
When a president retires, it may be thought that his or her service of the association and its members comes to an exhausted end. Either the ex-president scurries off to the Bench or revels in the newly available time to conduct one's own practice and enjoy the other things of life. Walker, so far as we know, still has a few more nappies to change and is not immediately taking the former option. Nor is the latter course fully open to him. At one of his last meetings on the Bar Council, he was asked by the council and agreed to accept three further tasks for the benefit of the association:

a substantial rewrite of the *New South Wales Barristers' Rules* to deal with issues arising out of the Chesterman Inquiry; the organising of a substantial international conference on statutory and general law interpretation; and a project to introduce national legislation to recognise and protect, to defensible extents, advocates immunity. In other words, he is still working for us and for this we are extremely grateful.

Justin Gleeson SC

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Bar News recorded a visit by Bar Council members and senior staff to the Parramatta Bar. Had the visitors travelled a block or so south, they would have come across St John's Church - a fine colonial Georgian building with a superb wooden ceiling.

The interior walls are covered with lavish memorials to various Macarthur-Onslows and Stanham-Macarthurs, most of which surely offend the sumptuary laws. Hidden amongst these is a modest but perhaps more significant memorial to one Gordon Champion, described as the first NSW public defender. There has long been a firm of solicitors at Parramatta called Kay-Davies and Champion, and I assume that Gordon Champion was from this family. Perhaps someone knows and can assist with the answer.

Yours sincerely,
Graeme Durie

Dear Sir,

Mr Andrew Bell's otherwise informative and entertaining article on Frank McAlary QC, 'The dancing man' (Winter 2003) contains one inaccuracy which needs correction. He wrote that 'Frank McAlary now retires as the senior member of the New South Wales Bar and as the last of the original occupants of the Wentworth / Selborne building having joined 11 Selborne in 1957'.

The latter part of this sentence is not correct. David Rofe QC remains in practice on 12th Floor Wentworth Chambers, he having come to that floor when the Wentworth Chambers building first opened in 1957.

Bob Rymer
Clerk
12th Floor Chambers