

Motions and Mentions

Staggering Statistics

The 1989 Annual Review of the Supreme Court dealt with elsewhere in this issue points out that filings in the Court of Appeal in 1989 amounted to 754 in total while in the Court of Criminal Appeal 621 appeals were filed.

These statistics pale into insignificance when compared to the statistics of filings in Californian courts during 1989. According to the *1990 Judicial Council Annual Report to the Governor and the Legislature*, total filings in Californian courts during the 1989 financial year fell slightly below the 18 million cases recorded in 1988. Superior Court criminal filings totalled 13,486 while Municipal and Justice courts reported 222, 243 felony filings in the same period (92% jump since 1980).

18,508 appeals were filed in the State Courts of Appeal although this included 6,210 criminal appeal filings.

Little wonder that the annual cost of California's judicial system was \$1.3 billion or 1.5% of total State and Local Government budgets.

An overview of the United States presents even more dramatic statistics. 98 million new cases were filed in the nation's state courts during 1988 according to the *State Court Caseloads Statistics: 1988 Annual Report* with trial court filings accounting for the bulk of the litigation with 16.9 million civil cases, 11.9 million criminal cases, 1.4 million juvenile cases and 68.2 million traffic or other ordinance violation cases.

Not surprisingly, the report noted that many States experienced difficulty keeping pace with the inflow of new cases. □

1990 Australian Young Lawyer of the Year Awards

Since 1987 the Australian Young Lawyers Section has conducted annual Young Lawyer of the Year Awards. The objectives of the Awards are to encourage and foster young lawyers' sections, committees and associations and individual young lawyers throughout Australia to establish and institute programmes for the benefit and assistance of the profession and/or the community, and to provide recognition of the programmes initiated.

The Awards have also been extended to include recognition of an individual's contribution over a number of years to the profession and/or the community.

The major prize for the Awards is an Apple Macintosh SE personal computer and printer.

Application forms and the rules governing the Awards are available from the AYLS Section Administrator, Law Council of Australia, GPO Box 1989, Canberra ACT 2601 or DX 5719 Canberra.

Nominations will close on Thursday 4 October 1990 and the winners will be announced on Sunday 4 November 1990 at the Australian Young Lawyers Section Weekend Seminar, Ballarat, Victoria. □

International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)

Australia Section

The ICJ, which has consultative status with the United Nations, is based in Geneva. The Australian Section (all Sections are semi-autonomous) was established in 1958 and since 1983 has been open not only to lawyers but to all interested persons. Most of its members are, however, qualified lawyers.

Its objects include the protection of the rule of law and the promotion of the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The President is John Dowd, MP. Members include Kirby P., Professor G. Nettheim, Einfeld J., judges, senior and junior counsel, solicitors and legal academics.

The Section council meets in Sydney monthly - members are welcome to attend. The range of interests is broad: from the British abandonment of Hong Kong to the Fijian crisis, from the suppression of Tibetan culture to human rights abuses in the Philippines, Malaysia and Bangladesh. Its activities include missions to problem areas to gain information at first hand.

Membership is \$40 p.a. To join this important and active organisation with concerns close to the hearts of all lawyers contact the Secretary General, David Bitel, on 283 1333 or DX 166. □

Loose Parts Scheme

Response to the recently announced Bar Council loose parts program has been somewhat disappointing. To refresh your memory, the aim of the scheme is to collect on an ongoing basis loose parts of reports, journals and digests which are superfluous to your current requirements and to allocate them free of charge to your colleagues who have less than three years standing at the Bar. We need your support to make it work.

To make arrangements for collection of parts, or to be included as a recipient, contact Ross Wishart of Australasian Legal Library Services on phone (02) 918 9416, facsimile (02) 918 0881 or DX 9041 Mona Vale. □

Law Society of Western Australia - Winter Conference

The Law Society of Western Australia will be holding a Winter Conference at Broome's new resort, Cable Beach Club, from Sunday 30 September to Saturday 6 October 1990. Theme of the conference is "A New Decade - Economic Opportunity vs. Environmental Awareness" and topics include legal issues surrounding preservation of the environment and problems facing developers as well as financial planning and superannuation. For further information contact Mrs Judy Jones, Membership Services Officer, Law Society of Western Australia, GPO Box A35 Perth W.A. 6001. Telephone (09) 221 3222 or facsimile (90) 221 2430. □

Family Law and Rights in Asia

LAWASIA has formed a Family Law and Family Rights Section.

The inaugural Chairman of the Section is Stuart Fowler, who is also Chairman of the Family Law Section of the Law Council.

Mr Fowler, Chief Justice Nicholson of the Family Court of Australia, and Mr Rod Burr (Deputy Chairman of the Family Law Section) made up the Steering Committee responsible for establishing the new LAWASIA Section.

The regional members who have been nominated to either the Executive or Council include:-

Professor Ram Singh (India), Professor Mehrun Siraj (Malaysia), Mrs Yoshida and The Hon. Judge Aiko Noda (Japan), Mr Bruce Andrews (New Zealand), Mr Altaf Khan (Bangladesh), Ms Jacqueline P. Leong QC, (Hong Kong) and Ms C.F. Wang (Taipei).

The Section's brief involves the Section in promoting and protecting the human rights of families and in particular the rights of children by the processes of monitoring, discussion, the exercise of influence, public condemnation and, where appropriate, public commendation.

It is the hope of the LAWASIA Council that its Family Law and Family Rights Section can encourage all the nations in the region to adopt and implement the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Additionally the Section is asked-by the processes of dissemination of information and by facilitating discussion and dialogue-to spread an understanding of the diverse laws relating to the family and children throughout the region. There is an increasing mobility of population within the region and it is important that there be a wider understanding of the cultural and legal heritage of the region.

Partly because of that mobility and partly because of the different views taken by nations in relation to their citizens, the Section will try to promote, so far as is possible, comity amongst courts and harmony of laws in the region.

The Section proposes to establish committees within LAWASIA's member nations. Similar steps will be taken as new members join LAWASIA.

The new Section plans to:

- . Publish a family law and family rights magazine which will promote the maintenance and protection of the rights of children;
 - . Produce a significant work on the laws of each of the member countries in so far as they impact on children and their rights, marriage, divorce and the family;
 - . Encourage systems whereby the decrees and orders of courts in other jurisdictions may be both recognised and enforced;
 - . Encourage dissemination of information on the problems of domestic violence and on the status of women and children;
 - . Consider the problems of the abduction of children and international child adoption.
- The Section proposes to hold a biennial conference on

family law and family rights and it is hoped that the first such conference might take place in Malaysia in 1991.

Further information about the Section, and membership, is available from Mr John Healy, Secretary General, LAWASIA, G.P.O. Box A35, Perth. WA. telephone (619) 221 2303 Facsimile (619) 221 2430. □

Labour Law Seminar

LAWASIA'S Standing Committee on Labour Law will hold a seminar in New Delhi from 28 to 30 September 1990.

It is expected that judges, lawyers and academics from all parts of the LAWASIA region will take part.

Subjects to be discussed include the political aspects of labour disputes, discrimination and equal opportunity, the right to work, law and policy on unorganised labour and workers' participation.

The committee is planning to publish for the seminar a volume containing labour law information to assist the discussions.

Further information about the seminar can be obtained from the chairman of the committee, Dr Anand Prakash, 22-A Mahant Building, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi, 110002, India. (Telephone 731 868). □

Aviation Law Association

The 1990 annual conference of the Aviation Law Association will be held on 18th and 19th October, 1990 at the Hyatt Regency, Sanctuary Cove.

Contact Cindy Last, K.K. Travel, 1st floor, 627 Chapel Street, South Yarra, Vic, 3141. Telephone (008) 33 4143 Facsimile (03) 824 0619 □

Maritime Law Conference

The Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand Annual Conference will hold a conference from October 14 to 18, 1990 in Auckland, New Zealand.

For further information contact Association Secretary, David Loadman on telephone (03) 609 1555 Facsimile (03) 609 1600 or the State Branch Secretary Mr. Tim L'Estrange on telephone (02) 229 8765 Facsimile (02) 233 7022. □

ROOM FOR SALE

- External room for sale or license in Chalfont Chambers.
- * Strata Title floor
 - * Room has large windows and extensive wood shelving.
 - * Clerking, contract typing, facsimile, photocopying facilities on floor together with extensive floor library.
 - * \$105,000
 - * Please contact Kim McGrath on 232.3937