



INSIDE
on purpose.

August 2023

HEARSAY

YOUNG
LAWYERS'
COMMITTEE
WGTN

Kia ora! Welcome to Hearsay - the revival of the young lawyers' committee newsletter/ bulletin/ random amalgamation of thoughts, updates and things of legal interest - tangentially or otherwise.

We've got a truly awesome team putting together who've worked incredibly hard to pull together a programme for the year.

We're ever grateful for the engagement of you - our YLC members, and the support of our sponsors that enables us to put on the number and variety of events that we do. We've run a number of events so far this year, including our inaugural kick-off drinks, which was a nice way to connect with each other before the year got too crazy. We'd also like to thank those who sponsor the annual features of our calendar:

- IPLS - Bridging the Gap
- College of Law - Grad Cruise
- MAS - Financial Toolbox, and
- Inside Recruitment - Careers Panel.

It's taken a while to build to the level of events and engagement we had pre-Covid, but we're getting there! Particularly as someone who works in a smaller sized firm, I really value the YLC for the connections I get to make with my peers across the legal profession, so it's been awesome seeing the turn out at our events so far.

We're ramping up to have a busy second half of the year with the Ball, Quiz Night and a number of seminars on the agenda - to balance the social and CPD, so watch this space!

<https://www.wellingtonylc.com/>

RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS

BARBIE

Life in plastic, is clearly fantastic - as was the turn out to our Barbie Movie night. Thanks to all of you who made it along! We personally had so much fun, and hope you did, too! It was a fun way to spend an otherwise freezing winter night and given the boom of ticket sales, we were able to make a donation on behalf of the YLC to the Breast Cancer Foundation.

QUIZ

We know it goes without saying, but we've all got that little competitive streak - why not test your friend group's knowledge against that of your peers? The quiz night is back this year October at the Old Bailey.

BALL

Will you be my date to the spring fling? Throw it back to the '90s with us at the 2023 Ball, proudly brought to you in conjunction with Wellington Young Professionals. Saturday 9 September, 8 pm til Midnight at Docksider. Come dance the night away!

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR



Hi. My name is Damian Hanna and I am a legal recruiter at Inside Recruitment in Wellington. I have been a legal recruiter for almost twenty years and have been a proud sponsor of the Wellington YLC for over ten years. I specialize in placing lawyers at all levels within the public and private sectors in New Zealand as well as in overseas markets such as the UK, Australia, Asia and the Middle East. However, I believe my role should be more than just finding people jobs. Junior lawyers especially have very few places to go where they can get objective advice, talk openly about their career direction, learn about market trends both here and overseas, discuss their CVs/covering letters or practice interview technique and I am happy to talk to anyone who is interested in any of these things or who has any questions whatsoever about their career.

This desire to assist junior lawyers is the main reason why I continue to support the YLC and its members. The committee does great work for junior lawyers across the profession and I know from past experience that many people have formed long lasting personal and professional relationships by being involved in it. In addition to the social activities that the YLC puts on, the role that it plays in assisting its members from a professional perspective is a hugely important one and I believe that this magazine is another wonderful way for information to be shared to the benefit of the profession. I hope that you really enjoy it!



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MEAD v PAUL

In June 2023, the Supreme Court concluded the landmark case of Mead v Paul. The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal of the Court of Appeal's decision deciding that the Family Court did have jurisdiction to determine the relationship property rights of three persons in a contemporaneous polyamorous relationship under the Property (Relationships) Act 1976 (PRA).

L Paul and B Paul married in 1993. In 2002 they formed a polyamorous relationship with F Mead. Soon after the polyamorous relationship began, F Mead purchased a farm (the property in dispute). The farm deposit was paid by her, and the farm was registered solely in her name. The three of them lived in the property together for 15 years until 2017 when L Paul separated from B Paul and F Mead. In 2018 F Mead and B Paul also separated. The property remained in F Mead's name, and she remained a resident.

During the 15 years together living at the property each party contributed in different ways to household activities and general upkeep of the property.

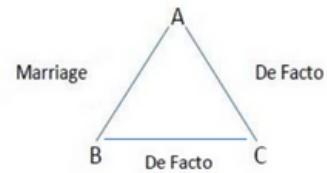
In 2019, L Paul brought an application for relationship property order in the Family Court and claimed her one-third share in the property – the family home. B Paul did the same. They both argued that there were three qualifying relationships under the PRA, namely two de facto couples and one married couple. F Mead argued that the Family Court did not have jurisdiction of the claim as the parties did not have qualifying relationships under the PRA.

The question of whether the Family Court has jurisdiction to determine the property rights of three persons in a contemporaneous polyamorous relationship under the PRA was first decided in the High Court. Hinton J said no – her Honour's view was that the PRA did not apply to a polyamorous relationship, and it would be unfeasible to apply the PRA to complex relationships such as a polyamorous relationship.

The decision was subsequently appealed and heard by the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal. Whilst the Court of Appeal agreed with the High Court that polyamorous relationships were not a qualifying relationship under the PRA the Court of Appeal deemed that there could be multiple qualifying relationships between couples within a multi-partner relationship. The Court of Appeal found that in this case there had been three distinct qualifying relationships between the L Paul, B Paul and F Mead.

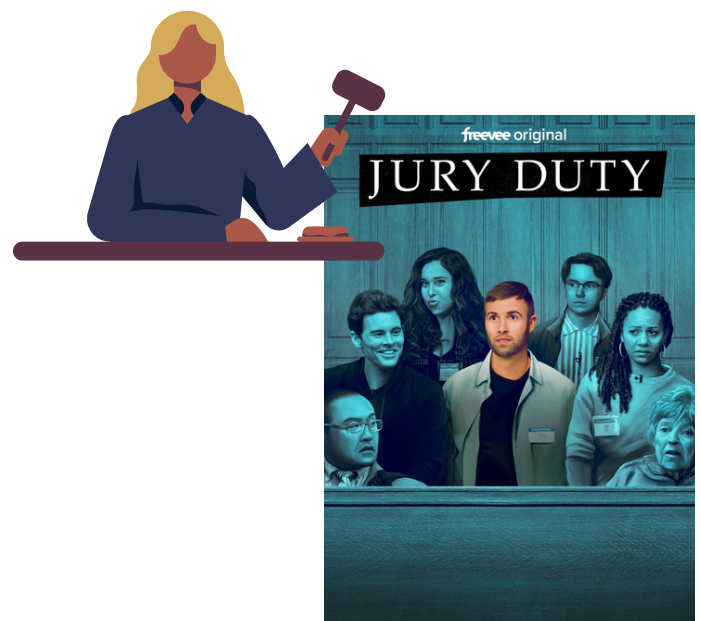
5. Can a triangular relationship (with mutual cohabitation and sexual relations) be subdivided into three qualifying relationships?

[77] The question now becomes whether triangularity makes a difference to that analysis. In practical terms (in the context of these facts) it adds one additional material factor to the relationship structure described at [73] above: a sexual relationship between all three.



The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal and the majority agreed with the Court of Appeal. However, the minority dissented that it was artificial to recharacterise a relationship involving three people into distinct couples given how they viewed their own relationship and lived all together as one unit.

Juris-pop-culture: Reporting for 'Jury Duty'



The producers of The Office have created a mockumentary series which follows a civil trial in the US being tried by a jury of peers – except the jury is made-up of 12 actors and 1 unsuspecting Ronald Gladden who is unaware that he is hearing a made-up trial. The series follows the trial through from start to finish of the trial – spoiler, everything goes wrong! Ronald Gladden is dragged through multiple pranks and through it all stays steady. When the jury return a verdict the premise of the show is unveiled to Ronald Gladden. The series is hilarious and unanimously worth a binge.