

**Victorian Law Reform Commissioner (VLRC)**

- *Corporate Crime*. WIH.
- *Crime: Provocation*. Work about to begin on preparation of report.
- *Crime*. Diminished Responsibility as a Defence to Murder. WP published August. Comments to be received up to 31 October. It is hoped a report will be published before end of the year.
- *Criminal Procedure*. Unsworn Statements in Criminal Trials. Report No. 11 published and distributed. See above, p. 116.

**Victorian Statute Law Revision Committee (VSLRC)**

- *Privacy*. Submission received, no evidence taken as yet. Committee met with Professor Hayes of the ALRC in August 1981.
- *Protection of Animals Act 1966 and Related Provisions*. Six terms of reference still to be examined. The committee has received submissions relating to vivisection but no evidence has been taken as yet.
- *The Constitution Act 1975*. Committee currently taking evidence in relation to the role of the Upper House and a report will be presented to Parliament during the current Spring Session.

**Western Australian Law Reform Commission (WALRC)**

- *Medical Treatment of Minors*. New reference. See above, p. 128.
- *Absconding Debtors Act*. Report to be available soon.
- *Privacy*. WP on private intrusions expected in the near future.

**personalia****The Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Kerr**

It was announced in London in August 1981 that the Chairman of the English Law Commission, Sir Michael Kerr, will be elevated on 1 October 1981 to the Court of Appeal as a Lord Justice of Appeal upon the completion of his tour of duty as Chairman of the Law Commission for England and Wales in September 1981. A note on Sir Michael Kerr's career as a distinguished commercial lawyer and judge of the High Court of Justice is contained in [1978] *Reform* 83. During his recent visit to the Australian Legal Convention in Hobart in July 1981, he made a deep impression on Australian lawyers. He attended the Australasian Law Reform Agencies Conference and there spoke of the problems of getting law reform reports implemented. On this, see above, p. 118.

**Retirement of ALRC Members**

A number of the Commissioners of the ALRC have

retired, by rotation. Professor David St.L. Kelly, Professor of Law in the University of Adelaide, has completed his part-time commission which followed his period of service as a full-time Commissioner. Professor Kelly was one of the initial full-time Commissioners of the ALRC. He led projects in consumer indebtedness, insurance and, for a time, privacy. He took an active part in many other projects and in the establishment of the ALRC. An earlier note on his career appears in [1976] *Reform* 59. Professor Kelly remains associated with the completion of the ALRC projects on indebtedness and insurance contracts. Dr. John Seymour has also concluded his tour of duty with the Commission. He led the ALRC, as Commissioner, in its project on child welfare law reform for the ACT. The report, which calls on Dr. Seymour's unrivalled knowledge of comparative child welfare law and criminal law generally, is now with the printer. Dr. Seymour is a Senior Criminologist with the Australian Institute of Criminology and has returned to full-time duties with that Institute. However, he is in demand by at least one government as a consultant on child welfare law reform. Mr. Brian Shaw QC of the Melbourne Bar has completed a period of four years' service as a part-time ALRC Commissioner. Mr. Shaw took an active part in a number of the Commission's reports including *Lands Acquisition and Compensation* (ALRC 14) and *Insurance Agents and Brokers* (ALRC 16). A note on his career appears in [1976] *Reform* 59.

**The Hon. Mr. Justice Gibson**

It was announced in London on 22 August 1981 that the next Chairman of the Law Commission for England and Wales would be the Honourable Mr. Justice Ralph Gibson. Born in 1922 and educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, he was called to the English Bar in 1948. During 1948-49 he taught law at the University of Chicago. In 1968 he took silk. In 1971 he was made a member of the Council of Legal Education. In 1972 he was appointed a Recorder of the Crown Court. He was appointed to the Queen's Bench in the High Court of Justice in 1977. Sir Ralph Gibson is the fourth Chairman of the Law Commission and succeeds Sir Michael Kerr (see above).

**Mr. John Cain MP**

A past member of the ALRC, Mr. John Cain, has been elected Leader of the Australian Labor Party and Leader of the Opposition in the Victorian Parliament. Mr. Cain served as a part-time Member of the ALRC from 1975 to 1977. He was President of the Law Institute of Victoria between 1972 and 1975 and has served in the Victorian Parliament since 1976. He remains Shadow Attorney-General and has continued to take a keen interest in legal matters and law reform in the Victorian Parliament.

**Mr. Bruce Debelle**

A full-time Member of the ALRC, Mr. Bruce Debelle, has returned to his practice in Adelaide after a period of

nearly three years' service in Sydney with the ALRC. Mr. Debelle has been appointed a part-time Member for a further year replacing Professor Kelly whose term has expired. Mr. Debelle has led the ALRC in the projects on standing, class actions and Aboriginal customary laws. It is expected that, as a part-time Member he will see these projects to completion. An earlier note on Mr. Debelle's career appears in [1978] *Reform* 62.

#### **Mr. G.E. Fitzgerald QC**

The Commonwealth Attorney-General, Senator Durack, has announced the appointment of a Queensland barrister, Mr. Tony Fitzgerald QC, as a part-time Member of the ALRC. Mr. Fitzgerald's appointment is for a period of three years commencing 1 July 1981. He graduated with a degree of Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland in 1969 and in that year was admitted to practise at the Queensland Bar. He rapidly built up a varied practice and in 1975 took silk. Since then he has enjoyed a wide experience at the Bar, including in constitutional and commercial cases. Mr. Fitzgerald takes the place left vacant by the retirement of Mr. Brian Shaw QC of the Melbourne Bar. He will be working on the ALRC projects on evidence law reform and Aboriginal customary laws.

#### **The Hon. W.H. Goudie MC**

The Executive Director and Deputy Chairman of the Law Reform Commission of Tasmania, Mr. Goudie, has retired. Born and educated in England, he saw distinguished war service and was decorated at Normandy. Thereafter he joined the colonial judicial service. He performed judicial office in Kenya, Aden, Uganda and Fiji. After retirement from the judiciary of Fiji in 1972, he came to Tasmania where he was appointed Executive Director of the TasLRC in 1974, a post he held until his retirement. Mr. Goudie recently organised the Sixth Australian Law Reform Agencies Conference in Hobart. He takes into retirement the admiration and good wishes of law reformers throughout Australia and beyond. The new Acting Director of the TasLRC is Mr. John Ramsay.

#### **Mrs. Bettina Cass**

The New South Wales Attorney-General, Mr. Frank Walker QC, announced in July 1981 the appointment of Mrs. Bettina Cass as a part-time Commissioner of the NSWLRC. Mrs. Cass is the first woman and first non-lawyer to be appointed to the NSW Commission. Her ap-

pointment follows recent amendments to the Law Reform Commission Act of the State, making possible the appointment of non-lawyers. She is a senior research officer in the Social Welfare Research Centre of the University of New South Wales. Since 1974 she has been a lecturer in sociology at the University. Her areas of specialty include changing family patterns, women and work and the impact of social and economic policies on women and families. In the NSWLRC she will be participating in the project on de facto families. See above, p. 135.

#### **Mr. Gary Hiskey**

An additional member has been appointed to the Law Reform Committee of South Australia on the nomination of the Opposition. He is Mr. G. Hiskey, an Adelaide lawyer. Mr. Hiskey commenced legal practice in a firm specialising in conveyancing and probate work. He was later appointed Registrar of the Credit Tribunal of South Australia and then accepted appointment with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, with whom he is still attached. His varied experience, and particularly with disadvantaged groups, will be invaluable for the SALRC.

#### **Mr. Michael Ward**

The Chief Minister and Attorney-General of the Northern Territory, Mr. Paul Everingham, has announced the appointment of Mr. Michael Ward to the Northern Territory Law Review Committee. Mr. Ward is a Darwin practitioner with Messrs. McCormack & Co., Solicitors, and his appointment brings the NTLRC to full strength.

#### **Miss Ainslie Sowden**

An officer of the Department of Administrative Services, Miss Ainslie Sowden, has returned to the department in Canberra after a period of twelve months' secondment with the ALRC. Miss Sowden's tour of duty in the Commission arose out of the initiative of the Secretary of the Department, Sir Peter Lawler. Miss Sowden's training was in sociology not law. She soon proved able to grasp detailed legal distinctions. In the ALRC she worked on the Evidence and Aboriginal customary laws references. In Evidence, she was responsible for the preparation of the Evidence RP 1 which analyses the differences between legislation on evidence applying in different parts of Australia. See above, p. 114. On Aboriginal customary laws, she accompanied Commissioner Bruce Debelle to remote Aboriginal communities to facilitate discussion with Aboriginal women concerning customary laws.

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Sydney

15 October 1981

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