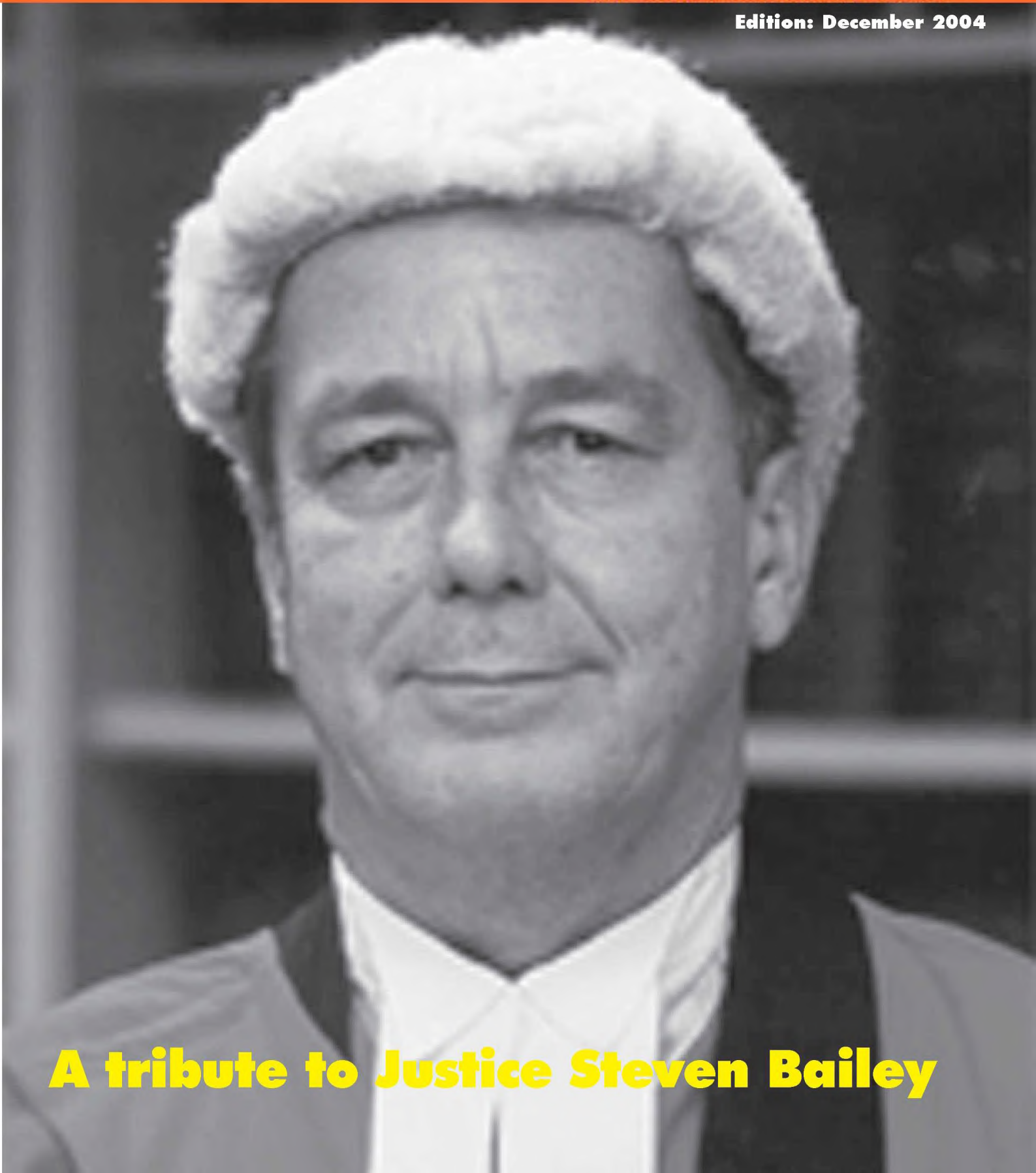


BALANCE

LAW SOCIETY NORTHERN TERRITORY

Edition: December 2004



A tribute to Justice Steven Bailey

Time for some Christmas cheer

Ho Ho Ho, I must say that I just love this time of year. Not only are we winding down but we are winding down to Christmas and I just love the festive season with all the decorations and Christmas lights. In the spirit of Christmas I had my Christmas tree up by the 1 December and despite the heat I have even managed to put up exterior lights.

The added bonus in winding down to Christmas means that most of us get some time off. This end of year seems to have been particularly busy for all of us. Some years it's not quite so bad, however other years (like this year) clients seem to think that we are not only closing for Christmas but perhaps forever and therefore everything needs to be done prior to 24 December. I know most of you will be familiar with "client's Christmasitis". That said, it is always nice to start the New Year afresh and I think we all make a concerted effort to clear the decks in preparation for the New Year.

The Law Society is no different, busy, busy, busy. All of the Law Society sub-committees have met at least once and reported back to Council with their proposals and suggestions for 2005. The Law Society Council has also had its final meeting for the year, traditionally a meeting is not held in December.

The Professional Indemnity Insurance sub-committee (Rhona Millar, Barbara Bradshaw and I) met with our brokers, Marsh, and Adrian Gamble from QBE on 17 November 2004. The PII Committee has already given a preliminary report to Council and in the new year we will be in a position to go back to Council with our recommendations based on the inquiries that Marsh will make on our behalf.

Tort Law Reform continues to be high on our agenda and I expect this area to occupy a good portion of the Council's time next year.

As we would expect at this time of the year there have been a number

of Christmas functions to attend and I have attended most of them on behalf of the Law Society. In my absence Barbara has attended.

I also attended at the invitation of our former President, Ian Morris, his retirement drinks. As most of you would know by now Ian has retired from Hunt & Hunt and he was given a tremendous send off by his Partners. In particular I enjoyed the powerpoint farewell which was put together by Melanie Orr and Tim Curran and included numerous photos taken over the years of some "very young looking" members of the profession.

The Christmas celebrations have been dampened by the death of His Honour Justice Stephen Bailey. I was at Law Council meetings in Canberra when I was advised of Justice Bailey's death and arranged to read into the minutes of both the Council of Law Societies and the Law Council of Australia meetings his contribution to the Northern Territory and his untimely death. In addition most of you would have attended at the special sittings held in Justice Bailey's honour on 6 December 2004.

On behalf of the Law Society and its members I extend our sincere condolences to Justice Bailey's family, in particular his wife Jenny and children Tom and Kate.

The Northern Territory legal profession will sorely miss the intellect, ability and friendship of Justice Bailey. The high-regard in which he was held is evidenced in this edition of *Balance* by the number of tributes which have been received.



Merran Short, President

On a lighter note the Law Society Christmas drinks were held on 9 December 2004 and were well attended by members of the profession. It was pleasing to catch up with colleagues prior to the Christmas break.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous festive season, I hope Santa is good to you and your families enjoy some time off and we will catch up again in the new year.①

Balance contributions

The Law Society NT encourages members and readers to contribute to *Balance*.

If you have an expert article, a book review, an opinion piece, a letter to the editor, photos, or gossip for Muster Room, please send it through.

For more information or to discuss any ideas, please call Zoe on (08) 8981-5104.

Submissions can be sent to the Editor via email at publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au or fax to (08) 8941 1623.