

## community issues report

The Community Issues Committee is looking forward to a busy and eventful year.

### Shadow Program

The Shadowing Program, which involves matching students from disadvantaged schools with practitioners for a week's mentoring and work experience, is moving from strength to strength. Now in its third year, the Program will this year be expanded to country students and firms. Unfortunately, student demand for positions in the program far outweighs the number of solicitors willing to act as mentors, so I ask that all readers promote this worthwhile scheme to their employers and colleagues.

### Careers In Law

The Committee is also running a series of information lectures for law students to provide them with alternative career information. Prompted by concerns of Committee members that many law students focus solely on attaining articles, the lectures will be delivered at Melbourne, Monash, Deakin and La Trobe Universities and will feature presentations by journalists, barristers and corporate solicitors, to name a few.

Later in the year, a Skills Program will be run in conjunction with the Leo Cussen Institute to assist law students in the lead up to the articles application period.

### Gay and Lesbian Law Guide

The Gay and Lesbian Guide to the Law, a long-awaited Committee project, will be produced this year. Funding has been granted by the Law Institute and Committee members will continue to be involved in its development.

### Get Involved!

The Committee is constantly looking for new ideas for projects and new members, so if you're interested in becoming involved please contact Darren Hogeboom at the Law Institute on 9607 9385 or e-mail him at [younglaw@liv.asn.au](mailto:younglaw@liv.asn.au) for more information.

**Aurora Kostezky**

*Joint-Chair*

[aurora.kostezky@melb.ebsworth.com.au](mailto:aurora.kostezky@melb.ebsworth.com.au)

## HANOVER/LIV

### mooting competition

Following the success of last year's Hanover & Law Institute of Victoria Mooting Competition, the event will be held again this year.

The main purposes of the Mooting Competition are to continue the professional development of young practitioners and to raise funds to assist Hanover continue its work with people who are homeless in Melbourne.

Hanover is a leading Victorian non-denominational welfare agency which has worked in the area of homelessness since 1964. Each day it assists over 450 people through the provision of meals, accommodation, financial counselling,

medical assistance, work skills and employment placement.

The format of the Mooting Competition will be similar to last year, with law firms entering a team of junior practitioners (articled clerks and up to third-year lawyers) to compete. Each team will take part in one moot and be scored against a set of common criteria. The two winning teams with the highest scores will compete at the Grand Final and it is hoped that they will be judged by the Full Court. A number of Supreme Court judges have again indicated their interest in judging the knockout series.

Last year's closely contested grand final between Arthur Robinson & Hedderwicks and Mallesons Stephen Jaques was held before the Full Supreme Court. The team from Arthur Robinson & Hedderwicks was declared the winner by a narrow margin. The judges commented that the standard of advocacy throughout the mooting series was very high.

The competition will be held on Thursday evenings from 6.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. between 1 June and 10 August, with the Grand Final on 24 August 2000. Awards for the Mooting Competition will be presented at a cocktail party after the Grand Final.

School and university students will be invited to attend the moots in order to provide them with an opportunity to watch a moot of high calibre, experience the magnificence of the Supreme Court, and to help them develop a greater understanding of Hanover's work with homeless people in Melbourne. Representatives from the media will also be invited to attend.

The feedback we received from practitioners and law firms who participated in the Mooting Competition last year was most positive and we believe that this year's competition will be even more successful!