

Alteration of Ground Levels – comments on discussion paper being considered and final recommendations being drawn up

Justices' Act – final recommendations being drawn up

Privacy – report in preparation

Criminal Proceedings and Mental Disorder – discussion paper being drafted

Wills: Substantial Compliance – report being drafted

Problem of Old Convictions – final recommendations being drawn up

Pawnbrokers – report being drafted

personalia

Judge Frank Hollis Rivers Vincent

The Attorney-General Mr Jim Kennan, announced on 30 April 1985 the appointment of Mr Frank Hollis Rivers Vincent QC to the bench of the Supreme Court of Victoria. Mr Vincent, 47 is widely regarded as a leader of the Criminal Bar in Victoria and brings to the bench the benefit of his extensive experience in criminal and common law in Victoria and the Northern Territory. He was educated at Melbourne University and joined the bar in 1961 and was appointed a QC in 1980. Mr Vincent has been a member of law reform committees of the Victorian Bar, a consultant to the Australian Law Reform Commission on a number of references and last year was appointed a member of the Victorian Law Reform Commission. Membership of other committees include the Shorter Trials Committee of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration, Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association and a member of the Victorian Bar Council.

Victorian County Court Judges

Recently there have been three new appointments to the bench of the County Court of Victoria. They are Mr Leo Richard Hart QC, Mr Graeme Crossley QC and Ms Lynnette Schiffan QC. All three are graduates from Melbourne University. Mr Hart, 48, joined the bar in 1961 and was appointed a QC in 1984. While at the bar he had a wide general practice with emphasis on common law, particularly criminal and civil trials. Judge Crossley, 44 signed the Bar Roll in 1965 and was appointed a QC in 1984. His practice was industrial law, criminal and civil juries and commercial and maritime law. Ms Schiffan is the first female judge appointed to a Victorian Bench. Judge Schiffan, 43 has had wide experience both as a solicitor and a barrister. She joined the Bar in 1967. From 1969 to 1972 she practiced as a solicitor in Papua New Guinea while also employed as a contracts engineer. Judge Schiffan has been involved with several committees including the Bishop Committee Inquiring into Maltreatment of Children 1972-73, Committee member of the Family Lawyers Association of Victoria since 1975. In 1982-84 she was a member of the Waller Committee which inquired into InVitro Fer-

tilisation, and has been a member of the Federal Family Law Council since 1984.

The Hon Xavier Connor QC

The Honourable Francis Xavier Connor, QC a former Federal Court Judge and Judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory, was appointed President of the Australian Law Reform Commission from 6 May 1985 until December 1987. Mr Connor, 67, was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory in 1972, after a notable career at the Victorian Bar. He was Chairman of the Victorian Bar Council from 1967 to 1969 after serving a lengthy period as Chairman of the Law Reform Sub-Committee of the Council. He was President of the Medico-Legal Society of Victoria in 1976-77. In 1977 Mr Connor was appointed a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia. He retired from both Commissions held by him in 1982. He has been President of the Courts-Martial Appeal Tribunal since 1979. Between 1978 and 1985 Mr Connor was Chairman of the Parole Board of the Australian Capital Territory. In 1982 Mr Connor was Head of the Board of Inquiry into Casinos in Victoria. He also chaired the Committee of Review of the Special Broadcasting Service which reported to the Government last year. The Commission's former acting Chairman, the Hon Justice Murray Wilcox will continue as a part-time Member of the Commission

Mr Nicholas Seddon

Mr Nicholas Seddon, a senior lecturer in law at the Australian National University, has been appointed as a part-time member of the Law Reform Commission to undertake a project on the ACT Community Law Reform Program. Mr Seddon has previously been a consultant to the Commission to work on the program, in the areas of domestic violence and negligence law. He devoted his study leave to assist the Commission on the Community Law Reform Program from 1 March to 31 October 1984. The new project is a Commission reference on the law of occupiers' liability. Mr Seddon graduated as LL.B (Hons) at the University of Melbourne in 1967 and B.Phil Management Studies at Oxford in 1970. He has held academic appointments at the Universities of Melbourne and Papua New Guinea and has been on the staff of the Australian National University since 1976. Mr Seddon has written extensively on many areas of the law and has been a consultant to the NSW Law Reform Commission, CSIRO and the University of Papua New Guinea. Mr Seddon is President and Treasurer of the Canberra Community Legal Service. He has been appointed to the Commission for three years from 11 April 1985.

Hon Justice Jeffry Allan Miles

Justice Miles has been appointed Chief Justice of the ACT Supreme Court. He succeeds Justice Blackburn who retired recently. Justice Miles has been a Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales since 1982. He studied law at Sydney University and was admitted as a

solicitor in 1958. During this time as a solicitor he worked in Sydney and London and also managed to fit in a period as a volunteer teacher in Indonesia. He became a barrister of NSW and the NT in 1965 where he remained for 15 years. Included in his work at the bar was representation for both the Aboriginal Legal Aid Service in the Northern Territory and the Council for Civil Liberties, with the last few years taken up by his appointment as the Public Defender of NSW. In April 1981 he was appointed a Judge of the National Court of Papua New Guinea.

Mr Ronald John Cahill

Mr Cahill has recently been appointed as Chief Magistrate of the ACT Court of Petty Sessions. Previously he served as a Stipendary Magistrate in the ACT and before that as a prosecutor with the Deputy Crown Solicitor.

Mr Justice Dormer George Andrews

Justice Andrews has recently been appointed the Chief Justice of the Queensland Supreme Court. He has been a Judge since 1971 and was the Senior Puisne Judge before his appointment. He, like the outgoing Chief Justice, Sir Walter Campbell, has also been Chairman of the Queensland Law Reform Commission. Justice Andrews studied law at Queensland University and was called to the bar in 1947. He was appointed a District Court Judge of Southern Queensland from 1959-1971 and during that time also became Chairman of the District Courts of Queensland between 1965-1971.

Victorian Law Reform Commission

The Commission recently appointed its first Librarian Ms Beth Wilson. Ms Wilson is well qualified for the job as she holds a BA, LIB and Grad Dip Lib. Her most recent position has been with Telecom, but before joining this organisation she was employed by the Australian Law Librarian Group. They organised funding from the Law Foundations of NSW and Victoria and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to employ Ms Wilson to conduct a National Survey of Law libraries in Australia. This mammoth task was completed by Beth after several years research and was published in 1984. The publication was recently given a glowing review by the well respected Mr D Borchardt. Her tasks at the Commission will also include responsibility for the Victorian Law Foundation Library which is conveniently located in the same building. Prof Louis Waller, Chairperson of the Commission, has also recently been appointed to head a new inquiry called the Standing Review and Advisory Committee in Fertility (Medical Procedures) Act 1984.

ALRC

Mr Steven Odgers, a senior law reform officer returned to the Commission after an eight month absence, having successfully completed his Master of Laws Degree at Columbia University New York city. He will be working primarily on the Contempt Reference. Ms Anne

Slattery has recently joined the Commission as the Personal Secretary to the new President Mr Xavier Connor. Ms Slattery has previously worked with Mr Connor as his personal secretary in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney. Ms Eileen Plumb, law reform officer for the last ten months, leaves the Commission after completing the Supplement to the Law Reform Digest, which, when published, will bring the Digest up to date to the end of 1984. Ms Jennifer Fitzgerald, a law reform officer, leaves the Commission after working on the Contempt and Sentencing References. Ms Plumb and Ms Fitzgerald were employed under the Community Employment Program and subsequently appointed law reform officers to complete their work.