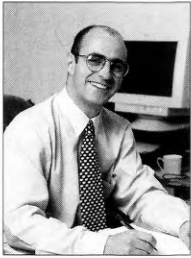


chair's report community issues report



RICHARD KERVIN

The first half of the year has been tremendous for the Young Lawyers' Section. In the previous edition of the Young Lawyer's Journal, I wrote about the enthusiasm being displayed by the mem-

bers of our various committees. I am very pleased to report that the enthusiasm has been vigorously translated into action. This is clear when you read about the activities reported by the committee chairs.

The Section has also been able to draw upon the support of our members who don't sit on a committee. Our conference in May was so popular we had to turn people away (sorry to those who missed out). The **Shadowing Programme** was an unprecedented success, and once again you have before you a fine publication in the Young Lawyers' Journal.

You will read a new committee report in this edition of the Journal. The **Social Committee** has been "on the books" but has not met for a number of years. However an inspired group of Young Lawyers has decided to breathe life back into it and they have big plans.

The Executive of the Section recently voted to create a new **Law Reform Committee**. This committee will be making submissions on proposed legislation and also putting forward new ideas for law reform. At the time of going to print its first meeting had not been held, but the Law Reform Committee will be already taking action by the time you read this. Stay tuned...

I'm very excited about the rest of 2000 and look forward to seeing the Section serving the interests of its members. I hope you are too, and I look forward to meeting you at one of our activities or functions.

Richard Kervin,
Chair, Young Lawyers' Section
Richard.J.Kervin@team.telstra.com

The Community Issues Committee has been moving from strength to strength this year. Our membership has increased from a fluctuating 5 to a strong showing of around 20, with new members from city law firms and universities alike. To give you an idea of what we've been doing, here's a run down of our activities this year.

shadowing program

The program, which places students from disadvantaged schools with solicitors for a week of mentoring, is now in its third year. This year we found places for an unprecedented 70 students, and we're looking to expand the program even more next year.

juvenile justice program

Our juvenile justice sub-committee has started working on a project to create an information booklet for young offenders from non-English speaking backgrounds and their families.

"community news" page

As part of our brief to keep young lawyers informed of community legal news, our members are currently preparing a regular "Community News" page for the Journal, which will keep you up to date on law reform developments, volunteering opportunities and the like. Find the first instalment in this edition.

essay contest

Annual Legal Essay writing contest - The Committee is currently planning an annual legal essay contest for secondary school students to coincide with the centenary of Federation next year. It will be a big project and will involve securing sponsorship and judges for the contest, as well as deciding on topics. If you have other ideas for projects, please contact Aurora by email at: aurora.kostezky@ebsworth.com.au

community issues update

Jacqui Boymal

re-birth of the law reform commission

Just weeks after entering office in 1992, the Kennett Government closed down the Law Reform Commission. Now the body looks set to be reborn after the current Government's budgetary commitment of \$4 million. The reinstated Commission, expected to be fully operational by late 2000, will:

- investigate issues of law reform raised by community groups previously locked out of law reform debate
- address areas of legal reform referred to it by the Attorney General's Department
- tackle contentious issues, such as IVF and the property rights of gay and lesbian couples.

publications

alternative law journal

This journal provides a valuable forum for alternative and critical perspectives on current legal and social issues. After 25 years, the Alternative Law Journal still engenders heated debate, addressing issues such as equal opportunity, legal aid and indigenous rights. Notable contributors of the past include Justice Michael Kirby, Gareth Evans and Bryan Keon-Cohen QC, the founding editor. The current issue, entitled "Justice and Detention", includes articles on refugees in crisis, juvenile defendants, mandatory sentencing and alternative rehabilitation methods for prisoners.

If you are interested in subscribing to the Alternative Law Journal, call (03) 9544 0974 or visit the website:

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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.

For more information contact the EDO on 9328 4811 or via email at 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

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.