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## President's Column

**Una Doyle**

*President of ACLEA*



Another quarter has flown by and here I am again, pondering the many things that have happened since I last wrote this column. One of the big highlights so far this year has been the Nashville Mid-Year meeting that took place in January. Not only was it a great meeting in terms of content, speakers, and location, it was also a welcome opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. The 53rd Mid-Year meeting certainly did not disappoint; ACLEA had a bumper Boot Camp packed with a wonderfully diverse group of new members,

setting the scene for a very vibrant few days. I also had the pleasure of hosting the Past Presidents' Dinner, a valuable opportunity to have a good old heart-to-heart with a group of seasoned experts in the world of legal education.

Alas, not everyone is fortunate enough to be able to attend every in-person meeting. Some rarely, if ever, get the chance. I'm very familiar with this, as in my early years as an ACLEA member it was difficult to obtain

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# President's Column

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funding to travel from such a distance. Before I discovered the extremely handy “ACLEA Meeting Toolkit” on the website (designed especially to assist with getting approval to attend), I found another way to stay connected and grow my network from afar. How? Through good old-fashioned volunteering!

Simply because you can't make every meeting doesn't preclude you from putting your hand up to become involved in one of ACLEA's many committees and special interest groups. Interestingly, the subject of volunteerism was a recurring theme at both Boot Camp and the Past Presidents' Dinner, and how it makes our CLE world go around. As much as we depend on volunteers to support our roles in CLE, ACLEA depends on us as volunteers to keep the organization growing and developing. And, believe me, it has its own rewards – getting “plugged in” to ACLEA was one of the best things I ever did, both professionally and personally.

As I talk of volunteers and the volunteering spirit, I want to acknowledge my colleague and friend, Peter Berge. To me, Peter is the quintessential volunteer – currently President-Elect of ACLEA, he has been a valued and committed member of the Executive Committee, has served on numerous committees, contributed as a presenter, even entertained us with his music, and much more. Peter is currently facing some challenging health issues and I would ask that you remember him in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Una Doyle  
President

P.S. ACLEA has just expanded its scholarship program using remnant funds from the 2010 Equipping Our Lawyers Summit. This will be available for the upcoming Montréal meeting when registrations open, so check out the criteria on the website to see if you are eligible to apply.

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ACLEA website: [www.aclea.org](http://www.aclea.org)

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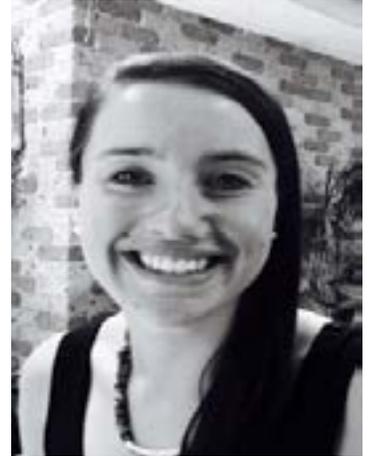
# Meet Your SIG/Committee Chairs

**Sarah Collins**

Judicial Commission of New South Wales

## **1. Which SIG or Committee do you currently co-chair?**

I currently co-chair the International SIG. This SIG enables members to network and develop relationships with CLE providers world-wide. The SIG focuses on issues relating to continuing legal education in jurisdictions around the world, and provides updates on current international CLE trends. The International SIG also encourages participation from non-North American ACLEA members.



## **2. How long have you been involved with this SIG?**

6 months ago I attended my first ACLEA meeting in Seattle, attended the International SIG meeting for the first time, and also took up the post of co-chair. It felt a little like throwing myself in the deep end!

## **3. Why did you choose to join this SIG?**

Being from Sydney, the International SIG seemed like an obvious choice. Being new to the world of ACLEA I was keen to get involved as much as possible. This SIG has a unifying feeling as there are common issues that we share regardless of which country we're from or even which hemisphere we're from. It's an opportunity to share knowledge regarding topical issues as well as to share what is happening in each of our jurisdictions.

## **4. What do you see as the main objectives of your SIG?**

The main objective is to share knowledge and learn from international colleagues. We aim to share information and assist each other with any similar issues. An example of this is a shared issue between Australia and Canada and the work both countries are doing in relation to cultural awareness projects.

## **5. What has the SIG been working on recently?**

At the recent meeting in Nashville, we focused on ways that we may be able to increase SIG participation and grow international members. There are a number of members from North America and Australia as well as New Zealand, however we are keen to expand membership and SIG involvement to Europe and wider in the Asia Pacific.

## **6. What is your SIG's biggest challenge right now?**

Our biggest challenge is increasing membership to international CLE providers and regulators. While we all have international contacts, we are looking at ways to engage and expand the international presence.

## **7. What is the major reason why one should join this SIG?**

This is a truly unique SIG. It's a great way to learn about what's happening outside of your immediate location. Hearing what is happening in a jurisdiction outside of your own provides insights and ideas and quite often, new perspectives on an old issue. There is a genuine interest in the struggles and triumphs of colleagues and a genuine willingness to explore opportunities to work together and learn from each other.

## **8. What do you enjoy most in working with this SIG?**

This SIG brings together a great network of people who support each other and I am really enjoying getting to know everyone. I have a keen interest in international law and CLE and this SIG is the best of both worlds. Legal education in Australia is a small industry so I appreciate the knowledge we are able to share.

# Member Moment

Timothy A. Slating, J.D.

*Illinois State Bar Association*

## PROFESSIONALLY

**Current Job:** Director of Publications, Illinois State Bar Association

**A Recent Professional Victory:** Publishing eight new books in the past six months.

**Your Latest Challenge:** Trying to launch an online member directory, online community, and practice management microsite ... all in the next few months.

**In My Pre-CLE Life, I Was:** An adjunct professor and researcher at the University of Illinois College of Law. Before law school, I was a project manager for a construction company.

**What Brought Me to CLE:** The realization that I didn't want to be an academic.

## TECHNOLOGICALLY SPEAKING

**I Never Leave Home Without:** Used to be my iPod ... now it's my iPhone.

**My Favorite Software:** Zoom (video conferencing and screen sharing)

**On My Wish List:** A member database that does magical things with little effort.

**Must-See Website(s):** <https://www.archive.org>. There's something there for everyone!

## PERSONALLY

**Favorite Pastime:** Listening to live music.

**Recent Good Listen:** Tedeschi Trucks Band, *Live from the Fox Oakland*

**Date(s) I Never Miss:** My daughter's birthday (and my wife's).

**My Dream Vacation:** Sitting on the dock at my family's cabin on Black Pond in Plymouth, Vermont.

**Words I Live By:** "Nothing left to do but smile, smile, smile."



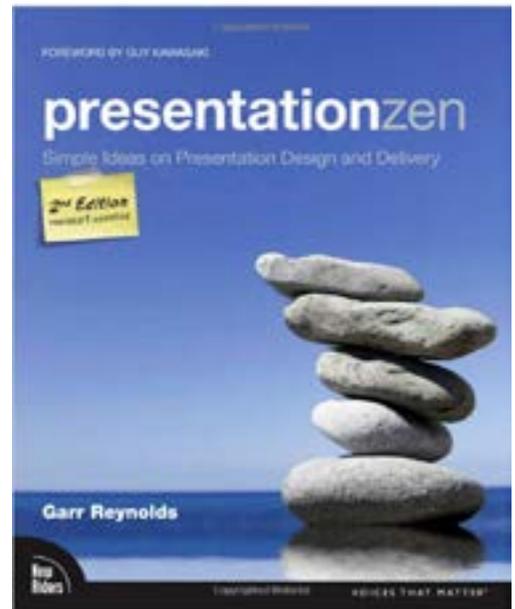
# Books of ACLEA

By Leslie Sinner McEvoy, Esq. and Cynthia Sharp, Esq.

## Presentation Zen: Simple Ideas on Presentation Design and Delivery

Anyone who wants to become a more engaging speaker by learning how to create effective slide decks needs to read *Presentation Zen: Simple Ideas on Presentation Design and Delivery* written by Garr Reynolds. Originally released in 2008, the second edition went to press in 2011.

Most of us have either endured or even delivered presentations with endless text-laden slides. As the speaker reads from the slide, one could wonder what he or she is adding to the event. Reynolds refers to this phenomenon as “Death by PowerPoint” and suggests that slides should be designed to support, not duplicate the presenter’s message.



### PREPARATION

Incorporating Zen principles, Reynolds emphasizes beginning with a creative mindset, or “child’s mind” – fresh, enthusiastic, open. In addition, he recommends exercising restraint from the outset, keeping three concepts in mind – simplicity, clarity, and brevity. As you start planning, move away from the tech tools, and plan “analog” by developing your core message and adhering to that throughout the process. Finally, envision your presentation design in three parts; visuals, notes, and handout. Create a handout that is a document, not a “slideument.” That way your slides are what they should be – enhancements to your message.

### DESIGN

In design, Reynolds emphasizes “amplification through simplification.” Design comes at the beginning and is about making communication as easy and clear as possible. He recommends keeping the “signal to noise” ratio high in your presentation and provides visual examples of how to do this. Reynolds explains the important use of “empty space” as a design element and also the use of the principles of contrast, repetition, alignment, and proximity. More specific recommendations include: using a visual theme throughout, limiting or eliminating bullet points, and using high-quality graphics.

### DELIVERY

After illustrating approaches to both the design and preparation phases, Reynolds moves into the delivery stage. He devotes an entire chapter to mindfulness and emphasizes that a speech delivered by a speaker who is “somewhere else” is not as compelling as one presented by an individual who is fully present. A proposed solution is to practice mindfulness “off the stage,” which enables us to fully engage with audience members while “on stage.”

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# Books of ACLEA

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Steve Jobs' simplicity in style (speaking and otherwise) is analyzed. His presentations came across as fluid, natural, and conversational; however, he and his team devoted themselves passionately to countless hours of preparation so that he would project supreme confidence and apparent spontaneity. Reynolds also emphasizes that a presenter who is thinking about outcomes (i.e., success or failure of the speech) while on the platform removes herself from the present moment. A practice of mindfulness meditation teaches us how to bring ourselves back to the present when our minds start the inevitable chatter.

Another vital component of delivery is connecting with the audience. Specifically, a speaker must appeal to both the logical and emotional, which means that in addition to solid, structured content, a speaker must bring passion and energy to the room. Another tip is to leave the audience wanting more. He also suggests removing barriers between the presenter and the audience by avoiding lecterns and clunky remotes.

*Presentation Zen* concludes with concrete suggestions on how to improve, which are: read and study, just do it, exercise your "right brain," get out, realize that lessons are all around you, and it's within you already.

# Join Us in Montréal for the 2017 Annual Meeting!

July 29 – August 1, 2017

Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth | Montréal, Québec – Canada

Vive la CLE!



## PLENARY SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- Legal Innovation: Developing the Lawyer's Competitive Advantage
- Cultural Competency: What's the Point?
- Is Learning Different for Lawyers?
- Influence: The Art & Science of Changing Minds
- Team Millennial: A New Legal Services Paradigm

Register online today at [aclea.org](http://aclea.org)!

