

# Some of the issues facing the Society

As I write this article the new Council year is beginning. The Council held its Strategic Planning Meeting on 30 October 2004. As addressed in the President's column, the Law Society Council has established various new Committees this year - including Family Law, Criminal Law and Commercial Law committees.

The Family Law Committee will deal with the many developments in this area and should provide a forum for comments on the proposed Child and Young Persons Care and Protection Bill. It is understood a discussion draft of this Bill will be released shortly.

The Criminal Law area has been exceptionally busy lately, with various proposals being floated such as a review of sections 31 and 154 of the Criminal Code, and the introduction of the Sentencing

Amendment (Aboriginal Customary Law) Bill. NT provisions relating to money laundering were recently passed by the Legislative Assembly. There is also concern about proposed Commonwealth provisions which will impose on legal practices requirements similar to those imposed on financial institutions. Press reports indicate the Opposition will, if returned to Government reintroduce some mandatory sentencing regime relating to juveniles.

It is also appropriate that a Commercial Law Committee is reestablished to deal with the many initiatives in this area, including those relating to builders licensing and possible vendor disclosure legislation.

I recently attended the Conference of Regulatory Officers, which involved the various legal regulatory bodies such as Law Societies, Legal Services Commissioners and Admissions Board. Matters discussed including trust account requirements and topics such as "Conflict of Interest- the way forward". Discussions took place on the progress in implementation of the National Model Laws in various jurisdictions and issues arising. A very busy time is ahead for the Law Society in dealing with this matter.

The Law Society has recently liaised with the Federal Court in the presentation of an Admiralty and Maritime Law Seminar. This was very well attended, with very good feedback coming from attendees. Thanks to Justices Mansfield, Allsop and Selway for donating their time to conduct the two-day seminar.

The joint seminar with AMPLA and



Barbara Bradshaw, Chief Executive Officer, Law Society NT

ACLA on joint venture partnerships was also very successful.

The Council will be considering proposals for a Mandatory CLE scheme this year. These seminars, as well as the monthly CLE seminars, would appear to show that such a scheme could be successfully established for Territory practitioners.

Finally, those firms who belong to the Qantas discount scheme would have now been advised the scheme ceases operation in December 2004, however accounts can still be maintained. ①

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## Dates for your diary

Friday 5  
November - Young Lawyers  
AGM from 5pm in the LSNT  
Council Room, Darwin.

Wednesday 10 November -  
ACCC CLE in the Law Society  
Council Room, Darwin.

Tuesday 17 November - Work  
Health CLE presented in Darwin  
by Michael Grove and video-  
conferenced to Katherine and  
Alice Springs.

Thursday 9 December - Law  
Society Christmas Drinks from  
5.30pm at the Novotel Atrium.