

Committees

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Community Issues Committee

The Community Issues Committee has had a busy and productive year.

The pro bono referral scheme is now underway following the appointment of a full time solicitor to run the project. The program is aimed at identifying and meeting needs in the community for legal services, which are not currently met. For more details see the article on page 7.

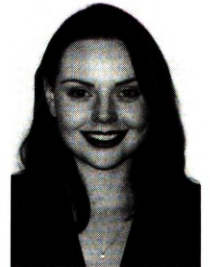
We have also recently secured the assistance of a major law firm to update the booklet entitled "Gay and Lesbian Couples and the Law" and hope to have the updated version completed and published soon.

In the New Year we hope to continue to pursue a number of new initiatives, including working in conjunction with the Disability Advocacy Service with respect to the impact of the law on people with disabilities, the production of a guide to

superannuation for your people, and engendering debate on issues surrounding the law and biometric information.

We are also committed to expanding the legal Shadow Program, which was piloted in 1997, and aims to widen the career options of students from disadvantaged schools by introducing them to a profession of which they might otherwise have limited knowledge.

Finally, the Committee will maintain its on-going involvement in the up-front fee debate which it sees as crucial to ensuring that a legal education is accessible to all segments of the community. As always, we welcome new members, ideas and input – contact Darren Hogeboom at the Law Institute on 9607 9385 or email d-hogebo@liv.asn.au



Alexandra West, Chair

Specialist Accreditation - Assessment Timetable 1999

May

- o Mediation
- o Personal Injury Law
- o Income Tax Law (inaugural program)

Applications close 22 March

1999 Pre-exam CLE Series

Prior to the assessment programs the Specialisation Board will present a number of two-hour sessions in each of the areas to be examined.

Presentations will be geared towards experienced solicitors seeking accreditation, but are also designed to be of benefit to those who are already accredited and to young lawyers - in fact anyone with an interest in the specific area of practice.

July - August

- o Environmental, Planning & Local Government Law
- o Planning & Environmental Law
- o Property Law
- o Family Law (national assessment)

Applications close 9 June

Further Information

To register your interest and obtain further information about assessment programs, study groups and the pre-examination CLE series please contact:

Bernadette Forbes on (03) 9607 9461
or
e-mail b-forbes@liv.asn.au

**Specialist Accreditation
Law Institute of Victoria**

