010 Children's Law Awards Nomination Form

Please review the "Award Conditions" on page 4 before completing and submitting a nomination form.

You are reminded that you cannot nominate yourself for an award under any award category.

Please tick which Award/s you wish to nominate for.

- The National Award for Outstanding Legal Representation of the Rights and Interests of Children and Young People**
- The National Award for Outstanding Contribution to Policy or Law Reform to Advance the Legal Rights and Interests of Children and Young People**
- The Media Award for Raising Awareness of Important Children's Legal Rights Issues**

Nominator details	
Name	
Address	
Email	
Phone	(Work) (Home)
Position	
Organisation	
Relationship to Nominee ("Relationship" means how you know the Nominee)	
Nominee details	
Name 1	
Address	
Email	
Phone	(Work) (Home)
Position	
Organisation	
Name 2	
Address	
Email	
Phone	(Work) (Home)
Position	
Organisation	

Referee details	Two referees are required for each nomination and these will be contacted in March 2010. Please ensure that your referees are aware of your nomination and are available to provide information about the nominee.	
Name 1		
Address		
Email		
Phone	(Work)	(Home)
Position		
Organisation		
Name 2		
Address		
Email		
Phone	(Work)	(Home)
Position		
Organisation		
Completed forms should be sent to: The National Children's and Youth Law Centre, Law Building, First Floor, University of New South Wales 2052.		

Statement addressing Award criteria

Please explain in 400 words or less how your nominee fulfils the relevant selection criteria.

I have read and understood the criteria and conditions of the 2010 Children's Law Awards.

Signed (Nominator)

Date

____ / ____ / ____

Presented by

the National Children's and Youth Law Centre and Mallesons Stephen Jaques



MALLESONS STEPHEN JAQUES

PARTNERS OF THE 2010 CHILDREN'S LAW AWARDS



The National Children's and Youth Law Centre

The National Children's and Youth Law Centre is an Australia-wide Community Legal Centre that focuses on addressing human right issues for children and young people through legal change.

The NCYLC was established in 1993 and works with the legal and justice systems in three core areas:

- public advocacy for the rights of children and young people, including lobbying governments and decision-making bodies to apply the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- education of children and young people through advice and information services including "Lawmail", an email information and referral service, and "LawStuff" an online legal information service aimed at children and young people; and
- projects designed to raise community awareness of children's rights and legal issues. These are aimed at children and young people, governments, advocates, educators and employers.

www.ncylc.org.au

MALLESONS STEPHEN JAQUES

Mallesons Stephen Jaques

Mallesons has worked with NCYLC as a community partner since 2001 in support of its overall capacity and mission, and with a number of its core legal information and advice services.

www.mallesons.com

Supporter of the 2010 Children's Law Awards

