

## Supreme Court Library News

The Supreme Court library has two new CD-ROM products on approval. They are:

### Halsbury's Laws of Australia (Butterworths)

This includes the current eighteen volumes of the total thirty volumes planned. The content is the same as the printed version. Searching can be by subject, case name, statutes and key words. It also has notes and book marking facilities.

### Research Collection (LBC)

This CD includes:

- Laws of Australia
- Australian Digest
- Australian Legal Monthly Digest
- Australian Case Citator.

It is possible to search one or all of these items at a time. The content of the CD product is again the same as the printed version.

For a demonstration of these products, please call in to the library.

The Darwin and Alice Springs libraries will be closed between Christmas and New Year.

In Darwin, Leslie is on leave until 22 January. Ravi is away between Christmas and New Year. Bronwyn will be leaving on 15 December for seven months to transfer to the Police library until July 1996. Frieda will be away from 27 December to 4 January. In Alice Springs, Sophie will be away from 28 December until 25 January.

## Australian Legal Directory

The 1996 Australian Legal Directory will be available from February. With 30,000 listings it covers alphabetical, geographical listings of law firms in Australia. In addition it has an international section covering overseas practitioners willing to undertake agency work.

The Directory will retail at \$105. For more information, contact Bruce Rose at Ausdoc NSW on (02) 221 2677.

# THE SPIDER'S WEB



## For the Sake of the Kids

Ninety-four year old Mrs Hatcher showed up at her lawyers office one Monday morning: "I want to begin divorce proceedings, she announced.

The lawyer was aghast. When he regained his composure, he said, "Mrs Hatcher, you and your husband have been married for over seventy years. What in the world could have happened to make you want to get divorced at this stage in your life?"

Mrs Hatcher looked him squarely in the eye. She cleared her throat and said, "We wanted to wait until all the children were dead!"

(Source: *First, Kill All the Lawyers*, by Bill Adler)

## Blind Justice

How do judges exercise their professional duties in cases where they are tempted, as surely they must be on occasions, to take a subjective view about a defendant's guilt or innocence? Asks barrister Marcus Pollett in *New Law Journal* (UK). He goes on to quote a judge who points to the by now well accepted fact that a judge who tries to influence a jury in one direction often achieves the opposite result. "In one two-week period when I was sitting," said the judge, "the jury acquitted in all cases where I would have convicted and convicted the one I would have acquitted."

(*The Law Society of NSW*  
Vol 33, No 11, December 1995)

## The Last Laugh...

A citizen who apparently prefers to remain anonymous (but can be emailed at [ras@acca.nmsu.edu](mailto:ras@acca.nmsu.edu)) has compiled a nifty list of lawyer jokes at <http://rever.nmsu.edu/~ras/lawyer.htm> but wryly observes that he's not sure why he bothers. "Nobody ever laughs at lawyer jokes. The lawyers don't think they're funny, and nobody else thinks they're jokes." A further more austere collection is at <http://www.interlaw.com/files/fun05>.

(*The Law Institute Journal*  
Vol 69, No 12, December 1995)

## Restorationists hanging in

The murder rate in England and Wales has increased substantially since capital punishment was abolished, claims Jonathon Goodman in *New Law Journal* (UK). According to Goodman, since 1969 when the *Murder (Abolition of Death Penalty) Act* was made permanent, the annual average number of murders and the rate per million population have increased. He believes the figures prove the deterrent effect of capital punishment.

Goodman says, "I think it is fair to say that the abolitionist politicians, with their spoutings about the 'the sanctity of human life', are proved to have been - and to be - accessories before the fact of a kind of mass-murder. Killers' lives have been - and are being - saved at the expense of an increase in the number of people killed.

(*The Law Society of NSW*  
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