



Launch of de Groot's "Estate Litigation DVD"  
Tattersall's Club, Templeton Room  
Tuesday 19 October 2010, 6:00pm

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**The Hon Paul de Jersey AC**  
**Chief Justice**

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak briefly this evening, not only because of my friendship with the partners of the firm and my respect for the specialized service it offers, but also because of the intrinsic worth of the project.

I have been asked to touch on "litigation trends". One which is relevant to the project being noticed this evening, is the increasing trend towards self-representation. Another trend is for citizens to inform themselves in expert fields by recourse to the internet.

The DVDs generously produced and disseminated by de Groot, of which the Estate Litigation DVD is the most recent, are destined for public consumption through, for example, the Brisbane City Council Library Service. I imagine the matters covered in the DVD could be found somewhere or other on the internet. The advantage of what we launch this evening is that the information is available in the one place, and set forth reliably – which as we know the internet cannot always guarantee.

I watched this DVD today in my chambers: it covers family provision applications, informatively and interestingly, presented by John de Groot with considerable aplomb.

In mentioning lack of legal representation, increasingly a feature of litigation in the Supreme Court, I certainly hope this DVD will not foster it, and that of course is not the intention. It should however assist a person confronted with an estate problem, or perceived problem, to gain some reliable information about the relevant law and the applicable process, without having first to take the sometimes expensive step of retaining a solicitor. It may allay at once some concern of a surviving family member, for example,



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or on the other hand, confirm to that person that there is a case or claim which should be explored with expert lawyerly assistance.

It is reassuring to see a respected and successful firm such as de Groot's generously prepared to share its expertise in this way. In launching now the firm's "Estate Litigation DVD", I respectfully commend the firm, and express my confidence that this will become, as have the precedent DVDs, a valuable community resource.