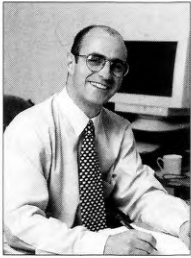


chair's report community issues report



RICHARD KERVIN

The first half of the year has been tremendous for the Young Lawyers' Section. In the previous edition of the Young Lawyer's Journal, I wrote about the enthusiasm being displayed by the mem-

bers of our various committees. I am very pleased to report that the enthusiasm has been vigorously translated into action. This is clear when you read about the activities reported by the committee chairs.

The Section has also been able to draw upon the support of our members who don't sit on a committee. Our conference in May was so popular we had to turn people away (sorry to those who missed out). The **Shadowing Programme** was an unprecedented success, and once again you have before you a fine publication in the Young Lawyers' Journal.

You will read a new committee report in this edition of the Journal. The **Social Committee** has been "on the books" but has not met for a number of years. However an inspired group of Young Lawyers has decided to breathe life back into it and they have big plans.

The Executive of the Section recently voted to create a new **Law Reform Committee**. This committee will be making submissions on proposed legislation and also putting forward new ideas for law reform. At the time of going to print its first meeting had not been held, but the Law Reform Committee will be already taking action by the time you read this. Stay tuned...

I'm very excited about the rest of 2000 and look forward to seeing the Section serving the interests of its members. I hope you are too, and I look forward to meeting you at one of our activities or functions.

Richard Kervin,
Chair, Young Lawyers' Section
Richard.J.Kervin@team.telstra.com

The Community Issues Committee has been moving from strength to strength this year. Our membership has increased from a fluctuating 5 to a strong showing of around 20, with new members from city law firms and universities alike. To give you an idea of what we've been doing, here's a run down of our activities this year.

shadowing program

The program, which places students from disadvantaged schools with solicitors for a week of mentoring, is now in its third year. This year we found places for an unprecedented 70 students, and we're looking to expand the program even more next year.

juvenile justice program

Our juvenile justice sub-committee has started working on a project to create an information booklet for young offenders from non-English speaking backgrounds and their families.

"community news" page

As part of our brief to keep young lawyers informed of community legal news, our members are currently preparing a regular "Community News" page for the Journal, which will keep you up to date on law reform developments, volunteering opportunities and the like. Find the first instalment in this edition.

essay contest

Annual Legal Essay writing contest - The Committee is currently planning an annual legal essay contest for secondary school students to coincide with the centenary of Federation next year. It will be a big project and will involve securing sponsorship and judges for the contest, as well as deciding on topics. If you have other ideas for projects, please contact Aurora by email at: aurora.kostezky@ebsworth.com.au

community issues update

Jacqui Boymal

re-birth of the law reform commission

Just weeks after entering office in 1992, the Kennett Government closed down the Law Reform Commission. Now the body looks set to be reborn after the current Government's budgetary commitment of \$4 million. The reinstated Commission, expected to be fully operational by late 2000, will:

- investigate issues of law reform raised by community groups previously locked out of law reform debate
- address areas of legal reform referred to it by the Attorney General's Department
- tackle contentious issues, such as IVF and the property rights of gay and lesbian couples.

publications

alternative law journal

This journal provides a valuable forum for alternative and critical perspectives on current legal and social issues. After 25 years, the Alternative Law Journal still engenders heated debate, addressing issues such as equal opportunity, legal aid and indigenous rights. Notable contributors of the past include Justice Michael Kirby, Gareth Evans and Bryan Keon-Cohen QC, the founding editor. The current issue, entitled "Justice and Detention", includes articles on refugees in crisis, juvenile defendants, mandatory sentencing and alternative rehabilitation methods for prisoners.

If you are interested in subscribing to the Alternative Law Journal, call (03) 9544 0974 or visit the website:

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