

REPORT ON SERVICES

By Anne Purcell

EXPERT DATABASE

All members of **APLA** are invited to submit names of expert witnesses they have used in their practice and who they believe would be of benefit to other **APLA** members.

The expert will then be contacted and invited to be registered on this database for a set annual fee.

If they agree to this their curriculum vitae and details will be keyed into the database.

Access to the Expert Witness Bank is **open only to APLA members** and is via the phone or the standard request form which can be mailed or faxed to the APLA office.

For a small charge when you access the Expert Witness Bank, we will supply a full listing of experts which match the request and who have been recommended and used by APLA members.

The forms you will need to use this service are enclosed with this newsletter.

Please complete the form nominating the expert/s you believe should be included on the database and fax them to us today on (02) 261 3318.

The success of this service relies on us being able to offer a large number of experts to our members.

We will be offering full access to the Expert Data Base in the new year.

APLA SEARCH

We envisage that the Expert Database will serve as one part of a larger information exchange offered by **APLA**, similar to that offered by ATLA.

APLA members will be able to request other information which would assist them in their litigation.

These are a few of the search services we are planning to have available in the near future:

- * caselaw and factual research
- * copies of briefs
- * document searches
- * legislative histories
- * access to names of fellow lawyers who have knowledge of a particular case or type of law

We will notify members as soon as APLA Search is up and running.

APLA SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

We will be developing a program of educational forums over the next 12 months.

We believe that there is a gap that needs to be filled in the area of education and information for plaintiff lawyers in the personal injury and public interest field.

We will invite speakers, both local and international at the cutting edge of this field of law.

We are aware that our seminars should also address the special concerns of the sole practitioners.

We want to provide practical assistance to lawyers from both large and small firms.

APLA seminars will have a national focus, however once the **APLA** state branches begin to grow we will support state **APLA** branches holding forums for members using issues relevant to that particular State's legal system and current topical issues.

We hope to hold our first APLA seminar in the middle of 1994 and planning for this is underway. If you have information on speakers or ideas on areas you believe should be addressed please call me on (02) 261 1488.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The APLA Membership Directory will contain a listing of all **APLA** members.

The Directory will contain the names, addresses, phone numbers and area of expertise of **APLA** members.

This provides an easy guide to Australian personal injury and public interest lawyers for both local and international firms.

APLA believes that information exchange is essential in the day to day running of your firm or organisation, and that the Membership Directory will become an integral part of that process.

This directory will be published annually and be distributed to all members.

The directory will be available early in 1994.

APLA PLACEMENT SERVICE

Small to medium size law firms often require extra legally trained professional and semi professional staff for urgent temporary work.

Para-legals and solicitors looking for temporary work can register their names with the service, and supply a curriculum vitae.

APLA members will be able to phone the service and request assistance, giving details of services required and the length of time the services will be needed for. Names and curriculum vitae would be then passed on to the member.

We will contact members with details of this service as soon as they are available. We would like to see this service available before the end of 1994.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

By Roland Everingham

We have some good news in the area of fundraising. The Law Foundation of NSW have agreed to accept a submission from **APLA** for funding. The Foundation has also given **APLA** a small grant to assist in the submission's development. We hope to have the submission looked reviewed at the Foundation's February board meeting.

As you are aware **APLA** is small organisation and finding new areas of funding is essential for its continuation.

I would like all members to actively encourage colleagues to join **APLA**, as we urgently need to expand our membership base.

At a phone conference of APLA state and territory convenors held last month it was suggested that members in all states and territories investigate areas of funding.

We will be able to supply you with a copy of the Foundation submission as soon as it is completed.

If you believe you may be able to assist with fundraising please call your state convenor or Anne Purcell on (02) 261 1488 as soon as possible.