

# BALANCE

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## Former "Criminal Hack" To Address OLY Luncheons

When Justice John Coldrey was welcomed to the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1991, standing room inside the Court was at a premium, according to the *Victorian Bar News* of Autumn 1991.

The writer of that particular article went on to praise Justice Coldrey's many achievements and in doing so, noted that "he is [...] a witty man and one of the best after dinner speakers you ever heard." Given this reputation, the Law Society is delighted that Justice Coldrey has agreed to address the profession in the Northern Territory at functions to mark the Opening of the Legal Year in 1998.

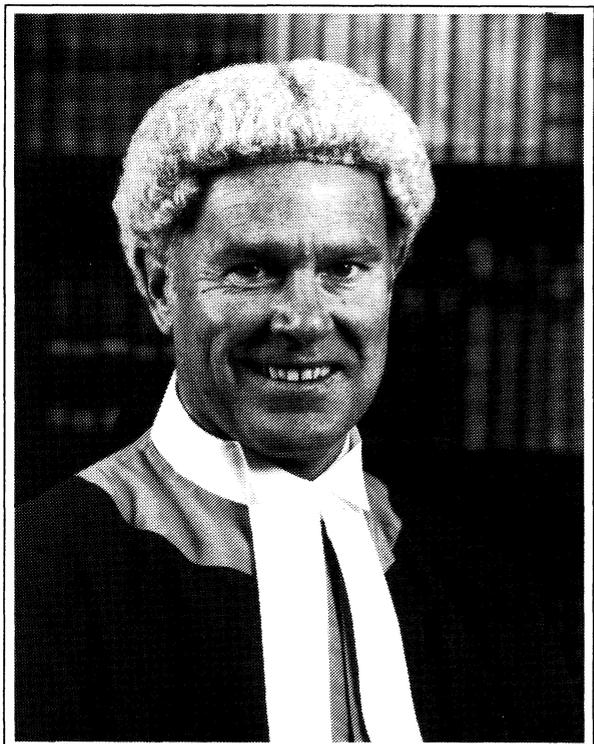
Victorians will be aware that Justice Coldrey was the Director of Public Prosecutions in that state from 1984 until 1991 and that this appointment was preceded by an illustrious career at the Criminal Bar.

His Honour went to the Bar in 1966, soon gained the respect of his peers and appeared in important trials. During this time he also taught criminal and family law at Monash University and instructed in criminal procedure at Leo Cussen Institute for Legal Education.

His connection with the Northern Territory began in the late '70's and early 80's when he frequently appeared as defence counsel for Aborigines charged with crimes. These appearances cemented into a two year tenure as Director of Legal Services for the Central Land Council in Alice Springs from 1982 to 1984. His hard work and dedication are still remembered by the people he represented in that arena.

It is evident from Justice Coldrey's history that his ability and experience are well-respected not only by the legal profession but also the wider community. He chaired the Advisory Committee on Committal Proceedings in 1985 and the Consultative Committee on Police Powers of Investigation from 1985 to 1990, and was counsel assisting the Board of Enquiry into Allegations against Members of the Victorian Police Force from 1975 to 1976.

He has served his profession as a member of the inaugural Committee to the Criminal Bar Association, a member of the Victorian Bar Council, a member of the Shorter Trials Committee and was a member of the Criminal Justice Committee and Attorney-General's Steering Committee on Delays in Criminal



His Honour, Justice John Coldrey - Supreme Court of Victoria Proceedings.

Justice Coldrey's prowess as a speaker is evidenced in the long list of papers he has delivered at major conferences both nationally and internationally, including one entitled *The Right To Silence Reassessed* at the Australian Bar Association Conference in Darwin in 1990.

His address to the Territory's profession at the Opening of the Legal Year promises to be both enlightening and entertaining, with its title of *Legal Reflections: Memories of a Criminal Hack*.

The church services and luncheons to mark the Opening of the Legal Year will take place on Monday 3 February in Darwin and Wednesday 4 February in Alice Springs. Practitioners are advised to book early for these functions in order to take full advantage of the opportunity to hear Justice Coldrey.