

practice, provided participants with current developments in numerous areas of law as well as many practical insights.

Her Honour Judge Betty King of the County Court of Victoria led participants through a journey of the courtroom in "The Art of the Advocate". Her Honour Judge King demonstrated the qualities required of a great advocate and some of the rules of advocacy.

Jack Rush QC, who practises in negligence, torts, personal injury and industrial relations, gave an overview

of recent High Court decisions on tortious liability.

There was a range of topics chosen for broad appeal. Participants had the opportunity to listen to Anthony Coleman of Victorian Lawyers RPA talk in relation to practice management, risk management and ethical issues. Anthony, who was a speaker at last year's conference, provided participants with real-life examples of lawyers and ethics – such as the lawyer who rang up a client who had not paid his account and "*advised him if he had half a brain, he would pay his account*"

or the lawyer who addressed a letter to a client who had failed to pay his account "Dear Hero".

The Conference was a fantastic opportunity to combine continuing legal education with interaction with other young lawyers from city, suburban and country law firms in a social environment. After the Conference, guests enjoyed a fabulous dinner and musical entertainment at the Shearwater Resort and participants who elected to stay overnight spent Sunday enjoying the Resort's many facilities.

mooting competition: "calling all counsel"

By Radhika Kanhai, Anderson Rice & Vice President, Young Lawyers' Section

Do you have a burning ambition to join the Bar? Do you want to know what it feels like to argue your case in front of a Supreme Court judge? Do you want your performance critiqued?

These are some of the reasons 30 young lawyers over the past two years have decided to enter the mooting competition. This year, the qualifying rounds of the competition will be held every Thursday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. between 7 June and 2 August 2001 in Court 10 of the Supreme Court. Each qualifying round will be presided over by a different Supreme Court judge. The finalists will compete in the Grand Final Moot on 23 August 2001 presided over by three Court of Appeal justices.

The competition is organised jointly by the Law Institute, Hanover Welfare Services and the Australian Advocacy Institute. Hanover Welfare Services, a support organisation for the homeless and disadvantaged in the community, receives the funds raised from the entry fees. The Australian Advocacy Institute provides the problems on

which the moots are based. It also runs a training session prior to the competition for those who want to fine tune their advocacy skills.

The moot problems are generally in the form of interlocutory applications brought in the Practice Court. Although the Practice Court is a court where counsel are unrobed, to add to the experience of appearing as an advocate, competition participants are requested to robe. The problems are sent to the teams two weeks in advance. A team consists of one senior and one junior counsel and up to two instructing solicitors. Teams may comprise articled clerks and first to third year lawyers. There is a maximum of one team per firm. Assistance from anyone else is not permitted.

So, what can you expect on the evening of your first appearance as counsel?.....a court full of legal studies high school students, your colleagues, friends and members of the public. There will be a video camera (if your firm has requested your performance to be taped) and a photographer

recording the occasion. You have the opportunity to have your taped performance reviewed by the Australian Advocacy Institute after the competition. After a short introduction, the case will be called. Senior counsel for the Applicant will present the case first, followed by junior counsel. Then counsel for the Respondents will follow. Expect to be asked questions by the judge. The judge will then critique each participant on three criteria: preparation and conceptualisation, legal argument and communication. A decision on the case will be given and the winning team announced. Each team's score will not be revealed. The two teams with the highest scores out of all seven of the qualifying rounds will compete in the Grand Final Moot. The competition winners will be presented with a trophy and a gift voucher at a cocktail party following the Grand Final Moot.

Inspired to enter? Collect together a team and contact the Young Lawyers' Section quickly on 9607 9379 as entry is limited to just fourteen teams.