

**10 May 2021**

## **2021 William Ah Ket Scholarship launches**

The William Ah Ket Scholarship for 2021 opens today for expressions of interest.

The scholarship – named after Australia’s first barrister of Chinese background – is open to all final year law students, law graduates undertaking practical legal training and young lawyers with no more than five years’ post-admission experience.

Applicants are required to write a paper researching a topic relating to equality, diversity and the legal profession or the law.

The winner of the Scholarship will receive \$6,000. A further \$1,000 prize will be given to two shortlisted entrants.

Expressions of interest to submit an essay are open until **Monday 7 June, 2021**. The deadline for submitting an essay is **16 August, 2021**.

The William Ah Ket Scholarship is an initiative by the [Asian Australian Lawyers Association](#) (AALA) and is in its fourth year. It is designed to recognise the historical contribution of William Ah Ket to the legal profession as the first Asian Australian barrister in Australia.

The Scholarship is also supported by law firm Maddocks, as founding sponsor, and the University of Melbourne Law School, as supporting partner.

William studied at the University of Melbourne and then completed his articles at the firm of Maddock & Jamieson (now Maddocks) in 1903. William joined the Bar in 1904, becoming the first Chinese barrister to practise in Melbourne.

The judging panel for this year’s scholarship will be:

- **The Honourable Diana Bryant AO QC**, former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia and Patron of the AALA
- **Professor Sarah Biddulph**, Director of the Asian Law Centre and Professor of Law and Assistant Deputy Vice Chancellor- International (China) at the University of Melbourne
- **David Newman**, CEO, Maddocks

The winner will be announced in October 2021.

To submit an expression of interest or for more information on the William Ah Ket Scholarship, head to the [AALA](#) website.

An event to officially launch the William Ah Ket Scholarship will be held next month. You can get further details on the launch event or register via the AALA website.

### **For more information:**

#### **Jason Silverii**

Communications Manager

Tel: 03 9258 3509

Mobile: 0407 618 058

[jason.silverii@maddocks.com.au](mailto:jason.silverii@maddocks.com.au)