

L *Leading from the front* *The Acting DPP.*

Leading from the front, re-establishing relationships with the community and encouraging cross-cultural awareness are top priorities for the NT's new Acting Director of Public Prosecutions.

Speaking to *Balance* shortly after his appointment on October 25 1995, Rex Wild QC advocated a strong approach to office. Rex, who was admitted to the Northern Territory in October 1992, would like to see a number of measures introduced to raise the profile of the DPP's office.

He feels regular court appearances by the DPP will raise community awareness of the role of the prosecutor in criminal cases. He is also keen to recognise the uniqueness of criminal cases in the NT in terms of the number of aboriginal defendants. Introducing measures to raise cross-cultural awareness such as the appointment of an

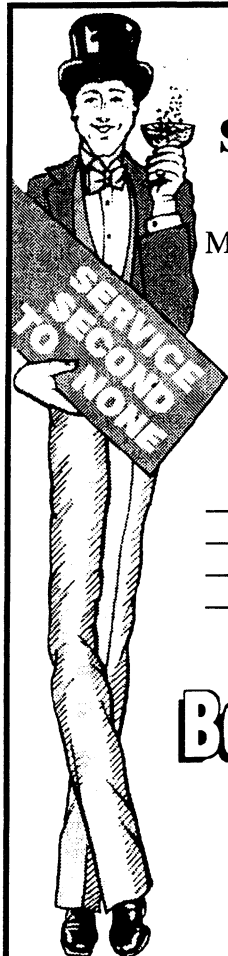


aboriginal liaison officer would, he believes, enhance public perception of the way in which aboriginal criminal cases are dealt with. "In some

instances, aboriginal communities are completely unaware that our judicial system has its own constitution. Some believe that decisions are made on a completely arbitrary basis. It must be part of our role to address this concern".

Rex also wants to see an improved public image for the DPP's office amongst such agencies as police and community groups. "Historically, there has always been an 'us and them' attitude between police and prosecutors, when really, we both have a common interest; to see that those who break the law are brought to justice."

A barrister for twenty two years, Rex's career began in Victoria in the 1960's where he was admitted in May 1968. Career highlights include Joint Investigator for NCSC of Rothwells collapse and Assistant Counsel on the Costigan Commission (1980-84). He was appointed Queen's Counsel (Victoria) in November 1991 and was admitted to the Northern Territory in October 1992.



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Corporations Law

Practitioners advising clients on audit related matters should read on following the recent *Corporations Law Simplification Act* passed by Federal Parliament. The Act will introduce a considerable number of changes to the annual tax returns of small and medium sized companies.

The *Corporations Law Act* and other Federal and Territory Laws require companies to be audited by a registered company auditor who is also registered with the ASC. Practitioners advising in audit related matters might wish to advise their clients accordingly.

Changes resulting from the above Act will be the subject of a presentation by the Australian Securities Commission in early February (dates to be confirmed in December *Balance*).