

Valder attack on Temby unacceptable

The President of the Law Council of Australia, David Miles, has deplored the personal attack made on Ian Temby, Head of the ICAC in NSW, by former President of the Liberal Party, John Valder.

Mr Valder was speaking on ABC Radio's AM programme following Mr Temby's findings on the "Metherell Affair".

Mr Miles said that to suggest Mr Temby is "perceived to be biased" and might find himself "on trial" because of his finding against former NSW Premier Nick Greiner is grossly wrong and appears designed to achieve a political end.

"People are quite entitled to attack, criticise and challenge Mr Temby's findings on what they see as the merits or demerits of those findings," Mr Miles said.

RED ALERT

It appears that the Magistrates Court has yet to adopt rules to enable it to award interest between the date of the cause of action and the date of judgment. Until such rules are promulgated, practitioners should consider whether to bring actions for unliquidated claims in the Supreme Court until the Magistrates Court promulgates rules. The Society has written to the CSM. Stay tuned.

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"They are entitled to attack the legislation within the framework of which Mr Temby made his findings.

"But to attack the man on a personal basis -- or to attack his findings on the basis of an alleged and unsubstantiated bias arising from long-past political associations -- is not acceptable."

Mr Miles said Mr Temby has done nothing to provide grounds for the suggestion that his political affiliations of some years ago have affected or influenced him in the performance of his duties.

"Many people who have been active in politics -- including politicians -- have been appointed to judicial or similar office and they, like Mr Temby, have carried out their duties with the integrity that is the hallmark of the Australia justice system," he said.

Complaints Committee

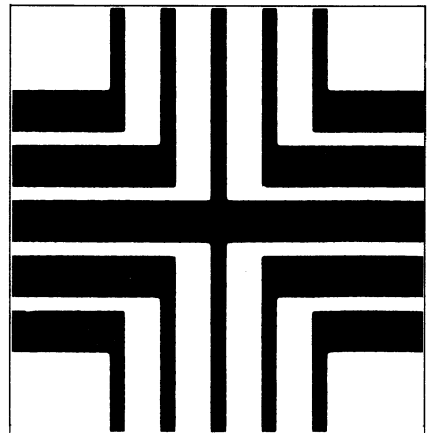
The Attorney-General has appointed the following people to the Legal Practitioners Complaints Committee: Peter Howard (Chairman), Hugh Bradley, Jim Dorling, John George, Graham Hiley QC, Bill McLaren, Ian Knight (ex officio) and Robert Bradshaw (Secretary). Telephone contact is 896063, facsimile 896239 and address: GPO Box 3021, Darwin.

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