

AusLSA: Green Initiative of the Year

AUSTRALIAN
LEGAL SECTOR
ALLIANCE

PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY

**Australian Legal Sector Alliance
News Release
5 November 2010**

The **Australian Legal Sector Alliance** (AusLSA) has been named the Green Initiative of the Year in the **Law Institute of Victoria** President's Awards of 2010. Melanie Szydzik, a Victorian barrister, was nominated for the award due to her integral role in the development and successful implementation of the AusLSA initiative.

AusLSA is an industry-led alliance of law firms who are working collaboratively to promote sustainability across the legal sector.

Ms Szydzik conceived the idea of developing 'Sustainability Principles' for law firms while studying at the **Centre for Sustainability Leadership**. This idea expanded into a national, sector-wide movement with the assistance of a number of legal colleagues and **Net Balance Foundation**, a not-for-profit sustainability organisation.

According to Ms Szydzik "AusLSA provides a mechanism for the profession to take an active leadership role on this important issue. Our particular focus is assisting firms to measure and manage their sustainability profiles, and to share their expertise and experiences with other firms."

Nine of Australia's leading law firms were invited to become Foundation Members of AusLSA to champion sustainability across the legal profession. These firms have developed and adopted the following set of Principles to which all AusLSA members will commit:

- Measure, manage and reduce the environmental impact of our operations
- Work with external stakeholders to reduce our indirect environmental impact
- Integrate awareness of sustainability across our business
- Work collaboratively to engage in the public debate on sustainability to develop, apply and promote best practice across the sector
- Report on our progress and be accountable

A suite of resources will help members fulfil their commitment to the AusLSA Principles and integrate sustainable policies into their legal practices. These resources will inform the development of best practice sustainability guidelines for the legal industry.

Ms Szydzik said: "I hope the award will raise the profile of the AusLSA. It is important to get the message out to the profession about new initiatives, like AusLSA, dealing with important issues such as sustainability."

Ms Szydzik is also President of the LIV's Young Lawyers Section, Chair of the LIV Green Practice Program and Treasurer of the International Commission of Jurists.

AusLSA is holding a Gala Launch Event in Sydney on 17 February, 2011 at which all Australian law firms will be encouraged to become AusLSA members and commit to improving the sustainability of their practices and the sector.

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AusLSA Foundation Membership

Clayton Utz - DLA Phillips Fox - Henry Davis York - Jackson McDonald - Maddocks,
Malesons Stephen Jaques - McCullough Robertson - Norton Rose - Swaab Attorneys