

reform of court procedures and specifically debt recovery procedures.

new references

The following new references were received by LRC's or were notified since April 1980.

NTLRC: *Practice and Procedure: Preparation of New Supreme Court Rules.*

Victim Compensation: Inquiry into the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act.

QLRC: *Restricting Evidence relating to bank security devices given in committal proceedings.*

obituary

Professor David Benjafield, C.B.E.

A packed congregation at the St. James Church Sydney, opposite the Sydney Law School and adjoining the Federal and State Courts, heard Mr. Justice Hutley of the N.S.W. Court of Appeal pay tribute to Professor David Benjafield, onetime Dean of the Faculty of Law in Sydney University. Professor Benjafield was confined to a wheelchair following polio at the age of 15. Undaunted, he went on to academic triumphs and taught succeeding generations of N.S.W. lawyers with a special combination of scholarly brilliance and good spirit. After a period of three years at the N.S.W. Bar, he joined the staff of the Sydney Law School in 1948 and rose to Dean in 1968. He was a member of the N.S.W. Law Reform Commission between 1966 and 1967 and later between 1970 and 1973. During his time with the Commission, he took a leading part in the work on the reform of administrative law, upon which subject he was an acknowledged Australian expert. In 1979 he was honoured by the Queen for his services to the law and to legal education.

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The Honourable Mr. Justice Fieldsend

The Secretary of the Law Commission of England and Wales, Mr. John C.R. Fieldsend, has been appointed Chief Justice of Zimbabwe. The new Chief Justice was previously a Judge of the High Court of Southern Rhodesia but upon the Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965 he felt bound by his judicial oath to resign from the court. He joined the Law Commission in 1967 and was the leader of the Criminal Law project for several years before being appointed as Secretary of the Commission in 1978. His return to Zimbabwe as Chief Justice will be welcomed by all those who know him. So far there is no word of a Law Reform Commission in Zimbabwe.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Antonio Lamer

The former Chairman of the Law Reform Commission of Canada, Mr. Justice Lamer has been elevated to the Supreme Court of Canada to replace Mr. Justice L.P. Pigeon who retired in February 1980. Born in Montreal in 1933, Mr. Justice Lamer was called to the Quebec Bar in 1957 and practised law in Montreal before becoming a Judge of the Superior Court of Quebec. He served as a second chairman of the Law Reform Commission of Canada until his retirement from that post in 1978. A note on his career appeared, on his appointment as Chairman of the Canada LRC, in [1976] *Reform* 60.

Mr. Kutlu Fuad

It has been announced in London that the head of the Legal Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Mr. Kutlu Fuad, will relinquish his duties in August 1980 following his appointment as a High Court Justice in Hong Kong. Born in Cyprus, Mr. Fuad has previously held judicial office, including in Uganda. In the Commonwealth Secretariat, he was instrumental in pioneering many important innovations, of which the most lasting may be the establishment of the *Commonwealth Law Bulletin*, a record of important legal developments throughout the Commonwealth of Nations. He facilitated the holding of the first meeting of the law reform agencies of the Commonwealth of Nations at Marlborough House, London in 1977. He attended two meetings of the Australian Law Reform Agencies Conference in Canberra in 1976 and Perth 1979. The communique issued by the meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers in Barbados on 7 May 1980 paid tribute to Mr. Fuad. Law reformers throughout the Commonwealth, including those throughout Australia will long remember his support and assistance.

Sir John Rowell, C.B.E.

One of the members of the Queensland Law Reform Commission, Mr. J. J. Rowell has been honoured by the Queen in the Birthday Honours list announced on 14 June, 1980. Mr. Rowell has been knighted for his services to law and to the community. Educated at the University of Queensland, he was admitted as a solicitor in 1939. Apart from War Service from which he retired with the rank of Captain, he has practised continuously in the law, being elected President of the Queensland Law Society from 1964 to 1966. In addition to his legal posts, Sir John Rowell has been Chairman and Director of a number of important companies. The recognition of his service follows similar recognition in 1979, of the public service of Sir Walter Campbell, a member of the Queensland Supreme Court. Sir Walter was the first chairman of the QLRC 1969-1973.

The Honourable Mr. Justice John S. Aikins

The new chairman of the British Columbia LRC is the Hon Mr. Justice Aikins, a Judge of the British Columbia Court of Appeal. The BCLRC has been without a chairman since late 1979 and almost two years have elapsed since it had a full-time chairman. Mr. Justice Aikins' appointment is effective from 2 July 1980. He will serve full-time, subject