

Events and issues in 2004

The NTWLA committee wishes all Law Society members a happy New Year.

Our last event was the Christmas drinks in December. In the pre-Christmas edition of *Balance*, you would have noticed a photograph of a very happy trio, Sharon Bauman, Rex Wild and myself. Rex picked the lucky ticket and Sharon was the winner of a magnificent bottle of Shiraz, kindly donated by *Vintage Cellars*. Everyone attending the function also enjoyed the delicious Goundrey wines that were served.

The NTWLA committee met on 19 January 2004. The committee is busy planning events leading up to the Annual General Meeting in August 2004. Several short-term projects are on the drawing board. We will be calling for volunteers to form sub-committees to plan and run the awards nights for the best Top End and Central Australian Woman Lawyer for 2004 and another sub-committee to carry out a review of the Constitution so that we can vote on any amendments at the next Annual General Meeting. I will be emailing members in the near future to ask for volunteers.

For the next NTWLA event, all members are invited for drinks and an informal chat at William Foster

Chambers with several female barristers who will talk about being a female barrister in the NT. A tentative date has been set for Friday 20 February 2004 at 5pm. Keep your eye on *The Practitioner* for details.

I wrote to the President of the Law Society in November 2003 requesting the Law Society review the issues of "Part-time Practising Certificates" for its members and the Uniform Equitable Briefing Policy. I look forward to being advised of what direction the Law Society will take on these issues.

One of the many issues the Australian Women Lawyers will be considering this year is flexible workplace practices. Business relationships, like family relationships, prosper

from the mutual encouragement of virtues such as faithfulness, loyalty, acceptance and respect. Family-friendly workplaces recognise that maintaining a balance between family and career invests in staff and the associated costs are more than off-set by the reduction in staff turnover.

Turnover costs include separation, replacement and training costs. An employee cost is childcare which is still mainly the domain of the female parent. It can lead to a high level of work/family conflict and personal stress. The degree of employee faithfulness, loyalty, acceptance and respect in the workplace is highly likely to be

continued next page

The Law Society NT Secretariat is relocating offices

to new premises located at:
**Suite G16/18, Paspalis Centrepoint,
1st Floor, 48-50 The Mall Darwin NT 0800**

We will be closed on **Thursday 26 and Friday 27 February 2004** to relocate the Secretariat from Level 11, NT House, 22 Mitchell Street to the new premises.

For urgent matters, please contact: Barbara Bradshaw on 0418 892 248,
or Julie Davis on 0417 855 391.

We will reopen on **Monday 1 March 2004**.

The following details will remain unchanged:

Telephone: (08) 8981-5104

Fax: (08) 8941-1623

Postal address: GPO Box 2388, Darwin NT 0801

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Jack Lewis Barrister

As of 1 February 2004,
Jack Lewis will
commence practice at
John Toohey Chambers.

Unit 1/18 Knuckey
Street Darwin NT 0800

Mobile: 0403 368 924

email:

jacklewis@bigpond.com

Events and issues in 2004 cont...

affected by this type of conflict/
stress and work output will suffer.

Research has shown that
organisations which provide longer
parental leave, greater flexibility in
the location of work and higher
employee support generate greater
job satisfaction all round.¹

Gabrielle Martin
President ①

(Endnotes)

¹ "Minding the Family" in Human
Resources December 2003 p.93

Requests for Documentation Crimes (Victims Assistance) Applications

To all Practitioners

Our office is endeavouring to clear a substantial backlog of requests for documentation in relation to Crimes (Victims Assistance) Applications.

Requests are often received that fail to include important and useful information that can assist with an efficient response.

With all new requests we ask that all practitioners provide the following details:

- (a) Defendants Name
- (b) IJIS No. or Court File No.
- (c) Date of Offence
- (d) Place of Offence
- (e) Victims Name

Please note, that we may be unable to process requests that do not contain the required information. Requests that cannot be processed will be returned and may be resubmitted when the outstanding information can be provided.

If practitioners currently have an outstanding request and the matter has become urgent, please contact Ms Jodi Mather (Articled Clerk), who will give those matters priority.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Elisabeth Armitage, Solicitor to the Director, on 8999 7533.

**Office of the Director of Public
Prosecutions Northern Territory**

Want to stay up-to-date with news and upcoming events?

THE PRACTITIONER
News & views from the LSNT Secretariat



The Practitioner is a weekly email newsletter service for members of the LSNT. To access this service (members only) provide your email address to the LSNT office, or email publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au

The LSNT is also trialling a fax distribution - if you would prefer to receive this service via fax, please contact Zoe at the Secretariat on 8981-5104