

the reports being tabled in parliament. Some of the older reports are no longer relevant, but at least they are now on the public record. Others will be of considerable interest. I have referred them to the relevant Ministers for their information.

The reports are:

- Juries in Criminal Trials
- District Courts' Civil Jurisdiction
- Property Law Act Amendment
- Oaths Act
- Children Services Act
- Criminal Code Amendment
- Criminal Law
- Second Hand Wares Act
- Unincorporated Associations
- Imperial Statutes
- Supreme Court Acts
- Exemption Clauses
- Limited Liability Partnerships
- Acts Repeal Act (Stat. Law Revision)
- Reform of the Law of Rape
- Forfeiture of Leases
- Litter Act. ■

personalia

The Hon Mr Justice TJ Higgins

Terence John Higgins, QC was appointed a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory in June. He is a member of the Council of the Order of Australia and is a leading member of the legal community in the ACT. He has served as Vice-President of the ACT Law Society and the ACT Bar Association. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1987 and practised as a barrister and solicitor in Canberra since 1967. He took up duty on 2 July 1990 following the retirement of the Hon Mr Justice Kelly.

The Hon Justice Mary Finn

Mary Finn was appointed a judge of the Family Court of Australia in July. She has been appointed to the Canberra Registry. She has had extensive experience as a government lawyer specialising in family law and was of great assistance to the ALRC in its reference on matrimonial property, whilst working as an adviser in the Attorney-General's Department. Prior to her appointment to the court, she was Assistant Secretary in the Competition Policy Branch of that Department. As a Special Adviser with the Department, she was instrumental in the development of the Child Support Scheme. She has held statutory appointments as a part-time member of the Board of Management of the Institute of Family Studies and as a member of the Family Law Council. She is also a member of the Film Board of Review. She studied law at the University of Queensland and in 1967 began her legal career with the Queensland Crown Law Office — employed as a typist, but working as a lawyer. She worked in the United Kingdom, firstly as a legal officer with a mining company and later as a commercial lawyer with Vinters in Cambridge. She returned to Australia in 1976 working as a lawyer for Feez Ruthning, again on mining law. In 1979, she commenced as a legal research officer for the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on the Family Law Act. In 1980 she joined the Attorney-General's Department as a legal officer and helped implement the report by the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee in the Family Law Branch. Those who have worked with her have always been touched by her compassion and sense of humour.

The Hon Justice Michael Foster

Justice Foster has been appointed President of the Federal Police Disciplinary Tribunal. His appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice John Kelly. The Tribunal determines matters instituted against members of the Australian Federal Police by the

Commissioner of Police for breaches of discipline. It also hears appeals by Australian Federal Police officers against penalties imposed on them by the Commissioner of Police. Justice Foster was admitted to the Bar of NSW in 1955 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 1974. Between 1981 and 1987 he was a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. In 1987 he was appointed a judge of the Federal Court of Australia.

administrative appeals tribunal

Justice Deirdre O'Connor, former Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, was appointed a judge of the Federal Court and President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal on 25 June 1990. Justice O'Connor has also been appointed President of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal for 5 years. Before her appointment to the ABT, Justice O'Connor had been a Law Reform Commissioner in New South Wales and a Senior Lecturer in Law at Macquarie University. She was admitted as a barrister in New South Wales in 1980. Following Justice O'Connor's appointment, Justice Pincus who was a member of the Council as acting President of the AAT is no longer on the Council.

administrative review council

Justice Alan Boulton of the Industrial Relations Commission, who was appointed to the Council on 13 March 1989, resigned in May 1990.

new Australian securities commission members

The full membership of the Australian Securities Commission was announced recently. Under the chairmanship of Mr Tony Hartnell, the Commission will comprise Deputy Chairman, Charles Williams and Member, Bill Robinson. Under agreement with the State Governments it is proposed that the ASC will also act as the National Companies and

Securities Commission for the interim period from July 1 until the ASC is operating under new legislation to be introduced later this year. Mr Williams, 56, has been assisting Mr Hartnell in establishing the ASC and is the former Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, NSW and Director of the NSW Legal Aid Commission. On announcing the appointment, the Attorney-General Mr Duffy said the appointments brought to the ASC a wealth of experience and ability in corporate and commercial law and public administration. He said: 'I am hopeful that the Federal and State Governments will reach final agreement on the funding and staffing arrangements for the ASC at our meeting in Alice Springs later this month to enable a smooth transition to the new Commission.'

australian capital territory community law reform committee

The government of the Australian Capital Territory has established a Community Law Reform Committee in the ACT. Its role will be: to provide expert advice to the government on law reform issues and references; to assist the ACT government to identify matters appropriate for the ACT law reform program; to make recommendations to the government as to the suitability and priority of law reform matters; to act as a sounding board concerning law reform initiatives and proposals put to the Committee by the government; to make recommendations to the government about the proposals and assist other ACT reform agencies as the need arises. The Committee, which was established in June, comprises: Mr Rainer Frisch, an economist with CARD; Graeme Lunney, President of the ACT Bar Association; Ross Gengos, President of CARTA; Betty McNee, practising solicitor and Treasurer, Law Society; Duncan Chappell, Director, Institute of Criminology; Professor Roman Tomasic, University of Canberra; Judy Harrison, barrister and solicitor, Legal Aid Office; Robin Burnett, lecturer, Australian National University; Peter Sutherland, solicitor, Welfare Rights and Legal

Centre; Nick Seddon, Member Australian Law Reform Commission; Rod Campbell, Legal Journalist, Canberra Times.

Professor Jack Goldring

Professor Jack Goldring has been appointed a part-time member of the ALRC for two years. Prior to his appointment, he was a full-time member of the ALRC from December 1987 until June 1990. His part-time appointment is from June 1990 to June 1992. He resigned his full-time appointment in order to take up appointment as Foundation Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Wollongong. Professor Goldring is currently Commissioner in charge of the reference on federal and territory choice of law rules and is working on the references on multiculturalism and personal property securities.

alrc

Louise Bayutti joined the Commission's staff in May as a part-time law reform officer. She is co-ordinating the consultation process on its reference on multiculturalism. Prior to her appointment, she worked with the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the Special Broadcasting Service. Joanna Magnus was appointed a senior law reform officer in May. She is working on the reference on personal property securities. Prior to her appointment, she was a solicitor at Freehill Hollingdale and Page. Margaret Ryan was appointed a law reform officer in May. She is working on the censorship reference. Prior to her appointment, she was on the personal staff of the Premier of NSW. She also worked as a solicitor at Waterford and Sligar in Coonamble, NSW. Gary Oliver joined the Commission's staff in May as an administrative assistant. Prior to his appointment, Gary was in the Australian Army.

qlrc

The Law Reform Commission has four new members, each member has been appointed on a part-time basis for a term of one year. They

are Patrick Keane QC (Deputy Chairman), Roslyn Atkinson, Helen O'Sullivan and William Lee. Mr Keane graduated in law at the University of Queensland in 1976 with first class honours in law, and the University Medal in Law. In 1976 he was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland. In 1977 he graduated with first class honours in law from Oxford University. At Oxford he was awarded the Vinerian Scholarship and the JHC Morris prize. In 1977 he was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland, and commenced private practice at the bar in 1978. In November, 1988 he was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel for the State of Queensland. Ms Atkinson has been in private practice as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland since 1987. She is a member of the committee of the Bar Association of Queensland. Ms Atkinson graduated with first class honours in law from the University of Queensland in 1985. In 1986 she was an associate to Justice Brennan of the High Court of Australia. Ms Atkinson is also a member of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal. She has been associated with the provision of legal aid in Queensland being a member of the Management Committee of the Caxton Street Legal Service Inc. Ms O'Sullivan is in private practice as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland. She is a member of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal. Ms O'Sullivan is a foundation member of the Women's Legal Service, and the Queensland Environmental Law Association. She is also a co-author of school texts for Legal Studies in Queensland. Ms O'Sullivan will undertake responsibility for the recent reference on the Bail Act. Mr Lee retired as a Reader in Law at the Law School, University of Queensland, and is a Visiting Professor at the QUT Law School. Mr Lee has previously assisted the Commission in its references on succession law and trusts law. Mr Lee is the author of Manual of Queensland Succession Law. He is also an authority of the law of trusts. He is the co-author of Principles

of the Law of Trusts (with Professor HAJ Ford). He also recently chaired a working party which produced a model trustee code for Australian States and Territories.

vlcc

Ms Anne Blake has been appointed the new Director of Research for the VLCC, following the departure of Spencer Zifcak. Anne was employed by the WALRC prior to her appointment to the VLCC. She also worked for the ALRC. Zara Officer recently joined the staff of the VLCC as a research officer.

walrc

Ms Anne Blake left the Commission staff in July 1990 on being appointed Director of Research of the VLCC (see above). Whilst working with the WALRC, she was chiefly responsible for the issues paper and the report on Incitement to Racial Hatred. A Bill to implement the recommendations of this report is currently being considered by a Select Committee of the Legislative Council. ■

areas of law currently under review

administrative law

ARC

- Multicultural Australia — The Council is conducting a series of intervention strategies to publicise the administrative review system and explain its purpose, operation and benefits. The strategies involve community education, training and government liaison activities and concentrate particularly on two communities, the Vietnamese in Footscray, Vic., and the Turkish in Auburn, N.S.W.
- Review of the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act* — A draft report on the furnishing of statements of reasons under Section 13 of the Act is in preparation.

- Specialist Tribunals — Following the National Conference organised by the Council in Canberra on 3 May 1990, the Council was able to report immediately to the A-G on 3 issues: co-ordination and co-operation between tribunals, an annual tribunals conference and tribunal appointments. A training program covering areas of interest for all tribunal members is currently being developed.
- Broadcasting — Further work is being undertaken by the Communications Law Centre on a DP on inquiry procedures of the ABT and review of its procedural decisions. Receipt of the paper is expected in the near future.
- Informal Rule Making — An IP (Rule Making by Commonwealth Agencies) was released on 30 June and submissions are invited.
- Community Services and Health — A report to Council has been received from the consultant engaged on the review of decisions on assessment of products involving the National Health and Medical Research Council, in particular its drugs and poisons scheduling function. Two DPs, one on the assessment of therapeutic goods and one on Commonwealth/State funding programs are to be released later this year.
- Intellectual Property — WIH on a DP on review of Patents decisions.
- Outcomes in AD(JR) matters — The Council is examining the eventual outcomes on migration and customs cases remitted by the Federal Court to decision-makers for reconsideration.

NLRC

- Administrative Appeals: Appellate Structure — A DP has been released for comment and consultation is progressing.
- Administrative Appeals: Appellate Procedure — WIH on DP.