

Personalia

Professor JR Crawford

Professor JR Crawford retired as a member of the ALRC last December on the expiration of his period of appointment. Challis Professor of International Law at the University of Sydney and Dean of the Faculty of law, he was a full-time member of the Commission from January 1982 to June 1984 and a part-time member from June 1984 to December 1990. He was the Commissioner in charge of the Divisions on Foreign State Immunity, Aboriginal Customary Laws and Admiralty which produced the reports *Foreign State Immunity* (ALRC 24), *The Recognition of Aboriginal Customary Laws* (ALRC 31), *Civil Admiralty Jurisdiction* (ALRC 33) and *Criminal Admiralty Jurisdiction and Prize* (ALRC 48).

ALRC

Tony Young, an Assistant Legislative Counsel in Training, resigned last November to go into private practice. Tony commenced as a law reform officer in 1982. He contributed significantly to the work on many references. He will be especially remembered for his contributions on Service and Execution of Process, Evidence and Customs and Excise and for his excellent cooking! Tony has been appointed as a consultant to the Commission.

Nancy Hennessy, a part-time Senior Law Reform Officer, on a 6-month secondment to the Anti-Discrimination Bureau, resigned

on 19 December 1990 and has been appointed to their staff. Before her period of secondment she had worked on Choice of Law Rules.

Belinda Wells commenced as a Law Reform Officer on 21 January 1991. Belinda had been working for the New South Wales Law Reform Commission. She is at present working on the Customs and Excise reference.

Carol Devcich was appointed as an administrative assistant on 11 February 1991.

NSWLRC

Ms Belinda Wells joined the Commission as a legal consultant in December 1990. Ms Wells is a graduate in law from the University of Adelaide and recently completed a Master of Laws degree at the University of London. Before going overseas to study, Ms Wells was employed for over three years with a large commercial law firm in Adelaide. Ms Wells worked on the personal property securities reference before leaving to take up a position at the ALRC. Ms Anna Goulston, a third year law student from UNSW, completed a six-week Summer Clerkship with the Commission in January-February 1991.

NTLRC

Chairman resigns

His Honour Justice Sir William Kearney resigned as Chairman of the Committee in October 1990.

Judge Kearney was appointed to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory in 1982 and served as Aboriginal Land Commissioner from 1982 to 1986. He was a judge of the Supreme Court of PNG from 1976 to 1982, serving as Deputy Chief Justice from 1980 to 1982. He received the CBE in 1976 and was knighted in 1982.

New chairman appointed

His Honour Justice Brian Martin was appointed Chairman of the Committee on 2 November 1990. Judge Martin was appointed to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory on 30 September 1987. He was admitted as a solicitor in New South Wales in 1959 coming to Alice Springs in 1963. He was appointed Solicitor-General in 1981 and Queens Counsel in 1982, being awarded the OBE in the same year.

Staff changes

During 1990, the following members resigned: Tom Pauling, QC (Solicitor-General); Peter Conran (Secretary, Department of Law); and Peter Robinson (Solicitor).

The following persons were appointed: Judith Kelly (Solicitor); and Alicia Johnson (Solicitor with Legal Aid Commission). The Acting Executive officer, Linda Weatherhead, has returned to Melbourne to take up a position as Solicitor with the Tenant's Union.

NZLC

Sir Kenneth Keith has been appointed president of the New Zealand Law Commission. He succeeds the Rt Hon Sir Owen Woodhouse who recently retired. Sir Kenneth was Deputy President of the Commission. He has been a member of law reform bodies in New Zealand since 1972, including the Danks Committee on Official Information and the Legislation Advisory Committee. He has been a Professor of Law at Victoria University of Wellington since 1974.

Sir Owen was a judge of the Supreme Court from 1961 to 1974 and of the Court of Appeal from 1974 until 1986.

The period in which Sir Owen was President of the Court of Appeal was notable for the development of its law-making role in such areas as administrative law, criminal liability, negligence, tax and matrimonial property.

From 1966 to 1967 he chaired the Royal Commission on Compensation and Rehabilitation in respect of Personal Injury in New Zealand. The Royal Commission's report of December 1967 suggested a scheme of immediate earnings-related compensation for all person injured as a result of accident regardless of fault. The report formed the basis of New Zealand's present accident compensation scheme, introduced in 1974.

The Hon Gough Whitlam, the then Australian Prime Minister, described the 'Woodhouse Report', as it became known, as 'pioneering and epoch-making'. In 1973 he appointed Sir Owen to chair the Australian National Committee of Inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation.

Sir Owen became the founding President of the New Zealand Law Commission in 1986 on his

retirement from the Court of Appeal. He stressed the need for wide public participation and continuing input from the profession in the reform and development of the law.

WALRC

Charles Ogilvie resigned his commission and retired on 28 February, after a long and distinguished career in law reform, culminating in a period of 13 years as a member of the Western Australian Law Reform Commission. In 1969, Charles became Executive Officer of the Western Australian Law Reform Committee, set up under a Cabinet directive a few months previously. This body became the Law Reform Commission in 1972. In the early years, all the members were part time, and so he effectively ran the Commission. In 1978, the Commission was enlarged to include two full-time members, and Charles was appointed as the first full-time member, for a term that was eventually to run until 1991. Over these years, he played a vital part in every Commission project. He was Chairman of the Commission in 1983, and again in 1987 at the time of the Perth ALRAC. The Western Australian Commission feels a deep sense of loss, but offers him very best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Michael Pendleton has been appointed a part-time member of the Commission for a period of one year, replacing George Syrota whose term of office came to an end in January 1991. Michael is an Associate Professor of Law at Murdoch University, and his major specialist area is the law of intellectual property. He has practised both in England and Australia, and taught first in Sydney and then at the University

of Hong Kong before coming to Western Australia. For a number of years he was a part-time member of the Hong Kong Law Reform Commission.

TASLRC

The Hon HE Cosgrove QC resigned from the position of Law Reform Commissioner of Tasmania in February 1991. Mr Cosgrove has been the sole Law Reform Commissioner for Tasmania since 1988, and has published Reports on topics such as Special Juries; Murder; Insanity, Intoxication and Automatism; Child Witnesses; Police Powers of Interrogation and Detention; and Damages for Personal Injury. Mr Cosgrove has recently been appointed Chairman of the newly-formed Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania. The name of his successor as Law Reform Commissioner has not been announced.

QLRC

The Commission has appointed two new full-time research officers, Karen Schultz and Judith Daley. Ms Schultz has a Bachelor of Arts and a Law degree with honours from Queensland University. She has worked as the Associate to the Honourable Mr Justice Matthews, as tutor and examiner at the University of Queensland, as joint editor of the Queensland Legal Index, Queensland Supreme Court Library, and more recently as a solicitor in private practice. Ms Daley was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1979. Prior to her appointment, Ms Daley worked as a solicitor in private practice and more recently as a locum solicitor with legal firms, community legal centres and The Intellectually Disable Citizens Council.

VLRC

Jude Wallace, Commissioner, has been seconded to the firm of Corrs Australia Solicitors for one year as National Precedents Manager. She will manage the implementation of the plain English initiative for the firm on a national and international front. David Neal, Commissioner and Jo Swarc, Senior Researcher, have been seconded to the Attorney-General's Department as Acting Director of Policy and Research

and Acting Assistant Director. Kathy Sanders, seconded to the Public Advocate's Office in 1990, has returned to the Commission. Helen McKelvie joined the Commission's research staff in November. She previously worked for intellectual property specialists, David Ryan and DeBoos on commercial, trademark and copyright law. Researcher, Agnes Borsody, has been appointed for one year as a part-time member of the Social Security

Appeals Tribunal. This tribunal provides external review of decisions by the Department of Social Security. Megan Richardson from the New Zealand Law Commission will join the Commission on secondment for a period of one year. Margaret Lane, a visiting Fulbright Scholar from the US, joined the Commission for one year to research developments in the law relating to bioethics. □

Areas of law currently under review

Administrative law

Sen

- Appeals against determinations of the Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Race Discrimination Commissioner and the Privacy Commissioner — receiving submissions

NTLRC

- Appeals for administrative decisions — A DP has been released for comment and comments received. A draft report is under consideration and will be released in 1991.

QEARC

- Protection of whistleblowers, IP 10, 1990.

Alternative dispute resolution

NSWLRC

- Alternative dispute resolution — Report near completion.

By-laws and regulations

VLCC

- Subordinate legislation — The Committee is responsible for reviewing all the statutory rules

made in Victoria under the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1962* and has considered individual rules up to SR 356/1990.

- Eighteenth Report on Subordinate Legislation concerning *Local Government Regulations 1990* and *Conservation, Forests and Lands (Contracts) Regulations 1990, 1990*.
- Nineteenth Report on Subordinate Legislation concerning *Alpine Resorts (Leasing) (Amendment) Regulations 1990* and *Conservation, Forests and Lands (Contracts) Regulations 1990, 1990*.

VLRC

- Plain English — The Commission is working on a redraft of the *Penalties and Sentences Bill*.
- *Road Traffic Regulations* — Draft in Plain English with VicRoads launched by the Victorian A-G on 8 March 1991.
- Rationalisation of the Statute Book — WIH on a low cost computerised Statute Book, consolidating both statutes and regulations.