

Tom Yuncken

Australian Young Construction and Infrastructure Lawyer Award



Nominations close at 4:00 pm on Friday, 6 March 2026 AEST

About

Since 2008, the Construction and Infrastructure Law Committee of the Business Law Section of the Law Council of Australia has been conducting the Tom Yuncken Young Construction Lawyer Award (the **Award**). The Award was established in memory of Allens Arthur Robinson partner and construction lawyer Tom Yuncken, a former Chair of the Victorian Committee. In 2025, the name of the Award was updated to the "Tom Yuncken Australian Young Construction and Infrastructure Lawyer Award".

The Award is offered by the Business Law Section of the Law Council of Australia (**BLS**) and sponsored by the Society of Construction Law Australia (**SoCLA**). Thanks to the generous support of the BLS, the winner of the 2026 Award will receive \$2,500. SoCLA will also provide three finalists (including any winner) selected via the process outlined below with support towards attendance at the SoCLA National Conference in May 2026.

How to apply

Complete the Nomination Form set out below and lodge the Nomination Form and information required by the closing date (4:00 pm AEST on **Friday, 6 March 2026**) by email to:

Mr Owen Hayford
Chair, Construction and Infrastructure Law Committee, Business Law Section
owen.hayford@infralegal.com.au

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Eligibility

The Award is open to all Australian legal practitioners who are 10 years or less PQE at the date on which entries close who hold a valid practising certificate in the State or Territory in which they practise. Solicitors, barristers and in-house lawyers are all eligible and membership of professional associations is not essential.

Award criteria

- Demonstrated excellence in the provision of construction law services to clients and stakeholders.
- Academic and practical abilities in construction law.
- Contribution to the field and practice of construction law, including contributions as an author or speaker on construction law issues.
- Leadership attributes, including maturity, self-reliance and ethical behaviours.

These criteria will be applied holistically, with a view to selecting the best 'all round' candidate.

Award procedures

- Nominations received by the closing date will be assessed by a judging panel comprising current and retired judges and senior industry figures.
- The judging panel will make a recommendation to the Committee whether there is a suitable candidate to receive the Award based on the information provided in the nomination material. The panel may also indicate that certain candidates (including any winner) may be recognised as 'finalists'. The panel will have the right to conduct its processes as it sees fit, which may include a personal interview of a nominee or nominees in confidence.
- The decision of the Committee will be final.
- If a winner is decided upon, the Award will be presented at the SoCLA National Conference in 2026.

Information required in support of nomination

- The nominee's professional legal career CV (abbreviated version), with particular regard to construction law services.
- A declaration that the nominee is 10 years or less PQE as at 6 March 2026 and holds a valid practising certificate in the State or Territory in which they practise.
- Two written references: one professional and one academic/ personal.
- A statement of the area(s) of practice engaged in by the nominee and the nature of matters handled by the nominee.
- References to any published papers or other relevant scholarly contributions by the nominee in the field of construction law.
- The required information should not exceed 10 (A4) pages.

Queries

Mr Owen Hayford
Chair, Construction and Infrastructure Law Committee Business Law Section
owen.hayford@infralegal.com.au

Tom Yuncken Australian Young Construction and Infrastructure Lawyer Award Nomination Form 2026



Nominee

Name: _____
(Please print clearly)

Position/Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signed by Nominee: _____

Date: _____

Nominator (If not Nominee)

Name: _____
(Please print clearly)

Position/Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signed by Nominator: _____

Date: _____

Referees

Reference No.1 Name: _____
(Please print clearly)

Organisation: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Reference No.2 Name: _____
(Please print clearly)

Organisation: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Declaration

I declare that I am 10 years or less PQE as at 6 March 2026 and hold a valid practising certificate in [State or Territory in which nominee practises]

Signature of Nominee: _____

Closing date for nominations is 4.00pm (AEST) on **Friday, 6 March 2026.**