

CONFERENCES

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21ST INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY CONGRESS

3-8 September 1995

Sydney

Contact: Congress Secretariat

Telephone: (02) 9568333

29TH AUSTRALIAN LEGAL CONVENTION

24-28 September 1995

Brisbane Convention

& Exhibition Centre

Contact: Susan Hando

Law Council of Australia

Telephone: (07) 3690477

LEGAL ISSUES FOR THE CHRONOLOGICALLY CHALLENGED ATHLETE: AUSTRALIAN MASTERS GAMES CONFERENCE

4 October 1995

Melbourne

Contact: VicHealth

Telephone: (03) 666 4214

1ST INTERNATIONAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION & THE LAW CONFERENCE

16-19 October 1995

Gold Coast

Contact:

AIRIL '95 Secretariat

Telephone: (07) 8641538

Practising Fees! What Practising Fees?

It seems that practitioners in Trinidad and Tobago do not believe in paying practising fees.

Solicitor-General Tom Pauling QC has found an article that will be of interest to members. He has been representing Australia at a meeting of the International Seabed Authority in Jamaica. His love for cricket is well-known and he returned to Australia via Miami and Trinidad.

He attended the game at Queens Park Oval and saw Brian Lara make

139. Not only Australia got a drubbing ... so did Tom's pocket! The diversion cost him \$2000. But he did meet big Wes Hall, his hero of the '60s. (Not many of us remember that far back).

During his busy schedule Tom had time to read the local paper and has passed on the following article, headed "Most Lawyers not Paying to Practise", from the Daily Express (The National Newspaper of Trinidad and Tobago) of March 13 1995:

Most attorneys in Trinidad and Tobago are practising illegally before the courts. This was brought out in Friday's annual general meeting of the Law Association where it was reported that only about 400 attorneys pay their annual membership fees to the Association, which is necessary to receive a Practitioner's Certificate. This certificate is required to practise as an attorney before the courts.

The annual fees are about \$175 and, for those practising over 10 years, \$250. Consequently "there can be no excuse for defaulting on fees, which are quite modest", said the Association's Annual Report 1995 in which it was announced that "the Secretary is to request the Registrar to establish a procedure to prevent attorneys who are not financial, from being permitted to file documents".

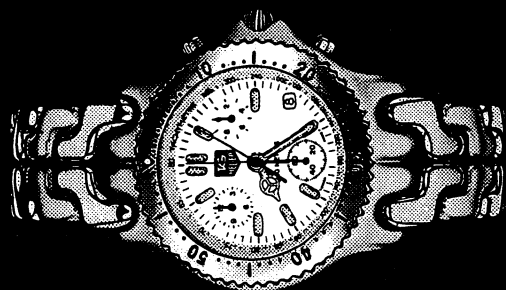
It is not known how many attorneys are practising in Trinidad and Tobago and a consultant specially hired by the Association to compile a list was unable to do so. "This proved to be an extremely difficult exercise," says the Association's Annual Report, "which has been complicated by the Registry misplacing its receipt book for the current year".

However, it is estimated there are over 1200 practising attorneys in Trinidad and Tobago. Because of the delinquency of at least two thirds of the country's lawyers, the Law Association "cannot even pay for advertisements to convene meetings of members, or run seminars and workshops".

Furthermore, the Annual Report stated that the Association is unable to address the issues relevant to the profession because it is "constantly looking for ways and means of functioning without funds".

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