

Publications received

The Law Institute Journal
The Law Institute of Victoria
Vol 70, No 5, May 1996

Law Society Journal
Law Society of NSW
Vol 34, No 4, May 1996

Quarterly Legal Aid Statistical Bulletin
Attorney-General's Dept
No 20, March 1996

An Examination of "Legal Monopoly"; its rationale and its limitations
Law Society of Western Australia
February 1996

The Justinian
No 77 May 1996

Family Law Council News
April 1996

Infoline
Bar Council Malaysia
February 1996

Discussion Paper 33- Sentencing
New South Wales Law Reform Commission

Victorian Bar News
Autumn 1996

The Queensland Law Society Journal
Vol 26, No 2 April 1996

Brief
Law Society of Western Australia
Vol 23, No 3 April 1996

The Arbitrator
Institute of Arbitrators Australia
Vol 15, No 1, May 1996

NSW Law Reform Commission
Research report
People with an intellectual disability and the criminal justice system

The Costs Newsletter
The Law Society of WA
Vol 5, No 4, April 1996

Proctor
The Queensland Law Society
Vol 16, No 4, May 1996

Law Talk
New Zealand Law Society
Vol 452, April 1996

How to use the RRT
Refugee Review Tribunal

Native Title: An Opportunity for Understanding
Native Title Tribunal

Bulletin
Law Society of South Australia
Vol 18 No 4 April 1996

Asia Today
April 1996

Aboriginal Youth Law Centre
Annual Report 1995

Stop Press
NSW Nar Association
No 33 May 1996

Reviewers Wanted

Balance has also received the following new publications. The Law Society would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to read and review these.

Karpadis, A ed. *Sentencing*
Tunstall, I *Corporations Law Compliance Guide*
Fisher, S ed. *The Law of Commercial and Professional Relationships*
King, P J L *Professional Practice Management*
Hogg, J *Splitting up* (revised edition)

Law on the Line

Book Review by Jonathon Nolan
Jason Romney - Law Press rrp \$32.95

Jason Romney is not an expert in IT, programming or computer architecture & hardware. However, let us simply say "in the kingdom of the blind the one-eyed man is king", and be done with that quibble. It is always preferable to take the effort one must to learn for one's self as much as Jason Romney knows about computing, but if you do not have the time or you don't want to be bothered, this is the book for you.

Law on the Line summarises a range of products and in this is quite accurate, but there are some omissions. Its magazine article style, whilst accessible, means a certain lack of depth - the products reviewed are right in the mid range of price and quality, with the best and worst in each field omitted. Also, the book does not cover one of the most important considerations in any IT purchase, namely future compatibility and performance, is not covered. This is particularly true of the author's attitude to *Windows '95*. In the opinion of the reviewer Mr Romney is far too uncritical of Microsoft's memory-expensive and at times user-unfriendly software.

The book borrows from the author's own background as a journalist which at times leaves an impression of some lack of independence in the advice offered - for example, one could be forgiven for thinking, having read this book, that *DragonDictate* was the only Voice Recognition software on the market.

In relation to the Internet, for beginners or intermediate users this book has real value as a revision text to bring the user up to competence. The only significant omission in this area is a full review of freeware and software available via the Net and BBSes (Bulletin Board Services). Perhaps a guide-book is a later publication currently planned.

If you are considering spending between \$5,000 - \$10,000 or more then this book will be invaluable to you, particularly if you do not abandon your own critical thinking, especially about an area where your knowledge may be patchy.

The author is to be complimented on his efforts to create at least a broad and simple guide. This book has value to non-expert computer users, and is certainly a worthy introductory text. Please read *Law on the Line* as a set of guidelines that you are free to depart from, rather than as gospel.

This book is recommended for people starting an office or updating IT purchases, as well as for the serious hobbyist.