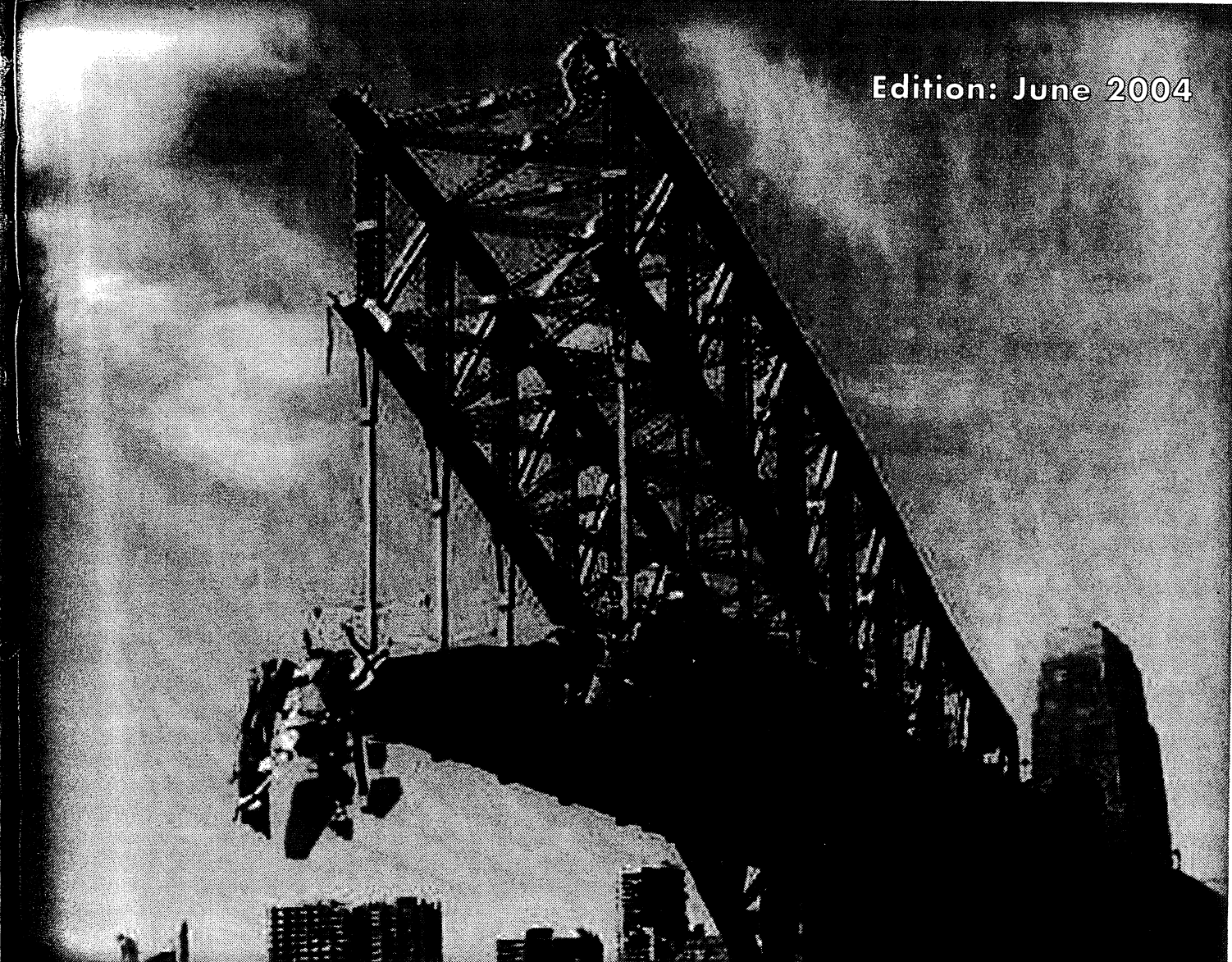


# ADVANCE

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- \* **System needs reform to deal with terror challenges**
  - National Legal services market**
  - \* **Pressure to work at a 'healthy legal culture'**

## The dry season brings a hectic schedule

I must say that it is nice to finally have some cooler weather, for a while there I thought we were going to have the wet season all year round. As you all know, June/July is a fantastic time to spend as much time outdoors as possible. I started the month with an invite to the Northern Territory Women's Lawyers Patron's Drinks on the balcony at the Supreme Court which is always a wonderful venue. On the same night Nikolai Christrup celebrated his move to the Independent Bar joining Myilly Point Chambers.

Earlier this month, along with John Reeves QC, I met with the Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court to discuss civil listing procedure. In particular Order 48. The aim is to refine and improve civil listing procedures.

On Friday 11 June 2004 I was invited to Government House for a reception to celebrate the Queen's birthday. Certainly June puts on the great weather for those outdoor functions.

The Queen's birthday weekend seemed to be the weekend for marriages and I would like to congratulate Sylvia Tomazos from De Silva Hebron who married Marco Cecchin and Therese Austin from the DPP who married Matthew Grant.

I spoke last month about the masses of new legislation that has been introduced over the last 12 months. One of those pieces of legislation is the amendments to the *Legal*

*Practitioners Act* to deal with Incorporated Legal Practices and Multi Disciplinary Partnerships. The CLE planned for the 15 June did not go ahead, but information has been circulated to all firms.

On 16 June 2004 I attended an art opening at the Supreme Court opened by Justice David Angel. The exhibition was a photographic exhibition "Leadership at Warrego" and the artist Josephine Kuperholz together with the Punttu exhibition. As we all know the art collection in the Supreme Court is most impressive and attributable largely due to the work of Justice David Angel and his wife Anita Angel. Certainly it is a collection of which we should be very proud and I commend the Supreme Court's continued support of artists and exhibitions. Not only are they enjoyable but they give the general public an opportunity to visit the Supreme Court and take



Merran Short, President

advantage of what is after all a public building.

In the weekend of 25 June 2004 Barbara Bradshaw and I attended a Law Council meeting in Adelaide, rather than usual Canberra. Whilst it was cold it was nice to have a change of scenery. The LCA meeting was held in Adelaide because the South Australian Law Society is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Apart from the usual LCA business, which always keeps us busy, we attended a SA Law Society Dinner Dance at the Governor's Mansion. All in all it was a very enjoyable weekend.

## Pressure to work at a 'healthy legal culture'

Recently the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) warned that the legal profession could lose its distinct identity, unless it reassesses its focus on professional ethics and social responsibility.

According to the ALRC a healthy legal culture will ultimately help in determining whether the entire justice system operates efficiently and in the public interest.

ALRC President Professor David Weisbrot said the key to ensuring a healthy legal culture begins with improved legal education, emphasising 'soft skills' such as communication, negotiation and dispute resolution.

According to Professor Weisbrot

public cynicism about the legal profession is at an all-time high, as evidenced by the management and reporting of the public liability 'crisis', despite the enormous amount of pro bono work provided for disadvantaged persons by Australian lawyers.

"The profession is under enormous pressure these days: the legal services market is vastly more competitive; the number of lawyers has grown rapidly; non-lawyers are

moving into areas once reserved for lawyers; many areas of personal injury work have been 'de-lawyered'; law firms have developed more 'business-like' structures; and the globalisation of legal services is now a reality.

"This growth and fragmentation brings serious challenges.

"Without a focal point for reflection and reform - such as an Academy

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