



THE CLE CONFERENCE MIXES INTENSIVE LEGAL EDUCATION WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK AND RELAX

Hanover Mooting Competition

Over the past couple of months, the annual Hanover Mooting Competition has been under way with young lawyers "doing battle in the courtroom" in their quest to demonstrate their advocacy skills. The Mooting Competition is a joint initiative of Hanover Welfare Services and the Professional Development Committee.

The topics have required participants to conduct research, prepare legal arguments and make submissions to the Court utilising established legal principles. Some of the topics to date have required the Defendant in a proceeding to make an application seeking an Order to strike out the Plaintiff's claim for want of prosecution.

The Competition this year has experienced the participation of the Honourable Justices Batt and McDonald of the Court of Appeal for the first time. Successful firms to date in the Competition have been Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Arnold Bloch

Leibler and Allens Arthur Robinson, whose advocacy skills have persuaded the Judges to declare their firms winners in the preliminary heats. The presiding Judges have also asked participants relevant questions during the presentation of legal arguments to ensure that participants have a complete knowledge of the facts and court procedure. Whilst the presiding Judges in the Competition were not robed, they encouraged the participants to experience wearing wigs and gowns.

The aim of the Mooting Competition is to encourage young lawyers (from articulated clerks to third year solicitors) to improve their advocacy skills by preparing a case for a hearing, identifying the legal issues and presenting legal argument to the Court.

The Mooting Competition heats concluded on 1 August 2002. The two teams with the highest score will compete in the Grand Final Moot which will be held on 22 August 2002 in the Red Court of the Court of Appeal, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. ■

commercial agreements, discrimination law, public and occupier's liability law and the art of the advocate.

The Conference speakers were experts in their field of law and included Judge Betty King who has proven to be a popular presenter at the Annual Conference.

The Conference finished with a presentation by the Hepburn Springs Spa Resort of relaxation techniques for young professionals, with one lucky participant going home with a gift voucher for a massage at the Resort.

Law reform committee report

Yvette Nash, Office of Susan Davies MP and Karyn Palmer, Deacons, Co-Chairs Law Reform Committee

Over the past few months, the Law Reform Committee has seen a number of its projects come to fruition.

Food Donations

A submission prepared by a joint sub-committee of the Law Reform Committee and Community Issues Committee for the One Umbrella organisation on the need for a "Good Samaritan" law to encourage food donation, has been seen by the Minister for Health, John Thwaites. Public undertakings have been given to consider the issue. With a little concerted lobbying we hope that this work will result in new law in Victoria.

Anti-terrorism bills

Submissions were also made to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee and the Joint Parliamentary Committee for ASIO, ASIS and DSD on the Government's proposed draconian ASIO Laws (see the legal update in this Journal). These submissions focused in particular on the potential effect of the legislation on children. This resulted in an invitation to make an oral submission at hearings of the Joint Committee in Melbourne (and an opportunity to be recorded in Hansard!). The Joint Parliamentary Committee considered the comments of the Law Reform Committee and our concerns were noted and referred to in the Joint Parliamentary



ANNA SKARBK (MACQUARIE BANK & YOUNG LAWYERS' SECTION), CAROL NIKAKIS (ONE UMBRELLA), TARQUIN LOCKYER (COLLINGWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB) AND JACQUI BOYMAL (MANAGER, YOUNG LAWYERS' SECTION) WITH PIES PREPARED FROM DONATED FOOD PRODUCTS

Committee's report. Further, the Joint Parliamentary Committee has recommended that the ASIO Bill exclude persons under the age of 18 years.

Same sex relationships

Consideration of issues relating to same sex marriage and children of same sex couples is an ongoing project which is now starting to take shape after conversations with the Family Law Committee. It is hoped that a forum on this issue will take place

before the end of this year. It is anticipated that this will be followed with submissions to both State and Federal Governments, that include both majority and minority viewpoints.

If you have any ideas for law reform issues, we can assist you with the preparation of submissions, press releases and the lobbying process. For further information, please contact Yvette Nash at yvette.nash@parliament.vic.gov.au or Karyn Palmer at karyn.palmer@deacons.com.au. ■