



See what the future will bring...

See what the future will bring is the theme for the 2002 CCH Legal Technology Awards. Now in their sixth year, the Legal Technology Awards are the only event of their kind in Australia. The aim of the Awards is to "increase the professional community's understanding of the benefits to be gained from implementing new technologies".

The Awards offer entrants the recognition as a national technology leader in the legal profession and entries are invited from Australian legal practitioners and associated organisations including suppliers.

More information on the Awards can be found at www.cch.com.au/techawards2002.htm.

2001 Awards

First place last year was an online company formation system developed by Incorporator.com.au. Incorporator is an example of a legal expert system and is designed to provide users (whether lawyers or the public), with an easy to use, fast and highly cost-effective way to incorporate companies.

Incorporator asks a series of questions and where possible provides a range of pre-determined optional answers.

As the user answers the questions, Incorporator ensures that future questions are relevant to the situation at hand.

Guidance on each question can be sought via pop-up windows and contains hyper-linked references to relevant sections of the legislation.

In addition, the proposed company name can be checked using the ASIC search facility.

On completion, Incorporator prepares the documentation necessary, the user can pay on-line for the service and receive the documents electronically (for lawyers, these documents can be branded in the name of the firm).

The documents then need to be printed, signed and lodged. The fee charged by Incorporator is \$149.95 (incl. GST) [don't forget the company registration fee payable to ASIC!].

KPMG Legal was awarded second place for KClient, a collaboration system that enables lawyers, clients and advisors to communicate instantaneously.

This web-based resource effectively provides access to a legal office 24/7 and can be accessed from any internet connection and provides a secure portal for the transfer of information and preparation of documents.

Runners-up included Black Dawson Waldron for Ozmark, an in-house software system used to manage significant intellectual property portfolios, and to generate reports and trade mark schedules that are tailored to meet individual client needs and Queensland University of Technology for QUT Moot Court.

The Future

What will win the 2002 CCH Legal Technology Awards? Will it be an expert system, the product of hundreds of hours of logical mapping? A tool for client relationship management and collaboration? A litigation or document management system?

Whatever the outcome, the real winners will be the profession and clients as technology continues to be developed and implemented in practical and useful ways.

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The chapters then provide more detailed information, statistics and references. This book has been planned carefully. Even busy practitioners or persons will find it easy to read. The law is succinctly set out, contentious policies are placed in a historical context and administrative practices outlined. So many of the demoralizing myths about refugees are debunked. Future policy options are

explained. Above all it is a book with balance.

Dr Mary Crock and Ben Saul, having provided such reliable information, leave it to the reader to draw moral, political and pragmatic inferences.

There is no more important an issue in Australia today than the issue relating to our treatment of refugees.

A text which debunks misunderstanding, myths and outlines clearly the legal situation is a 'must

read' for jurists, non-jurists, bureaucrats and politicians.

If every Federal Politician were to read and digest the contents of this text, how different, how more informed, how more helpful in the task of nation building, would the debates over immigration issues be in our national capital.

We would have no more "children overboard" scandals.

- Colin McDonald QC, barrister