

## Hong Kong

HKLRC : Report on Confession Statements and their Admissibility in Criminal Proceedings 1985. Topic 8.

## Ireland

Ireland LRC : Report on the Liability in Tort of Minors and the Liability of Parents for Damage caused by Minors, 1985. No 17.

: Report on the Liability in Tort of Mentally Disabled Persons, 1985. No 18.

: Report on Private International Law Aspects of Capacity to Marry and Choice of Law in Proceedings for Nullity of Marriage, 1985. No 19.

## South Africa

SALRC : Report on Women and Sexual Offences in South Africa, 1985.

## United Kingdom

Law Com : Report on Polygamous Marriages. Capacity to Contract a Polygamous Marriage and Related Issues, 1985. No 146.

: Report on Poison-Pen Letters, 1985. No 147.

: Second Report on Land Registration: Inspection of the Register, 1985. No 148.

: Working Paper on Family Law Review of Child Law: Guardianship, 1985. WP 91.

Scot Law Com : Criminal Law: Art and Part Guilt of Statutory Offences, 1985. No 93.

: Consultative Memo on Constitution and Proof of Voluntary Obligations and the Authentication of Writings, 1985. No 66.

: Consultative Memo on Child Abduction, 1985. No 67.

## United States of America

NYLRC : Annual Report of the Law Revision Commission for 1985.

## new references

### NSWLRC

- *Registration and Certification of Births and Deaths*. Commission's terms of reference on

this subject also include the criteria for registration of the surname of a child of married and unmarried parents.

- *Community Law Reform Program — Highway Authorities/Immunity for Non-feasance*.

## TasLRC

- *Child Witness*. Law and procedures relating to the child as a witness in criminal civil and child welfare protection proceedings in particular to the child as a victim of sexual assault.

## VLRC

- *Plain English*. Its terms of reference indicate it is to inquire into and review current techniques, principles and practices of drafting legislation, legal agreements and those government forms which affect legal rights and obligations in order to recommend what steps be taken to adopt a plain English drafting style.
- *Law Relating to Sexual Offences*.

## what's going on in the LRCs

### Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- *Insolvency*. Consultants meeting held in September 1985. Work continuing on further briefing papers dealing with Trading Trusts, Secured and other like creditors, Bankruptcy Proceedings and Antecedent Transactions. Further consultants meetings to consider these papers in February 1986. Discussion Paper expected mid 1986.
- *Debt Recovery*. WIH. Final draft of report under consideration. Report due early 1986.
- *Admiralty Jurisdiction*. Consultants meeting was held in early December to discuss the Commission's final proposals on civil jurisdiction. Report on Civil Admiralty Jurisdiction due March 1986.
- *Contempt of Court*. WIH. RP and DP on 'Contempt and Family Law' issued December 1985. DP on 'Contempt and the Media' to be issued early 1986. Report due late 1986.
- *Standing*. Report tabled in Federal Parliament late November 1985.
- *Class Actions*. Project to be revived when resources permit.
- *Matrimonial Property Law*. Public hearings in all major capital cities and some country areas took place in November 1985. They proved to be very informative, allowing the public to have their views recorded and placed before the Commission which will be useful when the final

report is prepared. Report due late 1986. (See article on public hearings in this issue.)

- *Evidence*. Public hearings took place in all capital cities around Australia during November. The Commission was pleased with the results of the hearings and the views expressed at the hearings will be taken into consideration when the final report is prepared. Report due late 1986. (See article on public hearings in this issue.)
- *Privacy/sentencing: Expungement of Criminal Records*. DP due December 1986. Report due late 1986.
- *Aboriginal Customary Law*. WIH. Report due early 1986.
- *Domestic Violence in the ACT*. Report in preparation, due early 1986.
- *Sentencing*. WIH. Papers on 'Non-Custodial Sentencing Options', 'Sentencing Discretion', 'Civil Disabilities', 'Profile of Federal Offenders' and 'Sentencing Problems in the ACT' proceeding.
- *Service and Execution of Process*. WIH. Draft legislation being prepared for circulation and comment due January 1986. Report due mid 1986.
- *Occupiers Liability*. WIH.
- *Community Law Reform in the ACT*
  - *Contributory Negligence in Fatal Accidents etc*. Report tabled in Federal Parliament November 1986.
  - *Loss of Consortium*. WIH.

#### New South Wales Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

- *Criminal Procedure*
  - DP on 'The Jury in a Criminal Trial' published 1985, available from NSWLRC. Commission's present is to move to report on this aspect of the referene when its empirical research program has been completed by December 1985.
  - 'Report on Unsworn Statement of Accused Person' published October 1985.
  - DP on 'Procedure before Trial in Criminal Cases' is nearing completion, available late January 1986.
- *Artificial Conception*. Public hearings held in April 1985. Report on Artificial Inception by Donor in preparation. Work in progress on In Vitro Fertilisation.
- *Registration and Certification of Births and Death*. WIH.
- *Community Law Reform*
  - *Execution, Attestation and Revocation of Wills*. Report nearing completion.

- *Garnishment of Building Society and Credit Union Accounts*. Report in preparation.
- *Employee's Liability*. Report nearing completion.
- *Payments Made under Mistake of Law*. Report in preparation.
- *Contribution between Persons Liable for the Same Damage*. WIH.
- *Dog Act*. WIH.
- *Highway Authorities/Non-Feasance*. WIH.

#### Northern Territory Law Reform Committee (NTLRC)

- *Supreme Court Rules*. WIH.
- *De Facto Relationship*. WIH.
- *Administrative Appeals*. WIH.
- *Statutory Interpretation*. WIH.

#### Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC)

- *Real Property Act*. WIH.
- *District Court Jurisdiction*. WIH.
- *Computer Technology – Evidence Act*. WIH.
- *Property Law Act*. WIH.

#### South Australian Law Reform Committee (SALRC)

- *Misfeasance and non-feasance*. Sent to Attorney-General.
- *Survivorship*. Being printed.
- *Entire contracts*. Report circulating for signature.
- *Qui tam and penal actions*. Being printed.
- *Limitation of actions – prescription*. Report circulating for signature.
- *Delivery of deeds*. Draft report and Bill being considered.
- *Crown proceedings*. Draft report being considered.
- *Locus standi in environmental matters*. Report being engrossed for signature.
- *Detinue trover and trespass*. Draft report about to be considered at next meeting.
- *Dealing in public offices*. Draft report prepared.
- *Sunday observance*. Draft report prepared.
- *Voluntary non-profit organisations – locus standi*. Draft report prepared.
- *Carriers*. Report has been prepared.
- *Privity of contract*. Report has been prepared.
- *Effect of mistake on contracts*. Draft report being prepared.
- *Champerty*. Draft report being prepared.
- *Mortgages and Protection of Mortgagors*. DP being prepared.

**Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (TasLRC)**

- *Suretyship and Guarantee*. Draft report being considered.
- *Minor's Contracts*. Draft report being considered.
- *Workers' Compensation*. In committee.
- *Compensation for Personal Injuries*. In committee.
- *Child Witnesses*. Research being undertaken.
- *Computer Misuse*. Draft report being prepared.
- *Private Trusts*. Draft report being prepared.
- *Occupiers' Liability*. Draft report being prepared.
- *onus of Proof*. Research paper distributed.

**Victorian Chief Justice's Law Reform Committee (VCJC)**

- *Supreme Court Act 1958, s142-159 (foreign attachment)*. WIH.
- *Exemption Clauses*. WIH.
- *Competence and Compellability of Witnesses*. WIH.

**Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC)**

- *Intoxication and Criminal Responsibility*. WIH.
- *Corporate Crime*. WIH.
- *Role of Juries*. WIH.
- *Medicine, Science and the Law*. WIH.
- *Commercial Sales and Leases of Goods*. WIH.

**Victorian Legal and Constitutional Committee (VLCC)**

- *Burden of Proof*. The Committee has tabled an interim report on the Burden of Proof in Criminal Cases.
- *Delays in Courts*. Priority is still being given to delays in criminal courts from commission of alleged offence to time of trial.
- *Australian Constitutional Convention*. The Committee will be reporting to Parliament in the 1986 Autumn sitting on the Brisbane Plenary Session and the role and future of the Convention.
- *Human Rights*. This inquiry has now commenced and submissions will shortly be called for as to the desirability of Parliament enacting legislation which defines and protects human rights in Victoria and, if appropriate, the contents of the legislation.
- *Support Services for Victims of Crime*. This inquiry has now commenced and submissions will soon be called for in relation to the terms of reference.

**Western Australia 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*. Report being drafted.
- *Justices Act*. Comments on discussion paper being considered.
- *Privacy*. Report in preparation.
- *Criminal Proceedings and Mental Disorder*. Discussion paper in preparation.
- *Wills: Substantial Compliance*. Report submitted.
- *Problem of Old Convictions*. Report being drafted.

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**VLCC**

The Legal and Constitutional Committee has appointed Mr Greg Craven as its Director of Research. Mr Craven graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Laws degree with Honours. He was admitted to practise in Victoria in 1982 and completed his Master of Laws degree in 1984. He is a lecturer in Constitutional and Administrative Law at the University of Melbourne and has been appointed to the Committee for a two year term. Mr Sam Garkawe has been appointed a Research Officer with the Committee to succeed Mr Mark Sneddon who resigned to undertake his Master of Laws degree at the University of Michigan. Mr Sneddon researched and drafted the Committee's recent report on the Burden of Proof in Criminal Cases. Mr Garkawe comes to the Committee from Monash University where he was a Tutor in Criminal Law and Contracts. He has degrees in Science and Laws and completed his Master of Laws in 1984.

**The Honourable Mr Justice Muirhead**

The Honourable Mr Justice Muirhead has resigned from the Membership of NTLRC prior to his retirement from public life in the Northern Territory. Mr Justice Muirhead was the foundation Chairman of the Committee since that date as Chairman or, in recent years, as Deputy Chairman. At the time of his retirement he was Acting Chief Justice and Acting Administrator of the Territory. His retirement from the Northern Territory is not a full retirement from public service as he will be serving as an active member of the Federal Court in Perth from the beginning of the 1986 legal year.

**Professor David StL Kelly**

Professor David StL Kelly has been appointed