

1999 APLA Qld State conference report

Simon Morrison, Brisbane



L-R: Justin O'Sullivan - Intersafe; George Cowan - Rees R & Sydney Jones; Miriam King - Intersafe; Roger Kahler - Intersafe.

The 2nd Annual Conference of the Queensland Branch was held on 25-26 June 1999, at The Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane.

Following the success of last year's conference, 'advanced' and 'training' streams were held.

The advanced stream concentrated on current WorkCover and CTP topics together with an array of Medico-Legal, Evidence and Fraud related topics.

The training stream covered the basic practice areas and featured a simulated Chamber Day which allowed Junior lawyers and Articled Clerks to sharpen their advocacy skills.

A Commercial Litigation stream was introduced for the first time with the feature topic being a Y2K Panel discussion.

"With opening comments by Steve Roche on behalf of the Plaintiffs, likening the Defendants to limp male appendages..."

Justice Callinan of the High Court delivered the Key Note Address on the future of the Law of Negligence which provided an interesting insight into the thoughts of a High Court Judge in this ever-changing area.

The highlight of the conference was "The Great Debate" which pitted three of "The State's Best Plaintiff Lawyers" against three of "The Best Defendants Lawyers" to thrash out whether Society was becoming too litigious.

With opening comments by Steve Roche on behalf of the Plaintiffs, likening the Defendants to limp male appendages, a thoroughly enjoyable hour of debate was to follow.

All delegates enjoyed the weekend with good feedback being provided for next year's topics.

A big thankyou goes to Jane Staley and Simon McGregor from APLA National for their invaluable assistance with the conference.

We also appreciate the generosity of the Sponsors that contributed to the success of the event.

The Planning for the 2000 conference will shortly be underway to ensure a bigger and better event next year. ■

Simon Morrison was the Conference Chair and is a partner at Shine Roche McGowan, Brisbane.
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L-R: Simon McGregor - APLA; Peter Carter - Carter Capner; Roger Singh and Chris Gillott - Shine Roche McGowan.