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www.altlj.org

## new victoria legal aid publications

Victoria Legal Aid has recently released a variety of free legal publications:

- Know Your Rights - answers to common legal questions eg. Victorian court system, victims of crime, WorkCover, tenancy issues, FOI;
- Your Day in Court' - overview of the criminal justice system and tips to help defendants get through the trauma of their day in court.
- People & Work - common employment law issues, including discrimination, health and safety, superannuation, employment contracts, unions and employees' rights;
- Patients' Rights- a self-help guide to the Mental Health Act - confidentiality, the rights of involuntary patients, informed consent to treatment, rights of appeal.
- Just in Case - fully illustrated children's book about the workings of the Children's Court.

Call 9269 0223 or visit:  
www.legalaid.vic.gov.au

## volunteer work

The Environment Defenders Office

- is an independent, non-profit community legal service focusing on environmental and planning law issues of public interest;
- provides legal advice and representation in an effort to ensure the conservation, protection and enhancement of the environment.
- actively contributes to environmental and planning law reform and policy debate and has released a book entitled 'Victoria's Key to Environment and Planning Law'.

Young lawyers may attend the EDO's professional educational seminars, and are invited to become involved by volunteering their legal skills to the EDO's weekly legal advice and referral service. To view copies of the latest EDO submissions, publications and legal news, visit their web page at [www.edo.org.au](http://www.edo.org.au).

For more information contact the EDO on 9328 4811 or via email at [edovic@edo.org.au](mailto:edovic@edo.org.au).

## forums for legal debate

### turn up your radio

'Done By Law' is a regular radio program sponsored by the Federation of Community Legal Centres. Tune in to 3CR, 855AM Tuesdays at 6.30pm. Listen to the latest legal news, analysis of current legal trends and issues affecting the various Victorian Community Legal Centres. Recent topics on the show include: regulation of the internet, police powers, East Timor and international law, native title and indigenous rights and the impact of the GST. If you have a legal issue that you would like to air on radio call 9391 2244, or if you would like to become a listener sponsor of the program, contact the station on 9419 8377.

*If you are involved in a community law project that you would like included in the next edition of the journal, please contact Jacqui Boymal - email: [jacqui.boymal@melb.ebsworth.com.au](mailto:jacqui.boymal@melb.ebsworth.com.au)*

# professional development

## committee report

### annual conference

The Professional Development Committee is still on a high following the success of the first YLS Annual Conference, held in Hepburn Springs on 13 May.

City, suburban and country practitioners enjoyed learning and partying together. The standard of speakers was excellent. Participants learned a range of skills useful for practice - from Pauline Baxter's seminar on Will drafting, to tips on advocacy from Judge Betty King, to how not to attract the attention of the Victorian Lawyers RPA - including not getting your gear off with clients or dating the opposition in a Family Law matter. We thank Anthony Coleman for these useful insights! The conference was also the venue for the launch of the Healthy Balance Guidelines. The guidelines aim to raise the awareness in the legal pro-

fession of the need to balance work, family and other commitments to have a healthy lifestyle and profitable practice.

### hanover mooting competition

The Hanover Mooting Competition is well under way. Moots commenced on June 8 and run from 6:00-7:30pm at the Practice Court for 8 weeks. The final is to be held at the Banco Court on 24 August 2000. The competitors include entrants from law firms and the Victorian bar. We encourage all practitioners to come and see the teams battle it out for Victorian Moot supremacy.

### negotiation skills workshops

Negotiation Skills workshops are to be held on 15 September and 13 October. The workshops will provide valuable

*Anthony Beck-Godoy and Jane Libbis*

guidance for junior practitioners on ways to deal with clients and negotiate with other lawyers, including at mediations. More details to follow in the coming months.

### young lawyers lecture series

In addition, our regular Tuesday evening seminars are continuing. The seminars provide a useful "nutshell" overview of a variety of areas, and at only \$30 for Young Lawyer Section members, \$40 for other LIV members and \$50 for non-LIV members, they are an inexpensive way to brush up on a particular area of law. Note that prices will rise by 10% after 1 July 2000. New members are welcome to attend our meetings. Anyone interested in attending should contact Karen Hermann at the LIV. Hope to see you at a "PD" activity soon.