

BALANCE

MAY 1992

The Official Publication of the Law Society of the Northern Territory

NT to have law reports

The Northern Territory will soon have its own set of authorised law reports. An informal committee was set up earlier in the year to investigate the feasibility of publishing the NT Reports.

The Committee, under the chairmanship of Justice Mildren, sought comments and indications of interest from the major law publishers in Australia.

The Law Book Company was the only one to express an interest in publishing the NT Reports.

The Law Book Company publishes the Tasmanian Reports. The NT Reports will be published in three parts per year, the first of which should be ready for distribution by mid-year.

The Committee intends to include 1991 judgments in the first part.

Members of the NT Council of Law Reporting are: Justice Mildren (Chairman), Tom Pauling QC (Editor in Chief), John Neill, David Farquhar, Sally Gearin, Cameron Ford (Editors) and Robyn Smith (Secretary/Public Officer).

Reporters will be recruited by Council members.

The NT Council of Law Reporting was born out of frustration -- practitioners were experiencing great difficulty finding relevant Northern Territory precedents, some of which were printed in an ad hoc series of reports

published annually by Butterworths, but the majority of which were not. The Chairman of the Committee, Justice Mildren, said a series of NT Reports was long overdue. He said there were several areas of law which apply almost exclusively to the Northern Territory.

unique in Australia, particularly when they involve Aboriginal land.

"The same can be said for some cases involving Crown land.

"Criminal law is also affected by Aboriginality.

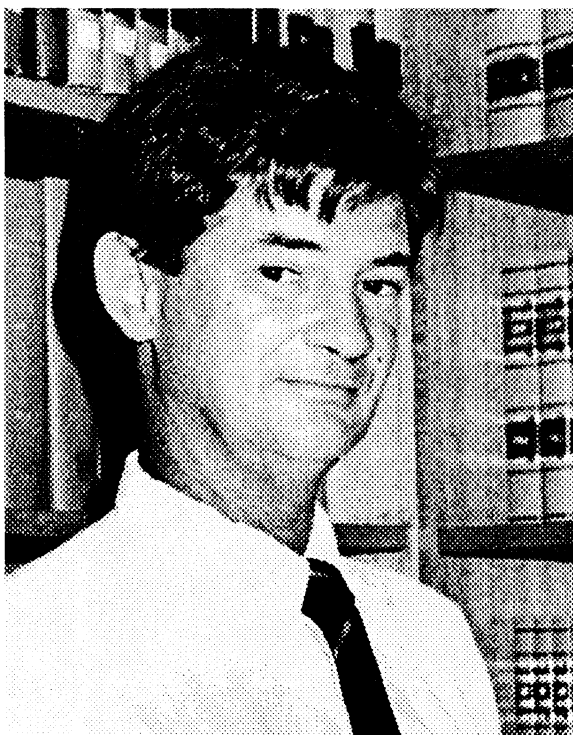
"I suggest there wouldn't be too many cases in other states where traditional

punishment or payback played any part in sentencing," Justice Mildren said.

He said the NT Council of Law Reporting had applied to the Public Purposes Trust for funding and that the application was scheduled to go before a meeting of the Allocations Committee later this month.

"Based on the Tasmanian experience, we found that costs could be significantly reduced by producing our own camera-ready material," Justice Mildren said.

"What that means is that the Law Book Company does not incur the costs of setting and laying out the reports; we do that and send the material 'camera-ready' so that the Law Book Company only has to print it." Practitioners interested in reporting should contact the Editor-in-Chief.



NTCLR Chairman, Justice Mildren

"Because those cases aren't really relevant to other states, they have not been considered worthy of publication in the past.

"For example, some mining and exploration cases in the Territory are

