

Advancing
 Better government
 Sustainable economies
 Vibrant communities

Law's Role?



Annual Conference of the Australasian Law Teachers Association (ALTA)

Call for Papers

Deadline to submit abstracts: 21 March 2016

Conference date: 11am Thursday 7 July 2016 to 1pm Saturday 9 July 2016

Proudly hosted by Victoria University of Wellington's Faculty of Law, New Zealand

The 2016 ALTA Conference organising committee invites law teachers and scholars at all stages of their careers as well as practitioners and government officials from Australasia and beyond to submit paper proposals on the following theme or any elements thereof for consideration.

Advancing Better Government, Sustainable Economies, Vibrant Communities ...

Law teachers and scholars play a critical role in developing and empowering new graduates to play a responsible, meaningful and influential part in improving our societies. The same applies to practitioners and government advisers when taking under their wings new lawyers. It is also important for lawyers, law teachers and scholars, whatever their area of interest and specialisation, to ensure their research and work is purposeful and forward-looking and that they understand the relationship between public power, the state and the citizens.

... Law's Role?

Challenging the role of law invites us to look at ourselves in the mirror: what represents a modern and diverse society, a strong and sustainable economy, a better government? What is the role of lawyers and legal scholars in building the future, in promoting law reform? How can law better enable economic outcomes that benefit the communities it serves or should it be concerned with such outcomes at all? What is the relationship between legal and non-legal forms of regulation? How should we evaluate the quality and efficacy of legal regulation and what sorts of evaluative insights should we gather about such legal intervention? How adjustable should law be and, if it is too adjustable or flexible, what does that mean for legitimacy and the authorising environment for law? What do citizens, clients, victims expect from those who articulate, teach, practise or develop the law? Has the time come for more effective recognition of different legal traditions (including indigenous law) in teaching, practice and development of law?

Shaping, developing and questioning law's role can be addressed from various viewpoints while resonating across all sectors (academia, private, public, NGOs). A number of important sub-themes can be addressed in this regard.

Submitters of abstracts can choose how to address sub-themes or elements thereof but the exercise may produce or draw insights on any of the following areas too:

- **Integrity**

Integrity is critical in teaching and research as well as in the profession and in government. It can be considered through codes of conduct or practice; development of corporate values; identification and management of conflicts of interest; sound reasoning and lawyering processes; use of technology and avoidance of its abuse and of plagiarism; recognition and avoidance of abuse of power; etc.

- **Adaptability**

It is important for lawyers and scholars to adapt to, and embrace, our evolving environment, notably as regards new technologies, the reality of multicultural and multidisciplinary settings, and career changes.

- **Complexity**

Practitioners, government lawyers, law teachers and scholars must navigate an increasingly complex environment where everything comes under scrutiny; where traditional media and new forms of social media, as well as perceptions, can have an instantaneous impact on our and other's lives, both private and professional.

Submissions

All submissions are welcome but those from ALTA members will be given preference. Submitters wishing their proposal to be considered as part of one or more particular ALTA Interest Group(s) should indicate this clearly. Notwithstanding this option, the organising committee reserves the right to allocate accepted proposals to panels according to subject areas.

Notifications

The organising committee will notify acceptance of proposals by late March 2016. All presenters will be required to register for the conference by **10 May 2016** to be included in the conference programme.

Best Paper Awards

For accepted papers to be considered for Best Overall Conference Paper, Best Early Career Academic Conference Paper or Best Legal Education Conference Paper, the full paper must be submitted by **10 June 2016**. Results will be announced during the conference.

Process and Dates

Submissions (by email only) must include:

- 1) Full name
- 2) Affiliation
- 3) Title and abstract of the proposed paper (up to 300 words)
- 4) Brief biographical note (up to 150 words)

Optional extra:

- 5) Indication in the email and attachment of one or more particular Interest Group(s) (by order of preference) is welcome but not compulsory.

Please send in an email attachment by Monday, **21 March 2016** for consideration by the 2016 ALTA Conference organising committee.

Email address

The email should be addressed to ALTA-2016@vuw.ac.nz, with the subject line "ALTA 2016 – Abstract [Name]".

Questions?

For further queries, please contact ALTA-2016@vuw.ac.nz
Website: www.victoria.ac.nz/alta-conference

2016: We look forward to you being a part of this special conference
www.victoria.ac.nz/alta-conference