

# UWA Law School Dean's Circle Impact Report

**Thank  
you**







# You are helping to shape our future

Launched in November 2019, the UWA Law School Dean's Circle was established to encourage and celebrate philanthropy at the Law School. Your generous support is already having a tremendous impact on our students. The COVID-19 crisis placed many students in significant financial need. Because of you, we have been able to provide crucial scholarship and emergency fund assistance, as well as wellbeing and emotional support during this challenging time.

This report highlights how your support is encouraging our students to believe in themselves and become the leaders of tomorrow. Your support of the Law School Strategic Fund, student scholarships, prizes and research has had an incredible impact and we are pleased to share some of these stories with you today.

# Scholarships provide much needed financial assistance

## McCusker Law Scholarship and inaugural recipient Megan Menon

Budding young lawyer Megan Menon is the inaugural recipient of this scholarship, established by the McCusker Charitable Foundation to support high achieving students experiencing difficult circumstances to complete a Juris Doctor at UWA. “This scholarship will alleviate a lot of financial stress and allow me to commit more time to my studies. I love what the law can offer people. Ultimately I would like to work somewhere that gives me the opportunity to give back to the community.”

Denis Reynolds, Director of the McCusker Charitable Foundation, said the Foundation was delighted to have Megan as the inaugural recipient of the scholarship.



Megan Menon attending her graduation in 2019.

“We look forward to being involved and helping her achieve her goal to qualify as a lawyer and pursue justice and equity in our community.”



## Ken Hatfield QC's legacy lives on through the K W Hatfield QC Memorial Scholarship and the K W Hatfield QC Prize in Law

The late Ken Hatfield QC was a leading silk in the Perth law fraternity during the 60s. Upon his passing in 1969, his friends and colleagues set up a fund in his memory. Ken had friends in many walks of life, rich and poor, who mourned his loss and wanted to see his name perpetuated and honoured in a form that would reach students of the profession he loved and served so well.

Today, the K W Hatfield QC Memorial Scholarship supports law students experiencing financial hardship. In 2018 Ken's daughter, Jill Murdoch made a generous contribution to the fund, ensuring Ken's legacy continues in perpetuity at UWA.

2020 K W Hatfield Memorial Scholarship recipient, Emma Bolton said, "Throughout my studies, I have had to balance working, studying and extra-curricular activities and this scholarship will be of great assistance to me, especially in this current climate." In her spare time, Emma volunteers at the Employment Law Centre, where she helps on the advice line, and drafts research memoranda.

The generous gift from Jill also enabled the creation of the K W Hatfield QC Prize in Law, which is awarded to the student with the highest mark in Constitutional Law. Inaugural recipient Helena Nguyen said, "I found the unit to be a rewarding experience and the winning of this award has provided me with the extra motivation for my final year. Thank you for your generosity."



Emma Bolton, 2020 K W Hatfield Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Jill Murdoch said, "It is truly heartfelt to see my father's memory live on through the recipients of the K W Hatfield QC scholarship and prize. As a family we feel privileged and honoured to support the next generation of promising young lawyers, and I have no doubt that my father would have been extremely proud to have his name associated with these talented young students".

## Establishment of the UWA Law School Dean's Circle Juris Doctor Scholarships

With support from the Law School Strategic Fund, we are pleased to announce the creation of three new scholarships to enable high achieving students experiencing financial hardship, or other significant barriers, to commence the Juris Doctor. These scholarships will be available to our 2021-commencing cohort and we look forward to introducing you to the inaugural recipients in the next report.

### Other Dean's Circle donor funded scholarships providing vital support to students

- Anna & Nicoletta Ciffolilli Scholarship for Women in Law
- JD Scholarship for the Promotion of Social Justice
- Melvin Yeo Jessup Moot Scholarship
- Paul Bendat Memorial Indigenous Scholarship in Law
- The Honourable Serge Ferrier Family Law Bursary





# Prizes encourage our students to excel



2019 recipient of the Adjunct Professor, Dr Brett Davies Prize in Taxation, Ben Fourneau

Prizes are awarded annually to recognise outstanding academic achievement. The UWA Law School continues a proud tradition of preparing students for careers in the law and other areas. The quality of our students has contributed significantly to the reputation and enviable record of success our graduates have enjoyed both in Australia and overseas.

Established by long-term supporter of the UWA Law School, and founding Dean's Circle member, Adjunct Professor Brett Davies, the Adjunct Professor, Dr Brett Davies Prize in Taxation is awarded to the highest achieving student in Advanced Australian International Taxation. Ben Fourneau, a Graduate Diploma in Taxation student was the 2019 recipient.

Ben, a Senior Analyst in the Business Tax Advisory team at Deloitte in Perth said in his thank you message to Professor Davies, "Your sponsorship of this award will certainly assist me in developing my skills further, as I now have a greater financial capacity to invest in my ongoing education".

Professor Davies said, "Never before have our law students been faced with such challenges due to the continuing worldwide pandemic. Supporting exceptional students like Ben is a meaningful way I can contribute and ensure opportunities exist for the leaders of tomorrow. I am proud to give back to the profession and Law School that have given me so much."



## Emergency Support Fund provides relief in time of crisis

The current pandemic has turned all of our lives upside down and our students are no exception. Many, and particularly those from overseas, have been in need of financial assistance to secure basic necessities following the loss of employment income opportunities. Some have had to navigate new issues including prolonged separation from family and loved ones, housing and rent, Centrelink and securing remote IT support.

In response to this, and thanks to your generosity, the UWA Law School has provided emergency funding for students to deliver immediate relief through hardship grants, welfare packs, and IT equipment to enable remote learning and connectivity. In addition to financial support, our alumni generously gifted their time to provide pro bono legal advice to students across UWA in need of assistance.



“Thank you for your generous donations. As an international student, this was the only financial support I was able to receive. It allowed me to push through a challenging semester and stay on track for my expected graduation next year. I am forever grateful!”



## Our students say 'thank you' and share how your support has helped them through this difficult time.

"During this difficult period all over the world, your support made me feel the warmth. I am a stranger to you, but you still helped me, an international student who lived in Australia and suffered from COVID-19. I flew to Sydney to check my health in March due to physical problems and being nervous of the virus. Then, Australia announced the interstate travel restrictions, and I could not return to Perth. This grant eased my financial difficulties [in Sydney] so that I could focus more on my studies and research. I appreciate it."

"Receiving support from the Emergency Support Fund was incredible and helped me to be able to afford to continue my post graduate degree at UWA. It has been a massive help to be able to afford course textbooks, study supplies, transport to university and other study expenses. It has been a lifesaver and I am so grateful for the support!"

Note: Student names withheld for privacy reasons.



"I am very grateful for the support which I desperately needed to continue my study. Without the support I would not have had the ability to buy and access the resources needed to advance in my course. I hope from the support I received to find myself in a position in the future where I can help in the same way I was helped by the generous donors."





# Transforming space, transforming lives

## Library update

The Beasley Law Library is a bright and modern space providing a comfortable and functional learning environment for student research, study or collaboration.

Areas have been equipped to function with technological devices, and the library provides access to a wide range of specialised databases and an impressive collection of law journals and articles.

Named after the first Chair of Law at UWA, Professor Frank Beasley, the library first opened in 1967. Philanthropy made possible a partial refurbishment of the ground floor, which will be completed following further works this summer.

These exciting improvements, which are benefiting students, staff, and our welcomed visitors, would not have been possible without the generous support from our donors.

# Transforming space, transforming lives



## Law School Courtyard enhancement

The Law Courtyard, in the heart of the Law Precinct, is central to many of our students' experiences while they are learning with us. The peaceful and green surrounds and iconic fountain are home to several events across the year, including the annual Blackstone Courtyard show, R U OK? Day BBQ and daily table tennis tournaments. The courtyard is also home to several artworks by Dr Richard Walley OAM, reminding us that we are situated on Whadjuk Boodjar where law has been practiced for thousands of years. Continued enhancements ensure this important space for social connection will remain a welcoming, comfortable, and safe place for many years to come.



# UWA Law School

## Dean's Circle Members

Liz Bedford-Brown

Bendat Family Foundation

Sarah Beshar

Anna Ciffolilli

Nicoletta Ciffolilli

Rick Crabb

Brett Davies

Liam Elphick

Evi Ferrier

Bruno Fiannaca

Graham Laitt

Joe Longo and Mary-Eileen Scanlan

Malcolm McCusker (Patron)

McCusker Charitable Foundation

Jill Murdoch

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