

Rule Changes Contemplated

The Chief Justice advises that the judges are considering changing the rules relating to lists of authorities in the appellate jurisdiction, i.e. rules 84.17 and 84.18.

It has been noted that too often the rules are not followed and often the list is not carefully considered and properly divided. As a consequence a great deal of time is spent assembling more reports than are used in argument. The Chief Justice advises that close note will be taken as to adherence to the rule.

Another difficulty arises in relation to providing the list no later than 48

hours before the appeal is scheduled to commence where the weekend or other public holiday falls within that period. It is proposed that the rule be amended to provide that the list be provided no later than two working days before the hearing is scheduled to commence, failing which the party is to provide photocopies of the reports for use by each member of the court.

The views of practitioners are sought in relation to the above and should be forwarded to the Law Society before 15 July.

IBA Human Rights Institute Seeks Representatives

The Human Rights Institute seeks assistance in compiling a register of suitably experienced and distinguished lawyers worldwide who would represent the International Bar Association, observe trials and carry out investigative missions into legal systems.

The Law Council of Australia, in coordinating nominations from Australia, has asked all its constituent bod-

ies to provide a short list of suitable and willing practitioners.

Practitioners are asked to notify the Law Society of nominations from the Northern Territory.

A short curriculum vitae and note of languages spoken should be submitted for each nominee. Any nominations should be forwarded to the Law Society by 15 July.

DCLS & NTU - Practical Skills Course

A pilot practical legal education course will be jointly run by DCLS and the NTU faculty of Law in second session 1997.

Students will attend DCLS for a half day each week for 14 weeks. In addition they will attend seminars on various skills (interviewing, ethics, file management) and other relevant topics (legal aid, tenancy law).

The course will be operated in conjunction with a new duty lawyer service for tenants to be provided by DCLS at Darwin Local Court each Wednesday afternoon.

DCLS solicitors will undertake court work on behalf of clients; students will assist with client interviewing, follow

up work and research and observe court processes. While the course will focus on tenancy matters students will also have the opportunity to assist with other matters such as social security appeals and consumer credit matters.

It is anticipated that if the pilot course is successful, then additional courses will be run in 1998.

DCLS will operate two additional client interviewing sessions for the duration of the course - Tuesday 9.00-11.00am and Friday 9.00-11.00am. This service will commence in the week beginning 21 July.

For further information contact Graeme Davis or Gordon Renouf 8941 3394.

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