

# Lawyers on Line

## *e-Law-on-Line*

*In a world where we are inundated with information, at a time when knowledge is power, it is gratifying to see the emergence of electronic journals that cater for professionals who rely so heavily on accurate, current and authoritative information.*

*eLaw-On-Line* is a new specialized e-mail bulletin for legal professionals, available only via the Internet by subscription. It is a monthly newsletter devoted to an exploration of the very best legal and related information on the Internet.

Although aimed at those who are new to using the Internet for Legal Research, even "old hands" will find many useful tips and hints in each issue.

The first five issues have covered the following topics:

1. An exhaustive yet readable Internet Glossary
2. Using AustLII without headaches
3. Law Review Project - Searching Legal Journals on the Internet
4. How Search Engines work and how to use them
5. Electronic Journals and the Law

Future issues plan to cover:

- Search Engines on the Internet, WebSite Finders
- Advanced Searching using Alta Vista
- Choosing an Internet Service Provider
- Mailing Lists and Newsgroups, Internet Conferencing and ICQ
- Corporate Law Electronic Network
- English Case Law on the Net
- Victorian Legislation on the Internet
- Advanced Searching using AustLII
- Scale Plus Legislation and CaseLaw
- Osiris - Industrial Relations Database
- Using Newspapers for Research

Each issue of *eLaw-On-Line* is over 1000 words, packed with information; WebSite addresses and tips about getting the best out of the World Wide Web in your legal practice. *eLaw-On-Line* is written without jargon and in a non-technical user-friendly language.

*eLaw-On-Line* is published by SANDZ Partners who have specialized in providing strategic information services to the Law for over 12 years. For the past 18 months they have also distributed to Barristers a highly specialized journal called *Law-On-Line*. The contents of *eLaw-On-Line* are an enhanced version of that journal, based on the experience of personalized Internet training to the law, including the Victorian Bar, the Department of Justice and many small to medium sized law firms.

Our principal Internet training consultant, David Zyngier, who has been involved in education, training and law libraries is responsible for content. Some material is sourced directly from the Internet, while most of the information is originally written in response to the needs of the legal profession.

The material results from the work they do with legal firms and the Victorian Bar where they provide training and advice in the best use of the Internet for legal research. SANDZ Partners are professional strategic information consultants and have been writing a major fortnightly column in the Victorian Bar Newsletter for 18 months called *Law-On-Line* and are told by many barristers and Judges that they now keep all copies of our column for reference!

The interest from non-barristers was such that they decided to make the information available to the general legal profession including law librarians in Australia and New Zealand.

Publication of *e-Law-online* began in June 1998. It is a monthly e-mail only bulletin with regular updates keeping subscribers informed of new developments, WebSite and the Law. Since that time 5 issues have been sent to legal professionals in Australia and New Zealand.

SANDZ Partners decided on the electronic format (non-paper) in keeping with the subject matter, but also because it reduces the cost and waste while being very fast and efficient.

They encourage subscribers to print off copies to keep as a reference. Each issue has a feature article, followed by news and reviews about WebSite of legal interest. Included is Media Summary incorporating a digest of newspaper articles concerned with law and the Internet.

Readers and subscribers are encouraged to ask questions that SANDZ Partners will attempt to answer in future issues. They also provide simply written guides to using Search Engines and some of the major on line legal databases, like AustLII and ScalePlus, which the Attorney General's Department in Canberra is interested in republishing.

*eLaw-On-Line* is sent monthly and costs only \$A25 per annum for 10 issues. *eLaw-On-Line* is available only by e-mail from SANDZ Partners at sandz@labyrinth.net.au

A complimentary copy is available by contacting SANDZ Partners.

## *Launch of Themis*

Lawyers throughout the State will now have on-line access to a wide range of legal services, information and desktop tools, through the Internet, with the launch of THEMIS on the Web, an initiative of Queensland Law Foundation Technology Services.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, the Honourable Paul de Jersey, launched the new service on Tuesday 27 October 1998 at the Brisbane Marriott Hotel, in conjunction with the 1998 Queensland Legal Profession Technology Awards.

THEMIS on the Web will deliver useful electronic tools to lawyers, including contracts, forms, precedents, stamp duty calculators, electronic textbooks, litigation support and knowledge management tools and e-mail directory services.

The courts, too, are embracing this new medium. Earlier this month, the Supreme Court made the updated callover list available on THEMIS and will expand its use in future callovers and in allocating trial dates.

Justice Moynihan, Senior Judge Administrator of the Supreme Court of Queensland, said, "This represents a new way of doing business with the Court. We hope the profession will embrace the challenge to most cost effectively and seamlessly interact with our Court Registry through THEMIS".

THEMIS products and services have over the last year been delivered to the legal profession through a private on-line network. THEMIS Private Network will continue to operate as a secure, private platform for Content, Collaboration and Commerce.

"Basically, THEMIS on the Web is our shopping cart service", said Jo Sherman, THEMIS Project Manager. "THEMIS Private Network will continue to deliver a "Rolls Royce" style of service to customers who require timeliness, security, and privacy".

One of Australia's first totally electronic law journals, National Law Review (NLR), will also be available through the site.

THEMIS on the Web can be viewed at [www.themis.com.au](http://www.themis.com.au)

The Launch of THEMIS on the Web was sponsored by: Lawpoint, SUNCORP, Logical Technologies, Acer, Intra Power, Computer LegalPax, Law Ledger, CCH Australia Limited and Queensland Law Society.