

NT Women Lawyers Association

by Melanie Little, President

Quiz Night Thanks

The quiz night on 16 April 1999 was a great success. Thanks to everyone who attended, and to all our sponsors for the great prizes. I would also like to thank Therese Austin and Janelle Martin for all their work preparing and to the Committee for the work on the night. Congratulations to Justice Kearney and his table of trivia buffs.

Sexual Assault Laws

NTWLA members are invited to assist in the preparation of a submission to the NT Law Reform Committee reference on Sexual Assault Laws. Please contact any of the Committee members if you are keen to have some input into a submission. The reference covers a number of topics including committals, vulnerable witness provisions and confidentiality of counsellor's notes.

Mandatory Sentencing

A seminar on Mandatory Sentencing was held by the NT Council of Churches and chaired by former High Court Judge Sir Ronald Wilson on 19 April 1999. I was invited to be one of the speakers and I spoke briefly on the impact this legisla-

tion is having on those with intellectual disabilities.

Following on from this seminar the Alice Springs Town Council is holding a Mandatory Sentencing Workshop on 22 June 1999 and they have invited NTWLA to be involved. We will contact Alice Springs members about that seminar.

While there are encouraging signs that the legislation may be amended with respect to property, there is a move on to extend the concept of mandatory sentencing into other categories of offending. In 1998 NTWLA resolved to oppose mandatory sentencing. We continue to oppose a sentencing scheme which takes the sentencing discretion from the Courts.

Finally...

Hard to beat for the best answer of the quiz night was:

Q: What are the names of the 7 High Court Judges?

A Happy, Grumpy, Sleepy, Doc, Sneezy, Dopey & Bashful

Contacts for NTWLA

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Executive and Committee Members:



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Be prepared to be admitted

An increasing number of applications received by the Legal Practitioners Admission Board are not able to be approved when first considered because of simple defects in the documents. This means that the applications are deferred, which may delay the applicant's admission.

The LPAB has supplied the following list of common failings. Applicants for approval of articles and those seeking to be admitted should check their documents against this list. (See also the Guidelines for Admission in the Law Almanac, pp.88-106. The Almanac may be purchased at the Supreme Court Registry for \$5.00).

Applicants seeking approval of articles must lodge an application for approval within 14 days of commencing articles: rule 26. If this is not done there must be an application for extension of time which must explain why the application was not lodged in time.

The LPAB requires to see the original documents relied on, such as academic transcript and awarded degrees. This flows from rule 22(3)(a). If the annexures to the applicant's affidavit are copies (which is usually the case) then the originals should be produced for comparison, after which they will be returned to the applicant if this is requested.

The "certificates of good character" must disclose both the address and occupation of the person giving the certificate: rule 23(2). Such certificates should also make clear how long the person giving the certificate has known the applicant, and in what capacity or capacities.

Before approving entry into articles the LPAB is required to be satisfied that the applicant has obtained the appropriate academic qualification (usually the Degree of Bachelor of Laws) OR that the applicant is entitled to such qualification: rule 22(3)(a). The latter is sometimes satisfied by a statement to that effect at

the end of the academic transcript, but if the transcript does not contain such a statement then a letter from the Dean of the Law Faculty will be required.

The affidavit in support of an application for admission must disclose all criminal charges that have been brought against the applicant, and the outcome of each charge: rule 9(c). Note that the requirement is not limited to convictions. It is important that, if one or more charges are disclosed, the affidavit makes it clear that there have been no other charges.

The affidavit in support of an application for admission must disclose all leave that has been taken during the period of articles, and whether that leave was sick leave or recreation leave. This follows from the terms of rule 11. Applicants are allowed 20 working days recreation leave and five working days sick leave in each period of 12 months: any leave in excess of these allowances

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Congrats Frieda



The Law Society congratulates Supreme Court librarian Frieda Evans from the Law Society on being awarded the Australian Library Information Association NT Librarian of the Year.

Ms Evans (pictured above) has been the Supreme Court's librarian since September 1984 and attained her law degree in 1996. She is also the Northern Territory convenor for the Australian Law Librarians Group.

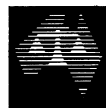
Ms Evans provides Balance with our regular Supreme Court Library Notes. You can find this edition's starting on page 27.

Admissions *(continued)*

must be made up by extending the period of articles. (Incidentally, the allowances for leave in the Northern Territory are considerably more generous than in some other jurisdictions). If the applicant has served a period as a Judge's Associate, leave taken from that position must also be disclosed in the affidavit, and is subject to the same leave allowances.

A copy of all documents relied on when seeking admission must also be served on the Law Society. This includes any documents provided to the LPAB in response to a request by the LPAB for further documentation, AND the Certificate issued by the LPAB under rule 20 that the applicant is entitled to apply to be admitted. This requirement flows from the terms of rule 21.

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Section Administrator
Gerard O'Neill
(02) 6247 3788

COMMITTEES OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The following committees were constituted at the meeting of the Council of The Law Society held on 28 January 1999.

Access to Justice Committee

Mr Lindsay (convenor), Mr Southwood, Mr Coates, Mr Morris and Mr McConnel

Legal Structure Committee

Mr Morris (convenor), Mr Southwood, Mr Lindsay, Ms Terrill and Mr Stephens

Constitution (Law Society NT)

Ms Drier and Ms Short

Commercial Law Committee

Mr Stephens (convenor), Mr Shields and Mr Horton

Law Improvement Committee

Mr Southwood (convenor), Mr Coates, Mr McConnel and Ms Short

CLE Committee

Mr McConnel and Ms Short