

OTHER DISCIPLINES & PROFESSIONS

[no material in this edition]

PERSONALIA

[no material in this edition]

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The future of law degrees

W Wilson

90/29 *Law Socy Gaz* 28 July 1993, p 34

The intellectual skills necessary to become a good lawyer are examined in the context of academic law courses. A distinction is made between the purpose of law schools and professional skills training. The clinical legal education program at the law department at Brunel, the University of West London, is discussed as a system which allows students to acquire first hand knowledge and experience of the legal system in operation.

Lawyers to spare

J Faine

Aust Lawyer September 1993 p 24

Discusses the number of law students currently entering universities, and the ambition of most students to work in the legal profession. Notes that while there is increasing numbers of unemployed law graduates there is simultaneously "clients desperate for legal services but not getting them". Questions who is responsible for allowing so many law students to enter universities, the proliferation of new law faculties, and whether these new law students will be exposed to an adequate standard of teaching.

Two special committee reports are available from the Association of American Law Schools. One is on **tenure and the tenure process**. It is a snapshot of tenure standards and procedures in American law schools today. It can be found in 42 *Journal of Legal Education* 4 [digested in this edition under "Teachers"]. The other report is on the **Ethical and Professional Responsibilities of Law Professors**. It is available from the AALS.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS

[no material in this edition]

PRACTICAL TRAINING

The Certificate in Legal Practice Course

S S Faruqi

Legal Education in Malaysia - Quo Vadis? 1993, pp 77-99

Describes the Malaysian Certificate in Legal Practice (CLP) course which enables overseas graduates who possess and "academic" law degree to become qualified for call to the Bar. The author first considers the aims of legal education, and then discusses the prior legal education of applicants to the CLP. He then describes the course in some detail, and discusses the question of retraining of all future Malaysian lawyers who study abroad. He also discusses questions of whether the course should be vocational or academic, the possibility of a common fourth year, and entry qualifications for the CLP.

Training of lawyers in Victoria

C Bartlett

Law Inst J May 1993 p 348

The author outlines the widening gap between the number of graduates seeking admission in Victoria and the availability of training places in either articles of clerkship or the Leo Cussen practical training course. The cyclical nature of the employment market is discussed and the possibility of alternative careers and postgraduate study is raised.

Articled Clerks Scheme Rules for 1993

20 *Brief* 3 April 1993 p 39

Sets out rules of the scheme.

Testing times

E Gilvarry

90/27 *Law Socy Gaz* 14 July 1993 p 10

The growing shortage of training places for aspiring solicitors in Britain is discussed with Roger Jones, chairman of the Law Society's training committee. Jones outlines the Law Society's open-market policy and its refusal to tamper with the numbers in response to current economic conditions. He also mentions possible competition law implications that have been raised by the Office of Fair Trading.

The author then foreshadows the establishment of a special committee to tackle the issue and discusses possible options, which include the abolition of

articles, the shortening of articles and bringing forward the point of qualification. Particular mention is made of the institution-based training currently in place in New South Wales.

A question of training

R Smith

90/19 *Law Socy Gaz* 19 May 1993 p 4

The author discusses the current bottleneck of British law graduates seeking to find training in solicitors' offices. A review is made of the existing system, and projections made regarding the numbers seeking vocational training in the future. The author postulates possible responses to the bottleneck, which include doing nothing or reducing the training period necessary to qualify. However, the preferred option of the author is to abolish articles in favour of automatic qualification with some restriction on practice. This approach is considered fairer in that, amongst other factors, it would offer graduates a "more marketable qualification". It is acknowledged that this will unavoidably create a class of non-practising solicitors but the author believes this is a profile of the profession we should begin planning for.

Trainees' trooper

J Ames

90/21 *Law Socy Gaz* (2 June 1993) p 9

The article is an interview with John Balsdon, the Chairman of the Trainee Solicitors Group. Discusses the financial and social implications of the articulated clerk based training in Britain. Balsdon suggests that the legal profession is slipping back into being an occupation for the rich, and that the current system, of discretionary grants linked to training, places a "financial pre-qualification test" in front of law students.

Practical legal training could mitigate legal aid cut backs

J Goldring

31 *L Socy J* 6, July 1993, p 6

Letter to the editor: The author suggests that the profession's desire to increase the "hands on" experience of law graduates may be solved by the introduction of in-service training in legal aid centres.

Discusses the Australian experience with the articulated clerkship system, and it is suggested that prior experience has shown that the system is potentially discriminatory and unsatisfactory as a method of practical training. As an alternative a model used in Caribbean countries is discussed, where students couple their practical legal training with service in the legal aid services of the