

Advocacy Workshop

The Australian Advocacy Institute is to conduct a five day intensive advocacy skills workshop in Canberra from **16 - 20 July 1997**.

A national team of instructors, led by Institute Chairman, Justice George Hampel of the Victorian Supreme Court, has been assembled to offer a comprehensive and intensive workshop to help improve skills.

Over a five day period participants will immerse themselves in two case files and prepare and present various components of the trial process in small working groups. Through the *learning by doing* method skills will be developed in a

supportive learning environment in the following aspects of litigation: legal argument, addresses, examination and cross-examination of lay and expert witnesses handling evidence, case analysis and communication skills.

In addition lectures and demonstrations by the teaching faculty will highlight the various aspects of the trial process.

For further information, contact:

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Mock Trials Finals in Alice Springs

The Grand Finals of the 1997 Inter-school Mock Trials Competition will take place on Wednesday 18 June at the Alice Springs Law Courts Building.

The Darwin region will be represented by a team from Katherine High School, under the leadership of their teacher, Donna Howard and coached by KRALAS practitioner, Charmaine Gibson.

The Katherine team won the semi-final in Darwin on 14 May in a close contest against Dripstone High School, before adjudicator Greg Cavanagh.

These students have travelled to Darwin in each of the four preceding rounds and admitted to being surprised at the success of their competition campaign.

Their competition will be a year 12 team from St Phillip's College in Alice Springs. This team is largely composed of students who competed for the trophy in 1996.

The case, to be argued before his

Honour Justice Sir William Kearney, is a matter involving an alleged incident of "road rage" and as such, continues the exposure of legal studies students to topical issues and how the law can deal with them.

As last year's final was held in Darwin, Alice Springs will host the exchange in 1997.

Darwin region students travel to Alice Springs where, following the Mock Trial, they will attend a dinner in honour of the occasion.

This year's competition has seen a high standard of legal prowess displayed by students ranging from year 10 to year 12, many of whom begin with only a basic understanding of the legal system, but a very evident ability to learn and adapt as the competition progresses. Adjudicators, all voluntary members of the legal profession, have commented on the level of skill and ability of the competitors and the value of the competition as an educational activity.

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Balance is published 11 times per year by the Law Society of the Northern Territory. All contributions, letters and enquiries to the Editor, *Balance*, Law Society of the Northern Territory, GPO Box 2388, DARWIN NT 0801.

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