

Cox confirmed head

Suzan Cox, who has been Acting Director of NTLAC since mid November last year, was confirmed on 9 July as Director by the Attorney General Dr Peter Toyne.

A practising lawyer of 24 years experience with a reputation of an excellent and highly experienced advocate, Ms Cox says she intends to keep going to court.

"This is quite a challenge and it's good to be confirmed in the position because it means now we can properly start looking at ways to improve what do date has been one of the most successful commissions in Australia," she said.

"There's a terrific team here. The Commission always has been very fortunate in that we've had really good lawyers working with us and an excellent administration and support staff.

"The Commission has a very good reputation both within the Territory and nationally and my aim would be to maintain that and hopefully make it even better.

"I'd like to build on what (former director) Richard Coates has built up."

Ms Cox started work with NTLAC in 1991 as senior solicitor of the Commission's family law practice. She



Above: Appointment confirmed, Suzan Cox, Director of NTLAC.

has also worked as a civil lawyer and is nationally lauded as a senior criminal lawyer.

"Ms Cox brings considerable experience to the position," Dr Toyne said.

"I am particularly pleased she will now head the organisation she has worked within for the past 10 years, permitting the Commission to retain her valuable experience." ①

Celebrating the ICC

On Tuesday 2 July the NT Division of the Australian Red Cross celebrated the birth of the unprecedented International Criminal Court by hosting a Mock Trial at the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

The Mock Trial considered the indictment of Captain Rogue for an armed attack on both civilians and aid workers in an Internally Displaced Person Camp in the State of Governia. Outstanding performances and persuasive arguments were mounted by both the defence team (Jenny Blokland, LCDR Richard Crane, Koula Saroglou) and the prosecution team (Tom Pauling QC, Kai Li Tan, Belinda Williams).

The panel of three judges (Hon Austin Ashe, Hon Justice Sally Thomas and Hon Justice John Gallop) found Captain Rogue guilty on two counts of committing a war crime, namely

murder and attacking an object and person displaying the distinctive Red Cross emblem, but he was found not guilty of committing a crime against humanity. The judges reserved their decision on sentencing.

The captivated audience was dazzled by the performance of participants such as Jamie Gallacher (the War Correspondent), Rowan Charrington (the International Committee of the Red Cross Representative), Mariella Nicolosi, who passionately portrayed the Internally Displaced Person Witness and Tom Berkley who effectively played the "baddie" Captain Rogue! All-in-all a fascinating night. ①

Innocence Project: Can you help?

There's a sad type of cynicism often reflected in Hollywood films.

"I'm innocent!" declares the hero/heroine while in prison.

"Sure," snigger the other inmates, "everyone in jail is innocent".

Unfortunately, wrongful imprisonment is very real and documented in Australia.

Enter Griffiths University's Innocence Project.

Modelled on and affiliated with the Cardozo Law School Innocence Project in New

York, the project undertakes pro-bono work which brings together lawyers, academics and law students



striving to free innocent persons who have been wrongfully convicted.

According to project director Lynne Weathered it's been positively received by those it's aimed at.

"I think we give hope to people who felt there was nowhere for them to turn before because all their other legal avenues had been exhausted. We're a body that can at least investigate the claims and hopefully rectify some of the wrongful imprisonments," she said.

Lynne was recently in Darwin and spoke to practitioners about the Project.

"It would be interesting to get the feedback of the lawyers up here," she said.

Anyone interested in the Innocence Project can contact Lynne Weathered at the Griffith University Law School, GU PMB 50, Gold Coast Mail Centre, Qld 9276 or email: innocence-project@mailbox.gu.edu.au. ①