

Lawyer of the week Andrew Lord

Andrew Lord, an associate at Leigh Day, acted for six-year-old primary schoolboy “Joel”, who has been awarded five-figure compensation damages, approved by the High Court, after being sexually assaulted by a classmate.

What were the biggest hurdles you had to overcome in this case?

This was an inherently sensitive matter involving alleged failures by a school to prevent further sexual violence from taking place. Given my client’s age, a delicate balance had to be struck when obtaining evidence.

What is the best decision you have taken as a lawyer? Practising in an area of law which I am passionate about. Assisting survivors of abuse to

obtain the recognition they deserve is rewarding and I’m grateful to play a small part in the journey towards recovery.

Who do you most admire in the law?

Baroness Hale of Richmond was appointed the first female law lord around the time I was considering a career in law. With no contacts and a state education, I was unsure if my face would fit, but Lady Hale’s appointment left a lasting impression on me.

What is the best advice that you

have received? Find a way to switch off after work. Working for survivors is a privilege, but I quickly learnt that down time is also vital to doing the best job for my clients.



What is the funniest thing that has happened in your job? Early in my career I was asked about making a prison visit and my naive but confident reply was that the client must have been relocated because my research indicated that it was a “closed prison”.

What are the best and worst

elements of being a lawyer? Best: working alongside like-minded colleagues and always learning something new. Worst: coming across the occasional unnecessarily obstructive opponent.

What law would you enact?

Make it mandatory for those working with children to report suspected abuse.

What is your favourite book, film or song?

I recently read *Shuggie Bain* by Douglas Stuart as part of a book club. It was captivating, heartbreaking and beautifully written. An instant favourite.

Linda Tsang

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