

Motions and Mentions

Law and Literature Association of Australia - Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the Law and Literature Association of Australia will take place at the University of Sydney on 17-19 July 1992. The conference will feature papers given by distinguished lawyers, authors and academics on a variety of topics related to literature and the law. A paper delivered by his Honour Mr Justice Peter Heery of the Federal Court on "Literary Criticism and the Law of Defamation" at the Association's 1991 Conference in Melbourne appeared in the last issue of *Bar News*.

The principal speaker at this year's conference will be James Boyd White, Professor of Law, Professor of English Language and Literature and Adjunct Professor of Classical Studies at the University of Michigan. Professor White's major publications include *The Legal Imagination: Studies in the Nature of Legal Thought and Expression*; *Heracles' Bow: Essays on the Rhetoric and Poetics of Law and Justice as Translation: An Essay in Cultural and Legal Criticism*. The Conference will also feature a forum entitled *Women's Judgments: Can they make a Difference?* to be chaired by Mahla Pearlman with presentations by women judges, barristers and legal academics. The first day of the conference will offer a workshop and a continuing legal education session on current issues in contract law, particularly the interpretation of contracts.

Information about the conference and membership of the Association may be obtained from Francois Kunc, Secretary, Law and Literature Association of Australia, Eleventh Floor, Selborne Chambers, DX 377 Sydney. □

1992 AIJA Eleventh Annual Conference

The Annual Conference of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration (AIJA) is to be held on 22-23 August 1992, at The Banco Court, Law Courts Building, George Street, Brisbane.

Information about the Conference can be obtained from Mrs Margaret McHutchison at the AIJA Secretariat, 95 Barry Street, Carlton South, Telephone (02) 347 6815/18.

Conference programmes have been sent to AIJA members and are available from the Secretariat to anyone who is interested.

Unreported Authorities

The Bar Council has approved the following Rule for addition to the Rules of the Bar Association.

Where a barrister proposes to cite to the court an unreported authority, that barrister shall either:-

- a) provide a copy to his or her opponent at or prior to the time of citing it; or
- b) if the authority is one which can readily be obtained, provide to his or her opponent sufficient notice to enable him or her to obtain it. □

Settlement Week 1992

On 23 March 1992, the Law Society of New South Wales announced Settlement Week 1992. Like Settlement Week 1991 (described in *Bar News*, Summer 1991), this year's Settlement Week will involve the voluntary submission to mediation in mid-October of up to 300 pending Supreme Court cases. But this year, District Court and Family Court cases will also be brought into Settlement Week - up to 300 from each jurisdiction. Thus, as many as 900 matters could be mediated during Settlement Week 1992 (which will occur between October 12 and 30 - "week" having become a term of art!)

If Settlement Week 1991 is any guide, a substantial number of barristers will be briefed to appear at the mediations, and some will act as mediators. It may well be that before Settlement Week 1992 mediations begin, there will be available to New South Wales barristers training courses giving grounding in the mediation process, which will be tailored specifically to the needs of barristers seeking a better understanding of how best to represent a client at a mediation. □

Tongue-Tied

In *Nguyen v Taylor* (CA, unreported, 29/5/92) Meagher JA at 6-7 said:

"Certainly both the correspondence and the oral evidence on the point disclose considerable linguistic confusion, but no more than one might expect from an estate agent who was unfamiliar with the real estate concepts, a solicitor who was nonchalant about the legal effect of options, and a client who could not understand the English language." □

In Passing

The report in *The Times* of the farewell to Lord Lane LCJ contains a reference by the Master of the Rolls to one of Lord Lane's puns which was that "Audi alterem partem" was legal Latin for "foreign cars need other parts". □

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