

Criminal Lawyers Column

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What is the layman to make of all of this? Advocates up on their high horses one minute and bugging things up the next. No wonder the importance of the advocate in our society is sometimes a difficult idea to sell. What is in it for the advocate? Well money if there is work. Reputation if it can be maintained. The remote possibility of a judicial appointment with the luscious prospect of sabbaticals and a pension. One thing is certain for the advocate, he or she will find very few avid listeners when an attempt is made to relive an old victory. The advocate knows like a sportsman or an actor he or she is as good as that person's last performance. Chief Justice Cardozo said "reputation in such a calling is a plant of tender growth, and its bloom once lost, is not easily restored." In Darwin that plant is likely to be pruned with a machete.

So are advocates a bunch of poor misunderstood prats? Yes they are. But they demonstrate an uncanny skill at being prats. That is what the layman finds most difficult to come to terms with and so should the advocate.

More on the life of the advocate next month.

The Bali Conference

Preparations are starting to reach the frantic stage. This is going to be a good one.

The design for the t-shirts is in its final stage of completion. I can tell you that the image of a dingo is the conference icon. The Association has decided to pay homage to the unrepresented accused.

For goodness sake get your registration forms completed and sent in. Your collective approach to case management may result in you missing out on a great event. A least Nero did something while Rome burned. As the fire raged you lot would be lucky to be able to raise the subject in polite conversation.

The new Attorney-General for the Northern Territory, Denis Burke has indicated that if protocol allows he will attend the conference. He will be made very welcome. It is an opportunity for a large number of Territory lawyers to meet our first law officer and discuss matters of mutual interest.

We are still looking for local speakers. If you have an idea for a paper that you would like to present yourself or in conjunction with other people send a synopsis of the topic to

me at James Muirhead Chambers. We particularly want to encourage people with ideas that include multi media presentations, to give papers.

This conference, from the material that has already been put forward as speaking topics, has both a Territory and a national perspective. It has over the years become an important national legal event. It will remain so with your support.

Finally it is important to point out that the deal we have secured with the Hard Rock Hotel in terms of a package is fantastic. If you are thinking of staying elsewhere think again. The hotel is great fun and the atmosphere is not something you should contemplate missing.

Darwin River Rocks ain't got nothing on CLANT Bali 1999. The bonus is that you might learn something and meet interesting people. See you there.

G C O'Donnell Copyright Essay Prize

The Trustees of the G C O'Donnell Biennial Prize Trust are pleased to announce a competition for the 1999 G C O'Donnell Copyright Essay Prize. The competition is in honour of Gus O'Donnell, author, founder of the Australian Copyright Council and one of the fathers of copyright in Australia.

A prize of \$3,000 AUD will be awarded to the author of an essay displaying original thinking on a topic of the author's choice regarding copyright and the protection of the interests of authors.

This competition is open to any interested persons including authors, lawyers and students.

COMPETITION RULES

1. Entries must be unpublished essays which are the original work of the author. They may be on any topic regarding copyright and the protection of the interests of authors. The winning entry is likely to exhibit original ideas on issues of practical importance in copyright or on copyright theory.
2. Entries should be a minimum of 5,000 and a maximum of 10,000 words in length.
3. All entries are to be on A4 paper and typed, double-spaced. The original and two copies should be submitted. The name of the author and a short biography should be included on a detachable page. The author's name should not appear on the essay or copies.
4. The entries will be judged by the Trustees of the G C O'Donnell Biennial Prize Trust who shall award the prize in their absolute discretion. The Trustees retain the discretion not to award the prize in any year.
5. The prize will be \$3,000 AUD.
6. The prize is expected to be presented at a function of the Copyright Society of Australia.
7. The winning essay will be published in the Copyright Reporter, the official journal of the Copyright Society of Australia.
8. Entries must be received by the closing date 30 June 1999.
9. Entries should be sent to: The G C O'Donnell Prize Trust, c/- Centre for Copyright Studies Ltd, 245 Chalmers Street, Redfern, NSW 2016, Australia (tel: 02 9318 0659, fax: 02 9698 3536).