

ports of their proceedings and whether it is necessary.

Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC)

- *The Law of Homicide in Victoria: the Sentence for Murder*, 1985. No 1. First report of the Commission tabled 25 September 1985.
- *Corporate Crime*. DP on computer crime prepared and DP on corporate crime in preparation.
- *Unsworn Statements*. Report to be submitted by end of September 1985.
- *Role of Juries*. DP to be published shortly.
- *Medicine, Science and the Law*. WIH.
- *Commercial Sales and Leases of Goods*. WIH.

Victorian Legal and Constitutional Committee (VLCC)

- *Burden of Proof*. The Committee is presently examining a draft interim report on this subject which will be presented to Parliament in October 1985.
- *Delays in Courts*. Priority is still being given to delays in Criminal Courts from commission of alleged offence to time of trial. An Issues Paper has been released on the Preliminary Examination (Committal Proceedings) for comment by the legal profession and interested persons.
- *Australian Constitutional Convention*. First report on this subject tabled in Parliament in June 1985. Consideration being given to reporting on the recent Brisbane Plenary Session.

Western Australian Law Reform Commission (WALRC)

- *Local Courts*. Report being drafted.
- *Administrative decisions: judicial review*. Report shortly to be submitted.
- *Limitation and notice of actions*. Discussion paper in preparation.
- *Alteration of ground levels*. Comments on discussion paper being considered.
- *Justices Act*. Comments on discussion paper being considered.
- *Privacy*. Report in preparation.
- *Criminal proceedings and mental disorder*. Discussion paper being drafted.
- *Wills: substantial compliance*. Report being drafted.
- *Problem of old convictions*. Work in progress on drawing up final recommendations.
- *Pawnbrokers*. Report submitted.

obituary

Professor Julius Stone

Professor Julius Stone recently died after a long illness. He was 78. Professor Stone was born in Britain of Russian Jewish parents. He was educated at Oxford, Leeds and Harvard Universities and later taught as a visiting Professor at universities in England, United States, New Zealand and Australia. Most of his academic life was spent at the University of Sydney where he was Challis Professor of International Law and Jurisprudence from 1942 to 1972. His appointment to the University in 1941 was surrounded by controversy but he surmounted these difficulties and went on to greater achievements as with the credit for the proposal of the idea of a hotline between Moscow and Washington. From 1972 until his death, he was visiting Professor of Law at the University of New South Wales. He had a great ability as a teacher. From his estimates, he taught, 8015 students including High Court, Supreme Court and District Court Judges and a number of prominent politicians. Mr Wran, an ex-student, recently commented that 'Julius Stone made an unparalleled contribution to the understanding and development of the law'. He was a man of great talent and achievement and will be remembered for his substantial contributions to law.

Personalia

NSWLRC

The term of office of Mr Julian Disney, part-time Commissioner, concluded on 1 June 1985. Mr Disney had been a full-time Commissioner from 1 June 1976 to 1 June 1982, and part-time since. He played a major, indeed pivotal role in the preparation of all four of the Commission's reports on the legal profession, as well as five background papers and six discussion papers. Mr Disney was also principally responsible for preparing an options paper on *Solicitors' Costs and Conveyancing*. Mr Disney's formidable knowledge of the legal profession, his prolific work output and his wealth of experience have enabled the Commission to produce publications of consistent quality under the legal profession reference. The Commission is most fortunate to have had the benefit of Mr Disney's talents over the period of his membership. Two new part-time Commissioners were appointed, to join the Artificial Conception Reference. They are Dr Susan Fleming and Eva Learner. Both were appointed for a period of two years from 10 April 1985. Dr Susan Fleming is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She has a distinguished record in medical practice, teaching and research, both in Australia and overseas. She has also published extensively in her specialty, and holds visiting appointments to two teaching hospitals in Sydney. Dr Fleming is a former member of the New South Wales Advisory Committee on Human Artificial Insemination, established by the Minister for Youth and Community Services in 1982. Eva Learner is Principal Staff Development Officer in the New South Wales De-

partment of Youth and Community Services. She has had extensive experience in the field of social work, in both the United Kingdom and Victoria. Ms Learner has lectured in social work at La Trobe University and participated in a number of studies and projects in such areas as legal aid, welfare housing, and services for the aged. Most recently, Ms Learner served as a member of the Victorian State Committee on In Vitro Fertilisation (the Waller Committee). Three other part-time Commissioners were appointed in August 1985. They are Ms Deidre O'Connor, Ms ND Sperling QC and Mr GR James QC. Ms O'Connor (see [1984] *Reform* 46) has been a full-time Commissioner since 1983 and in August 1985 returned to practise at the Bar. Her appointment as a part-time Commissioner will enable her to see certain current projects to fruition. Mr Sperling QC is a former part-time Commissioner (see [1982] *Reform* 112). He will be involved in various aspects of the Community Law Reform Program. Mr GR James QC is a barrister with an extensive practice in the criminal law. He has joined the Criminal Procedure Division. Mr Mark Richardson (see [1978] *Reform* 20: ['80], 64: ['80], 133: ['84], 87), the Research Director who was on secondment to the NSWLRC returned to a position in the Legal Services Commission in July. Ms Fiona Tito, senior legal officer has acted as Research Director pending appointment of a successor. She is shortly to leave to take up a position as a consultant to the Northern Territory Government in relation to proposed reform of the Workers' Compensation system. Ms Maxine Cuttler, a legal officer, is also leaving the Commission to take up a permanent position with the NSW Department of Consumer Affairs. The NSWLRC has also had a change of Secretary. Mr Peter Lemon was appointed to a senior position in the NSW Department of Education. His successor is Mr John McMillan, who formerly worked at the Department of Environment and Planning as the Administrative Assistant to the Registrar to Commissioners of Enquiry.

WALRC

The new Chairman of the Law Reform Commission is Dr James Austin Thomson. Dr Thompson, a Senior Assistant Crown Solicitor, has been a part-time member of the Commission since August 1982, and earlier this year was reappointed to the Commission for a further term of three years. He has been elected Chairman for a term of one year in succession to Mr DR Williams QC, whose year of office expired on 16 August 1985. The Chairman of the Commission is elected by the members to hold office for a term not exceeding one year. Dr Thomson graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Arts degree and an Honours degree in Law. He was admitted to practise in Western Australia in 1972 and in Victoria in 1983. He joined the Crown Law Department in 1973. Between August 1974 and July 1976 he studied at the Harvard University Law School, and was awarded the degree of LL.M in 1975 and SJD in 1981. In 1973-1974 he served as counsel assisting the Western Australia Royal Commission on Ab-

original Affairs, and in 1984-1985 as counsel assisting the Royal Commission on Parliamentary Deadlocks. He has represented the States in the Australian delegation at the Law of the Sea Conference and at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. His special interest is Constitutional Law, which he teaches part-time at the University of Western Australia Law School and on which he has written a number of articles.

Law Commission for New Zealand

The New Zealand Attorney-General, The Right Hon Geoffrey Palmer recently announced the names of the members of the intended Law Commission. At present the legislation is before Parliament and should be passed by the end of the 1985 session. It is envisaged that the creation of the Commission will be in March 1986. The President will be the Right Honourable Sir Owen Woodhouse presently a member of the Court of Appeal and due to retire from this position in the near future. Members will be Mr BJ Cameron, presently Deputy Secretary for Justice; Professor KJ Keith from Victoria University Wellington; and two part-time members Mr J Hodder, a Wellington barrister, who is also associated with the publications 'Capital Letter' and 'Legal Bulletin' and Ms E Elias, a barrister from Auckland.

Australian Law Reform Commission

Two recent appointees as Law Reform Officers in the ALRC are Ms Wendy Amigo and Mr Vincent Jewell who are both working on the Reference on Insolvency. Ms Amigo has degrees in Arts and Laws from the University of New South Wales. She has worked as a solicitor for a Sydney law firm, particularly in the area of debt recovery. Mr Jewell has degrees in Arts and Laws from Sydney University and is currently studying for the degree of Master of Laws. He also has experience as a practising solicitor. Mr William Tearle, a Senior Law Reform Officer with the ALRC will be taking up appointment as Director of Research at the New South Wales Law Reform Commission in the near future. Mr Tearle was one of the first appointees to the ALRC back in those heady days of 1975. He was appointed a Senior Law Reform Officer in 1977 and since then has worked mainly on the References on Privacy and Debt Recovery. He has established himself as a leading Australian expert in the debts area and has been invited overseas to present papers on this topic. William will be missed by his colleagues at the ALRC. His contribution to the wit and social life of the Commission has been substantial, as has his influence on the Commission's *modus operandi*. His publication *Reformed* raised many an eyebrow and he has caused great consternation amongst bank officials for his correspondence on the financial situation of the Commission's social club: LOAF. We wish him well at the NSWLRC.

Mr Frank Pryor OBE

Mr Frank Commons Pryor OBE, has been appointed as

a non-presidential member of the Security Appeals Tribunal. The appointment is for a period of three years. The Security Appeals Tribunal operates under the ASIO Act to provide a mechanism for reviewing adverse or qualified security assessments made by ASIO. Educated at Newcastle Boys High School, Mr Pryor now 65, gained a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Hons) from Sydney University. Mr Pryor has had a long and distinguished career in the Australian Public Service, beginning in 1941 when he joined the Commonwealth Treasury. He held senior positions in the Treasury, the Australian Government Purchasing Commission, and the Prices Justification Tribunal and was Secretary of the Department of Secondary Industry. Between 1966-70 Mr Pryor was Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund and Alternative Governor for Australia, Asian Development Bank. He was employed as a Special Consultant to the Public Service Board 1979-84. Mr Pryor replaces Sir Clarrie Harders who has recently retired from his position on the Security Appeals Tribunal age 70.

The Hon Justice James Burchett

Mr James Burchett QC a leading member of the NSW Bar has been appointed as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia. Mr Justice Burchett, 54, graduated as a Bachelor of Laws with honours from the University of Sydney in 1952. In 1956 he was admitted to practise as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and in 1959 he was admitted to practise as a barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1974. He is also admitted to practise in the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and Papua New Guinea. In 1976 Mr Burchett was a visiting fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge where he undertook research in trade practices law. While practising at the New South Wales Bar he was appointed Chairman of the Property Law committee of the Law Council of Australia and at the time of his appointment as a judge was Chairman of the Property Law Committee of the Law Council. Mr Burchett is a former alternate commissioner of the New South Wales Legal Services Commission and in 1980, at the invitation of the Chinese government, lectured in China on criminal law and arbitration law. Mr Justice Burchett will be based in Sydney and will take up his appointment on 3 June 1985.

Professor Jack Richardson AO

After eight years as first Commonwealth Ombudsman, Professor Jack Richardson retired in September with plans to return to the law as a barrister or as a consultant. Prior to his appointment as Ombudsman Professor Richardson had been a Member of the ACT Consumer Affairs Council; Member of the Australian Universities Law Schools Association (President 1965-66); Member of the Executive Committee of the International Law Association, Australian Branch; Visiting Professor, International Institute of Air and Space Law, McGill University 1966-67; Robert Garran Professor of Law, Australian National University 1961-77; Dean of the Faculty

of Law, ANU, 1961-72. Professor Richardson also practised at the New South Wales Bar in 1974 and 1975 and was appointed Emeritus Professor ANU in 1977.

Professor Michael Pryles

Professor Pryles, a part-time Member of the Australian Law Reform Commission was appointed to the Henry Bournes Higgins Chair of Law at Monash University in July 1985. Professor Pryles, who had been an acting professor for one and a half years prior to his appointment, has represented Australia at the Diplomatic Conference on Private International Law at the Hague and is also the acting Director of the newly established Centre for Commercial Law and Applied Legal Research at Monash University. He heads the ALRC Reference on Service and Execution of Process. He holds the degrees of Doctor of Laws from the University of Melbourne and Doctor of the Science of Law of the Southern Methodist University of Texas.