Migration Manager John Gibson AM award for the

2027 Young Australian Migration Lawyer Of The Year

Law Council OF AUSTRALIA

Federal Dispute Resolution Section

Nominations are now open and close 5:00 pm on Wednesday, 3 February 2027 and must be emailed to chelsea.desilva@lawcouncil.au.

John Gibson AM (1950-2012) was one of Australia's most admired advocates, working tirelessly to promote the rights of refugees and asylum seekers for over 25 years. John served as Refugee Council of Australia President between January 2006 and August 2012, was the founding chairperson of the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (also known as Foundation House) and served as a part-time Member of the Refugee Review Tribunal for four years. John Gibson was acknowledged for his decades of service to refugees and asylum seekers with a posthumous award in the 2013 Honours List "for significant service to international relations as an advocate for human rights".

Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must be:

- engaged in practice in any Australian jurisdiction (including in private practice, a government law firm, as in-house counsel or for a NGO) or an academic teaching or researching in the field of migration law or related area at an Australian university; and
- have equal to or less than five (5) years post admission experience.

The key criterion for the award is:

- outstanding contribution to the field of migration law in Australia or internationally.

Nominations

The nominee may be nominated by the colleagues or self-nominated. The nominator must confirm that the nominee is aware of the nomination and is willing to be nominated.

There is no specific nomination form. Nominations should be accompanied by educational qualifications and material to confirm eligibility, and must address the key criteria.

Information regarding professional contributions should include employment history, publications, conferences attended, presentations and seminars.

The nomination can include up to three references and testimonials. Testimonials could be provided by colleagues, clients or office bearers of NGOs or government departments.

Nomination process

The Migration Law Committee will review all applications. If the committee cannot agree on a winner the final decision shall be made by the Chair of the Migration Law Committee.

Presentation of award

The presentation of the award will be at the 2027 Immigration Law Conference dinner to be held in Adelaide on Thursday, 18 March 2027.

The award

The winner of the award will receive:

- complimentary membership to the Federal Dispute Resolution Section for one year;
- complimentary registration to the 2027 Immigration Law Conference; and
- flights to Adelaide and accommodation for the evening of 18 March 2027 (if required).

Contact

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