Women's Legal Service Victoria

in association with

Victorian Women Lawyers

present

When justice takes its toll: assisting traumatised clients

A workshop worth 1.5 CPD points for Practice Management or Practical Skills

When	24 August 2011	
Where	Lander & Rogers Level 12, 600 Bourke Street, Melbourne	
Time	5:45pm drinks and finger food	Victorian
	6:30 workshop	Lawyers
	8:00pm finish	
Cost	\$50 for VWL members & lawyers employed by CLCs/Legal Aid/Not-for-profits	
	\$70 for others	women'sle servicevictori
Registration due	15 August 2011 (see overleaf)	
	Note: strictly limited numbers	

Many clients who seek assistance from a lawyer are traumatised because of the nature of their case or as a result of their prior life experiences. A client's experience of trauma can impact severely on their ability to access or cope with the demands of the legal system.

Vicarious trauma is a significant workplace health and safety issue for lawyers and can lead to negative outcomes for firms due to staff illness, absenteeism and turnover as well as client dissatisfaction that stems from dealing with a 'burnt out' lawyer.

The aim of this session is to address some of the issues that lawyers face in assisting traumatised clients by:

- raising awareness of the impact of trauma on clients
- exploring how trauma, as an emotional state, affects a client's ability to navigate the legal system
- developing strategies to overcome the difficulties faced by a lawyer when assisting a traumatised client, and
- developing strategies to address the impact of vicarious traumatisation on lawyers.

This is an interactive session where participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences, discuss issues and ask questions.

About the Presenters

Ursula Benstead



Ursula is a psychologist, senior practitioner and supervisor at the Western Region Centre Against Sexual Assault (West CASA). Ursula is experienced at providing training, support and supervision to lawyers who work with traumatised clients. Ursula has provided supervision to staff at the Office of Public Prosecutions, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Women's Legal Service Victoria. Ursula has also lectured at post graduate level in Theory and Practice in Working with Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Ursula has copresented with WLSV on working with traumatised clients at the Women's Safety and the Law forum in 2009, and for lawyers practising in the victims of crime assistance area earlier this year.

Leanne Sinclair



Allyson Foster



Leanne joined Women's Legal Service Victoria's team in 2006 after working as a family lawyer in a busy private suburban practice. In 2008, Leanne took on the role of Principal Lawyer at WLSV and supervises a team of lawyers and volunteers. Leanne is also responsible for helping steer the strategic direction of WLSV and contributing to law and policy reform. Passionate about the issues surrounding violence against women, Leanne has been on the board of the Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service since 2008, where she is the current vice chair.

Allyson Foster has had extensive experience in providing training about the law to legal and non-legal audiences. She has facilitated forums and panel discussions. Allyson has provided training to barristers, magistrates, registrars and lawyers to assist them in providing services to clients. Most recently Allyson provided interprofessional training to lawyers and family dispute resolution practitioners.

PLEASE REGISTER BY MONDAY 15 AUGUST 2011 via http://www.vwl.asn.au/events/index.html

Or return the slip below to Tracey Spiller, Administrator, Victorian Women Lawyers, c/-Law Institute of Victoria, GPO Box 263C, Melbourne 3001 or via fax 03 9607 9558 or via email VWLregister@liv.asn.au

Upon payment of the fee this form constitutes a Tax Invoice. Please retain a copy for your records. Victorian Women Lawyers ABN 32 198 567 354.

Women's Legal Service Victoria & Victorian Women Lawyers When Justice Takes Its Toll CPD Session, 24 August 2011		
Name:	VWL membership number (if known):	
Firm/employer:	Email:	
I enclose a cheque for \$ O Mastercard O	payable to Victorian Women Lawyers, or please debit \$ to my: Visa	
Card number:	Expiry date:	
Full name of cardholder:	Signature	