

Later Lawyers Committee Report

By Carol Geyer, Chair of the Committee

The Later Lawyers Network continues to grow in numbers and opportunities as the year progresses.

We were honoured to be addressed by Mr John Denton, Partner and CEO of Corrs Chambers Westgarth on August 25 at Zargatt Restaurant. John, a later lawyer, is demonstration to us all that a later lawyer can be a successful lawyer. John has used his previous diplomatic experience and negotiation skills to achieve success in his areas of expertise: workplace relations, international trade law and

government relations. The evening provided Later Lawyers with wonderful networking opportunities.

On 4 October, the Young Lawyers' career seminar was directed towards Later Lawyers. Later Lawyers heard tips for success in their second (or third) careers. There was information from recruitment experts as well as personal stories from Later Lawyers practising in different areas of the law.

The Later Lawyers committee has been busy learning more about the needs of its members through surveys so that we can continue to develop

a program which is able to meet those needs. We are also endeavouring to promote Later Lawyers to law firms as the new year approaches and articles of clerkship are again "up for grabs".

We are proud to be the first Later Lawyers Committee in Australia, representing an enthusiastic, vibrant group of new lawyers. The foundations developed this year will facilitate strong growth of the Committee in the coming years. Thank you to the committee members who have worked hard this year for the future of the Committee. ■

Law Reform Committee Report

By Caroline Pascoe and Annabelle Nilsson, Co-Chairs of the Committee

It has been a busy year for the Law Reform Committee (LRC), with members currently working on the following projects:

- The environmental issues sub-committee is working on a submission to the Victorian government on mandatory energy efficiency standards in commercial buildings. The submission focuses on changes to the Building Code of Australia and possible changes to planning schemes, and compares interstate and overseas energy efficiency standards.
- The discrimination in the law submission to the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee

(SARC) was sent to the SARC on 1 September. Amendments were required due to the controversial nature of some of the recommendations.

- A training session on preparing and writing submissions was held on 16 September 2004.
- The LRC is supporting One Umbrella in advocating the nationalisation of the good samaritan legislation. The legislation only exists in Victoria and allows businesses to donate food safely for a charitable purpose without fear of liability. The LRC is drafting letters to be sent to the law societies in the other states and territories,

encouraging them to lobby their own governments.

- Several of the LRC members have worked with other young lawyers to organise the 22 September 2004 Hypothetical – Law on Terror.

The Co-Chairs are grateful for the enthusiasm, dedication and hard work of the members this year and are looking forward to nominating interested members for the position of LRC Co-chair/s for 2005. New members are welcome at any time – please contact the Young Lawyers' Section for more information. ■

Professional Development Committee Report

By Eleni Tsotsos and Felicity Cara-Carson, Co-Chairs of the Committee

The Professional Development Committee of the Young Lawyers' Section has recently been involved in or is currently working on a number of interesting projects, including:

Hanover Mooting Competition: The Grand Final Moot was held on 19 August before three Court of Appeal judges between the teams from Allens Arthur Robinson and Minter Ellison. Congratulations to the winning team from Allens Arthur Robinson. Congratulations also to the joint best advocates, Kate Trahair from Arnold Bloch Leibler, and Claire Buckley from the Gippsland Law Association team.

Careers Handbook 2005: The *Careers Handbook 2005 with Firm Profiles* is a useful and informative publication compiled by the Professional Development Committee and is currently on sale in the Law Institute bookshop. Whether you have completed

your law degree or are on the verge of applying for articulated or seasonal clerkships or are considering changing positions, this publication can assist you in your research and your process forward. It contains articles on a range of topics including different areas of the law and alternative careers as well as details in relation to articulated and seasonal clerkship applications, and lodgment.

"The Good, the Bad and the Ugly – Insights into areas of legal practice" discussion forum: A discussion forum is being held on 25 October in the Tony Smith Lecture Theatre, involving speakers from various law firms and the public sector speaking about their experience of practising law in various areas, and giving participants the opportunity to be enlightened about the practice of law in different areas. Please contact Susan Ng, Young Lawyers' Section Manager, for further details.

Career Seminars: A series of career oriented seminars with various speakers and covering different career related topics, which may assist you in planning your career, are being held in October and November: "Articles Uncut" (12 October), "Law: Succeeding in your Second (or Third) Career" (4 October 2004) and "Career Moves for Young Lawyers" (10 November). Please contact Susan Ng, Young Lawyers' Section Manager, for further details.

Annual Lecture Series: A series of lectures covering topics relating to various areas of the law which runs annually from March to November. All registration inquiries can be directed to cpd-liv@hoo.com.au.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Professional Development Committee, or just want to know more, please do not hesitate to contact us – Felicity Cara-Carson at fc@meerkina.com.au or Eleni Tsotsos at eleni@lawyer.com. ■