

# From the Profession

## NZ Lawyers Recognised in Germany

### New Zealand

New Zealand qualified barristers and solicitors are now able to practise New Zealand and public international law (other than EC law) in Germany and may enter into partnerships with German lawyers, reports *Law Talk* (No. 480, 7 July 1997).

Regulations passed by the German Federal Minister for Justice mean that New Zealand lawyers, along with those from USA, Japan and Hungary are accorded this recognition under voluntary concessions made by Germany in the 1994 General Agreement on Trade in Services. Lawyers from these four countries may practise in home country and public international law, provided they also join a regional German law society.

The recognition was granted after an in-depth review of legal training and function of lawyers in New Zealand, coordinated by a German-based NZ lawyer, James Scherer with the assistance of the NZ Law Society. This recognition now allows NZ lawyers to enter into partnership with German colleagues, a privilege previously restricted to EC nationals.

## Hi-Tech Law School Opens in Sydney

The University of Technology in Sydney recently opened a "law school of the future", reports the *Law Society Journal* (Vol 36, no. 6, July).

This hi-tech law school provides a high level of computer-assisted learning and is being strongly promoted by the University in a bid to capture a share of the law student market.

Other innovative features include the ability to incorporate practical legal training into the undergraduate degree or to take it as graduate certificate studies, and the law school offers a Doctorate of Juridical Science - the first in Australia, as well as an Australian Indigenous Law degree.

## First Black President

### South Africa

*De Rebus*, South African attorneys' journal (May 1997) reports on the new President of the Association of Law Societies, Mr Ashwin Trikamjee, a Durban attorney who is the Association's first black president.

Mr Trikamjee has an impressive record of service to the profession, having been the first black chairman of the Durban Legal Circle, the first black president of the Natal Law Society, a member of the International Bar Association's human rights committee and the human rights committee of the ALS. In addition, he lectures at the ALS school for legal practice and is a member of the Association's standing committee on legal education.

Completing the unification process of the ALS, the Black Lawyers Association and the National Association of Democratic Lawyers is identified by Mr Trikamjee as his biggest challenge during his term as president of the ALS.

He views access to the profession, legal education, attorneys as judges and contribution to a new human rights culture as other major issues facing the South African profession today.

In general, Mr Trikamjee believes that the South African profession needs to be more accountable to the public and to demonstrate more transparency in its operation. He identifies a need for such transparency particularly in the profession's disciplinary procedures to counteract the adverse publicity received over the last few years.

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