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Australasian Legal Information Institute

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LawCite Highly Commended for Innovation in 2012 ANZIA Awards

AustLII's international free-access law citator, **LawCite** has received the Highly Commended award for Innovation in the 2012 Australia and New Zealand Internet Awards (ANZIAS). It is the result of an Australian Research Council funded Linkage project led by Professor Andrew Mowbray of the UTS Law Faculty. LawCite has been adopted for both free-access and commercial use at local and international levels.

LawCite is used to locate judgments, journal articles and other legal documents, and to see how these have been subsequently dealt with and commented upon. This is important because the use of citation is fundamental to the operation of precedent in all common law jurisdictions including Australia and New Zealand.

The 2012 Australia and New Zealand Internet Awards (ANZIAS) recognising excellence in businesses, organisations and individuals to the development and use of the Internet in Australia and New Zealand were presented at a Dinner at Old Parliament House in Canberra on 10 October 2012.

The ANZIAS are a collaboration between the .au Domain Administration (auDA) and InternetNZ and are judged by an independent panel of experts from both countries. Now in its fourth year, Awards are handed out for excellence in six categories: Diversity; Information; Innovation; Internet Access & Digital Skills; Security & Privacy and IPv6 <<http://www.internetawards.org.au/index.php/winners>>.

The judges agreed that the LawCite initiative provides a great time saver for finding citations, cutting down potentially long hours of legal research time and allows fast focused case research. The initiative is a great example of cross-border collaboration as it allows deep citation searching across different source types such as decisions & journal articles. The judges believe the simple and free database is incredibly powerful and an excellent resource for legal practitioners, scholars and lay people alike.

AustLII is Australia's most popular online free-access public library for Australasian legal materials with approximately 600,000 hits per day. It provides over 500 separate databases of primary and secondary legal information. Since its inception in 1995 AustLII has provided free access to the Australian public to the essential legal information needed for the rule of law and democracy to function effectively. AustLII's broad public policy agenda is to improve access to justice through better access to information.

AustLII's Executive Director Philip Chung said "This is the third time AustLII has been recognised by the ANZIA's since the awards began in 2009 and we are proud and honoured to receive this recognition from the Australasian internet community."

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