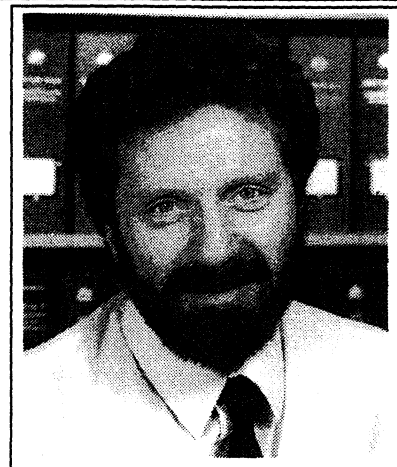


***P*resident's Column**

Law Council of Australia Supports NT View



I am pleased to report that at a meeting of the Law Council of Australia on 7 December 1996 a resolution was carried in the following terms:

"That the Law Council of Australia, without expressing any view whatsoever on the question of voluntary euthanasia, calls upon the Commonwealth Parliament to reject the *Euthanasia Laws Bills 1996* upon the ground only that it is an unwarranted and inappropriate interference with the Parliamentary powers of Australia's self-governing territories."

The resolution followed considerable discussion and debate and I wish to thank all the constituent bodies which supported this Society's view.

By now members will be aware that Mr Steven Bailey who has previously practised in the Northern Territory will early in 1997 be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

I know all members will welcome the appointment which has been a matter that this Society has strongly supported.

Mr Bailey will present his

Commission at a special sitting of the Supreme Court on Monday 3 February 1997 at 9.15 am and all practitioners are invited to attend.

While on the subject of the judiciary I am delighted to announce that Justice Branson of the Federal Court of Australia has kindly accepted an invitation to be guest speaker at the functions marking the opening of the 1997 Legal Year.

We are indeed fortunate to have such an eminent person as our guest speaker.

The Commonwealth attorney-General, the Hon Daryl Williams has commissioned a review of the Attorney-General's Legal Practice.

In line with Government policy, the Review will consider the provision of legal services of the Commonwealth role of the Legal Practice in that service provision.

As submissions must be lodged by 20 December 1996 members should send them direct to the Review Committee, C/- PO Box 5281, Kingston, ACT, 2604.

While the move to a national

practising certificate regime hastens slowly, New South Wales has passed relevant legislation but that legislation will not commence until at least one other jurisdiction enacts complementary legislation. It would appear that Victoria may shortly introduce such legislation.

It is pleasing to note that after a considerable wait the drafting of a new Northern Territory Legal Practitioners Act is now well under way.

On behalf of the Council and the Secretariat of the Society I extend to all members best wishes for Christmas and trust you all have a happy and prosperous new year.



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Qantas deal?**

**Contact the Law Society for
further details.**