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Mental Health Issues & The Law

- a growing concern and specialisation
within the legal profession

Speakers:

Tania Evers, Barrister
Dr Michael Giuffrida, Forensic Psychiatrist
Peter McGhee, Solicitor

Chair: Her Honour Judge Robyn Tupman

5.30-7.30pm Thursday 19th May 2005
Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts
Level 1, 280 Pitt St, Sydney

Tania Evers is a barrister specialising in crime, with a focus on mental health/intellectual disability and crime for over 15 years. She is the WLANSW Secretary, a joint Vice President of Lawyers Reform Association, a committee member of Glebe House, Defence Lawyers Association and International Commission of Jurists, a sub-committee member of the Ethics Committee of the Law Society on Client Capacity, and various other committees.

Dr. Giuffrida is the Director of Forensic Psychiatry at the Bunya Medium Secure Unit at Cumberland Hospital and has been a Visiting Psychiatrist with Justice Health at Mulawa Womens Prison for 11 years and in 2003 opened the first ward for seriously mentally ill women at the Long Bay Hospital. He has been a director psychiatric services in New South Wales for 25 years and has been a member of several Government inquiries into mental services. Dr Giuffrida has extensive experience in the criminal jurisdiction providing reports and opinions in relation to fitness for trial, insanity defences and substantial impairment

Peter McGhee is the Principal Solicitor at the Intellectual Disability Rights Service, which is a state wide, non profit, community legal centre for people with an intellectual disability. He was admitted in 1994 and taught Advocacy, Litigation and Professional Skills in the law faculty at UTS between 1998 and 2001. He was vice president of the Inner West Law Society from 1998 to 2001. He is presently a member of the Criminal Law Committee of the Law Society of NSW.

Criminal Justice Support Network (CJSN), a project of the Intellectual Disability Rights Service, helps support the rights of people with an intellectual disability during legal proceedings. Information on the project and their campaign for continued funding after December will also be provided at the seminar.

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