

United States
California L Rev C

- Recommendation relating to Probate Law, January 1987.
- Tentative Recommendation relating to Uniform Dormant Mineral Interests Act, July 1987.

* * *

new references

ALRC

- *Products Liability*

VLRC

- *Co-ordination of Law Reform Activity in Australia.* This is a standing reference establishing a formal mechanism for improving co-ordination between the work of the VLRC and other Australian Law Reform Agencies. The reference will operate through the Attorney-General specifying particular reports of other agencies which may be applicable in Victoria. The Commission will examine and advise the Attorney on these reports. The reference also allows VLRC to enter into 'joint-ventures' with other agencies.

* * *

what's going on in the lrc's

Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC)

- *Admiralty.* Research Paper No 4, 'Criminal Admiralty Jurisdiction' nearing completion.

- *Class Actions.* Draft Report being prepared. Due at the end of 1987.
- *Community Law Reform.* Reports on Occupiers' Liability and a DP on Enduring Powers of Attorney are being finalized.
- *Debt Recovery.* Report tabled in federal Parliament on 21 October 1987.
- *Insolvency.* DP on General Insolvency was released in September. Public hearings will commence in November.
- *Matrimonial Property.* Report was tabled in Federal Parliament on 16 September 1987.
- *Sentencing.* DP's on Procedure and Prisons were released in September. A third DP is due in the coming month. Public hearings are being arranged for November.

New South Wales Law Reform Commission (NSWLRC)

- *Artificial Conception.*
 - *Surrogacy.* Draft DP under consideration by Division.
 - *In Vitro Fertilization.* DP released and submissions are now being received.
- *Registration and Certification of Births and Deaths.* Consultative paper near completion.
- *Evidence.* The Division has been reconstituted and work has commenced on the final report.
- *Sale of Goods.* Work on Issues Paper completed.
- *Criminal Procedure.*

- *Procedure from Charge to Trial: Specific Problems and Proposals*. Submissions are now being received.
- *Classification of Criminal Offences*. WIH. - Appeals in Criminal Cases. Background research completed. DP in preparation.
- *Police Powers of Arrest and Detention*. DP released. Submissions now being received.
- *Contempt*. First draft of report nearing completion.
- *Community Law Reform Program*.
 - *Employees' Liability*. Memorandum to the Attorney General in preparation.
 - *Payments made under Mistake of Law*. Report completed and its release is imminent.
 - *Dog Act*. Report completed and draft legislation is being prepared.
 - *Highway Authorities Non-Feasance*. Report nearing completion.
 - *Dividing Fences*. Draft report completed and under consideration by the Division.
 - *Representations as to Credit: Requirement for Writing*. WIH.
 - *Jurisdiction of NSW Courts over Foreign Land*. Draft report completed and consultation is in progress.
 - *The Rule in Bain v Fothergill*. WIH.

- *Property Law Act*. Report completed.
- *Evidence Act*. WIH.
- *Oaths Act*. WIH.

Tasmanian Law Reform Commission (TasLRC)

- *Motor Vehicle Accident Compensation*. Draft Report being considered.
- *Child Witnesses*. Research Paper being prepared.
- *Occupiers' Liability*. WIH.
- *Insanity*. WIH.

Victorian Legal and Constitutional Committee (VLCC)

- *Support Service for Victims of Crime*. Report in preparation. Due to be presented to Parliament by the end of October.
- *Delays in Courts*. WIH.
- *Australian Constitutional Convention and Constitutional Commission*. The Committee will shortly commence consideration of the Advisory Committee reports of the Constitutional Commission.
- *Subordinate Legislation*. The Committee continues to review all statutory rules made in Victoria under the *Victorian Subordinate Legislation Act 1962*. To date it has tabled nine reports in relation to this subject, as well as three reports in relation to section 32 of the *Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984*.

Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC)

- *Real Property Act*. WIH.

Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC)

- *Plain English*. Report issued.

- *Occupational Regulation*. First joint DP on occupational regulation, 'Estate Agents and Auctioneers', has been published by the Commission and the Regulation Review Unit. Two more papers on general regulatory principles and secondhand dealers/pawnbrokers are near completion.
- *Medicine Science and the Law*. A DP on gene modification will be released soon, and a more general paper on the subject is ready to be printed. Symposium papers on informed consent and a DP on the subject are with the printer.
- *Obsolete Legislation*. Report tabled by the Attorney-General in August. Copies will be available in October.
- *Land Law*. Report on Mortgagee's Auctions and Judgment Debts was tabled in August. A 'plain English' Subdivision Bill was drafted and is due for introduction in the Legislative Council soon. Final drafts of the Torrens Register report are being examined by consultants.
- *Sexual Offences*. 'Rape and Allied Offences: Substantive Aspects' report has been tabled. Three consultancy projects relating to child sex abuse have been commissioned. The report on procedural and evidentiary aspects of the rape reference is in a final draft form. Papers on child victims, and victims with impaired mental functioning are in preparation.
- *Medical treatment for minors*. DP in preparation.
- *Medical treatment for the dying*. DP in preparation.
- *Police Act Offences*. DP in preparation.
- *Minors Contracts*. Report in preparation.
- *Limitation and notice of actions*. DP in preparation.
- *Payment of Witnesses in Civil Proceedings*. DP in preparation.

* * *

obituary

Sir Richard Blackburn

Australian National University Chancellor, Sir Richard Blackburn, died in Canberra this month, aged 69. Sir Richard had been associated with Law Reform for many years. He was Chairman of the Law Reform Commission of the Australian Capital Territory between 1971 and 1976. He had been Chancellor of the ANU since 1984. He was Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory from 1977 to 1982 and Chief Justice of that court from 1982 to 1985. He was a judge of the Federal Court from 1977 to 1985 and a judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory from 1966 to 1971. Sir Richard is survived by his widow, Lady Helen Blackburn, and a son and a daughter.

* * *

Western Australia Law Reform Commission (WALRC)

- *Criminal Process and Mental Disorder*. DP issued and comments being considered.
- *Local Courts*. Report in preparation.

personalia

The Hon Justice Michael Kirby CMG

Former Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission and now President of