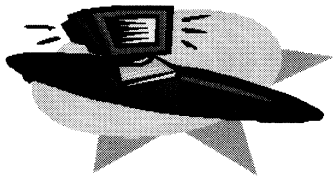


Cyberlex

by Jason Schoolmeester



I thought I might start this year off with a collection of useful or interesting web sites. These have been compiled from a variety of lists, indexes, awareness emails and the like.

Centre for Corporate Law and Securities Regulation and the Faculty of Law at The University of Melbourne:

<http://cclsr.law.unimelb.edu.au/index.html>

This is a must for those with a keen interest in corporate law and securities. The site boasts a collection of corporate law judgments and a complete archive of the Corporate Law Bulletin. The Bulletin is distributed by email and subscription is free. Both the Bulletin and the judgments have search facilities. The site is supported by State Supreme Courts and the Federal Court as well as some notable law firms, namely Blake Dawson Waldron, Clayton Utz, Gilbert & Tobin, Mallesons Stephen Jaques, Phillips Fox.

Parliamentary Handbook of the Commonwealth of Australia (1999)

<http://www.aph.gov.au/library/handbook/index.htm>

Everything you need to know ranging from biographical information on parliamentary members, committees and office holders, Referendums to statistical information on the make up of parliament.

Fast Company

<http://www.fastcompany.com/homepage/>

A new discovery for me, but I have flagged it for regular visits. An online magazine full of interviews, case studies and articles about new and innovative techniques and the companies that are creating them.

Indigenous Law Bulletin

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/rsjproject/rsjlibrary/ilb/>

Operating since 1981 this Bulletin has provided research and reporting on the relationship between Indigenous people and the law. Now there are selected issues on the internet from the years 1995 and 1996.

The Death Clock

<http://www.deathclock.com/>

Ever wondered when your time will come? For the morbidly curious, the Death Clock, will make a prediction.

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To be or not to be

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the Act. That is presently the case in a number of jurisdictions. In New South Wales, for example, only the Law Society may draft professional conduct rules and unless vetoed by the Attorney-General they acquire legislative effect.

The importance of a well regulated profession is critical to the meaning and relevance of legal practice beyond this cycle of change. The new legislation will enshrine the understanding that legal practitioners are officers of the court and as such are subject to the inherent jurisdiction of the court. Parochialism should never have a place in determining the essential principles that shape and guide the practice of law. A code of conduct that ensures and facilitates the lawyer's duty, amongst many others, to stand be-

tween the individual and the state is a practical tool of inquiry and the embodiment of a commitment to liberty. A lawyer is an individual who shares that code. The rest is business.

Unfortunately codes don't of themselves instill or maintain either idealism or enthusiasm. That is where the complaints procedure of which I have already spoken comes in. The only way to maintain a standard is to ensure that as far as possible people who fall within the definition of legal practitioner adhere to it. The public must know that complaints are attended to swiftly and efficiently. We offer the public trust and honesty as part of the service. There can be no quarter if it is not given. Perhaps it is time to consider whether to publish the names of offenders and the nature of each offence in this magazine. Certainly as soon as the present structural changes have taken place figures relating to breaches of the professional conduct rules should become readily available.

The changes that are taking place in our profession should have the effect of not only causing us to look outward, but also, to take a good long look at who and what we are. They should cause us to focus on what over many centuries has really made us different from other professions and to value that difference as a strength to be perpetuated.

The Leopard was right. In order to retain an independent profession cradled in the precepts that we revere we have to change and in doing so preserve them. Of course when the Sicilian nobleman said those words he had in mind the impending arrival of Garibaldi.

This legal year looks pretty interesting already. The Information Technology committee has only been in operation for about three months but already a web site is under construction. Preparation for law week is underway and interesting ideas are being thrown about. If you have anything to contribute send an email to Sam Kilvert. If you have any gripes about what is taking place or what you believe is taking place in the Society do the same, perhaps we will publish a few. Break from tradition. Give a damn. Welcome to 2000. I hope it is a big year for everyone.