

Letters to the Editor

Researching American Authorities Corrections

The very interesting and informative article by Robert Angyal in the Spring/Summer 1992 issue of *Bar News* pp.23-25 contained a number of comments in relation to the "Supreme Court Library" which may mislead potential researchers of American material. To avoid eligible users paying our "notorious" access charges under a misconception, we thought we should alert your readers to those which are inaccurate or no longer apply.

Incidentally, in 1977 the "Supreme Court Library" in Sydney was absorbed into the "Law Courts Library" Sydney, which was established to provide a service to both the Commonwealth and State Courts in this building.

Unfortunately rising subscription costs, currency fluctuations and static budgets required substantial library subscription cancellations in 1992. To a large extent the titles to suffer have been the looseleaf services, which we will acquire from time to time as funds permit in the future rather than on a continuing basis. Readers are warned to check the "date the service was last updated" notices on the books themselves and to use the digests to update to the date relevant for their matter.

The Law Courts Library has cancelled its subscriptions to the following titles referred to in the article.

- . Biotechnology and the Law
- . Bromberg Securities Law Fraud
- . Dictionary of Medicine (Schmidt)
- . Epstein Modern Intellectual Property
- . Frumer Products Liability
- . Long Law of Liability Insurance
- . Milgrim Trade Secrets
- . Powell On Real Property
- . Schwartz Trial of Automobile Accident Cases
- . Traumatic Surgery for the Attorney

Our subscriptions to *Standard Federal Tax Reporter*, the *Trade Regulation Reporter* and *West's Bankruptcy Reporter* have been converted to bound volume only services.

We do not have a subscription to *Federal Securities Law Reporter* and the set we hold was a donation. It is current only to December 1988.

Incidentally, the Law Courts Library subscribes to the draft *Restatements of the Law* in addition to the *Restatements* themselves. We also hold both the *American Law Reports* and *American Law Reports Federal Series*.

We will shepardise citations for members of the legal profession on LEXIS for a flat fee of \$50 per citation. We find it more satisfactory to rely on LEXIS for this service as shipping delays meant that our hard copy subscription was always out of date and the subscriptions were costing us over \$US20,000 per annum.

Our subscription to the *West Federal Practice* CD-ROM service provides our users with many of the benefits of searching WESTLAW without the costs. The Library now provides a wide variety of CD-ROM and on-line data bases for registered users. A list of these is available on request from our Systems Librarian, Mary Conyngham on (02) 230 8660.

Bar News should be congratulated on its attempts to lift the veil on American legal research and Law Courts Library staff will do their best to help registered users when they use this material for the first time. □

Lynn Pollack
Librarian in Charge
Law Courts Library

FAREWELL RUMBLE

On 27th November 1992 the members of the 9th floor, Wentworth Chambers, held a black tie dinner at the Park Lane Hotel for E R (Ted) Rumble, who was retiring as Clerk to the floor after 16 years.

Those attending included a number of past members, including some now occupying judicial office, the Floor's new Clerk, Paul Johnson, as well as some of Rumble's many mates among the Clerks, viz Isaac, O'Brien, Bannon, McMahon, Tiffen and Horne (see photo).

In addition, Ted's son Paul travelled up from Canberra for the occasion. The affection and pride between father and son was apparent to all and was a highlight of the evening.

The present members of the 9th Floor presented Ted with a new hi-fi system upon which to play his beloved opera, and the former members, ably led by Odling and Callaghan, also presented Ted with gifts.

The evening was a great success and a measure of the regard with which Rumble is held by those for whom he has clerked over the years. □ G M Gregg



(L to R) Front Row: Bill McMahon, Nick Tiffen,
Greg Isaacs, Les O'Brien, Paul Johnson, Brian Bannon
Back Row: Ted Rumble, Bob Horne