

Professional Development Committee

It's that time of year when people reflect on what has happened and what sort of year it has been (as well as counting the days until Christmas. It has been a very busy year for the Professional Development Committee.

The focus of the Committee this year has been to provide useful and practical seminars tailored to the needs of young lawyers.

The Young Lawyers' Lecture Series is winding down for this year. As always, this is our biggest vehicle for encouraging continuing legal education among young lawyers and all sessions were well attended this year.

The Inaugural Young Lawyers' Conference was held on 21 August at Leo Cussen Institute. This included a workshop on drafting pleadings which was conducted by members of the Victorian Bar, a seminar on multimedia and electronic commerce and a seminar on the GST and its implications.

The Bar vs Solicitors mooting competition, sponsored by Optus, was conducted on 24 September 1998. The solicitors were represented by Anna Robertson of Coadys Solicitors and David Crocker of Mallesons Stephen Jaques while the barristers were represented by David Batt and Suresh Senathirajah. The judging panel (Mr David Grace QC, Ms Felicity Hampel QC and Mr Justice Charles) were impressed with the style of the presentations and the advocacy skills displayed by both the barristers and the solicitors. Unfortunately, the barristers took a clean sweep with David Batt winning the best advocate award and the barristers' team winning the moot. The Committee thanks Optus and the Australian Advocacy Institute for their support of this event.

The Multimedia Conference was also highly successful with high profile speakers such as State treasurer, Mr Alan Stockdale, Mr Peter Upton of the Australian Information Industry Association and Mr Victor Pertont.

The committee also organised a "Geoffrey Robertson" style hypothetical on corporate fraud. The panel included members of the legal profession, the

accounting profession, fraud investigation and consultancy firms and the Major Fraud Group of the Victoria Police. This event was well attended by both members of the legal profession and members of the business community.

I thank the members of the committee for their hard work during the course of this year. I also thank those people who attended our events and who have supported our initiatives. The committee has worked hard to organise practical "hands on" seminars and workshops for young lawyers. We look forward to your support next year.

Adrian Fung
Chair, Professional Development Committee.



*Adrian Fung,
Chair*