

business of the conference. Over several days the House of Delegates considered 45 reports with recommendations.

Well, my time as President of the Section is almost up. I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people for their support – my employer, Deacons, who encourage my involvement in Young Lawyers and the other numerous LIV committees of which I am a member, the LIV Council who put up with my harassment and late submissions and rarely (if ever) turned us down, Jacqui Boymal our dynamo manager, the Executive Committee of the Section and my long suffering partner Bruce.

It has been a marvellous year, both for the Section and for me personally. The Professional Development Committee was recognised recently at the Australian Young Lawyers Awards in Canberra for its publication *Thriving and Surviving*.

The Section has started a Suburban and Country Committee, which met face to face for the first time at our Assembly on 17 November 2001.



VICTORIA STRONG AT THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.

The Section has put forward submissions on migration and street prostitution.

We held our first ever essay contest for school students. The Social Committee breathed new life into the Section with quarterly drinks, a running club and the Comedy Debate.

As President of the Section, for one shining moment I have had the opportunity to bask in the reflected glory of Victoria's young lawyers – ordinary men and women whose actions have extraordinary impacts. Thank you for the privilege.

Tory

law reform issues

By Yvette Nash (Office of Susan Davies MP) and Tiziana D'Costa (Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel), Co-Chairs, Law Reform Committee

The Law Reform Committee, in the course of making a number of successful and not so successful attempts at making submissions, is starting to really find its place within the Young Lawyers' Section and the Law Institute.

This year the Committee has made submissions on racial and religious tolerance legislation, Federal Court rules, migration rules and prostitution. We have worked with the Community Issues Committee on a project to introduce a Good Samaritan law to better enable food distribution to the homeless and disenfranchised.

On the horizon are projects for reforming the Victorian upper house, preparing a con-

ference paper for a conference on young people and drugs (we're currently looking for people to assist with this, so if you're interested please contact Jacqui Boymal), the successful conclusion of the feeding the homeless project and voting rights for homeless people, just to name a few.

It is amazing how there is always so much we could be doing at any one time – we are only limited by our human resources!

Looking to the future, there are a lot of things that the Law Reform Committee should think about now that it is getting its head around basic submissions. There is a political process intimately intertwined with the media out there that we should be exploiting.

We hope that the Committee next year, will encourage more debate at meetings, and look at adopting some of the projects – like regular public forums – such as those discovered by Tory Strong when she visited the United States.

Submissions and press releases do not come easy. Hours of reading, research, meetings and writing are involved. Our volunteers work hard on top of their own jobs to try to make an impact on the laws that govern this State and Country. And we love them for it. Naming people always runs the risk of missing someone out, so we will leave it as "you know who you are". Thanks – you did a fantastic job this year.