

## News from the Federal Court

Practitioners may have noticed changes to the Federal Court web site over recent months. In addition to providing a wide range of information including up to date versions of the Federal Court Rules and forms, specific file details can now be accessed on-line using the new **eSearch** facility.

The eSearch facility is based on the Court's new case management system and allows party details, listing information and orders in any Federal Court matter to be viewed from your desktop. The system also records details of the documents filed in a matter. Just look for the **eCourt** heading at [www.fedcourt.gov.au](http://www.fedcourt.gov.au) and follow the prompt to **eSearch**. Enter the file number or name for display of the information. Of course, the information available is limited to the information which could be searched on the file without leave of the court.

Bankruptcy searches and searches in relation to admiralty caveats can now be done on-line. You can also check the next listing date and the latest orders. We hope the new

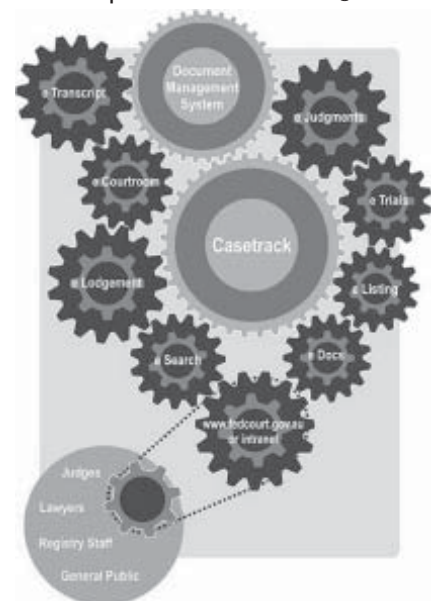
system will be of particular benefit to court users in regional areas. Of course, we still look forward to taking calls from practitioners and to providing personal assistance.

The **eSearch** facility is a step towards implementation of the Federal Court's broad ranging **eCourt** initiative. The Court is moving to bring together a range of **eCourt** services and systems (including **eFiling**, **eCourt Forum** and **eSearch**) which may be accessed through a single web browser interface, to be known as 'myFiles'.

**myFiles** will bring many benefits to the profession and has the capacity to transform the way that lawyers work with the Court and with each other. Practitioners will be able to use a single log-on to view all the files in which they have a client who is a party to a proceeding in the Court, and to access multiple services such as searching for case information, updating information in certain Casetrack databases, reviewing transcript, lodging a document or participating in a virtual directions

hearing. Data duplication and re-entry will be significantly reduced and ultimately eliminated, with information entered "at source" in the Court's case management system and available to practitioners as well as the Court.

The Court will be providing more information as the project progresses and welcomes your questions and comments on the initiatives to date and the plans for the future.<sup>①</sup>



## Nepal under military rule cont...

that this is a legitimate obligation of the international community under the charter of the United Nations to uphold fundamental human rights and democracy among all member states of UN.

This appeal has been submitted on behalf of 25 leading Human Rights Organizations. Due to the current threat to human rights defenders, the names of the organizations have been kept confidential.

### LAWASIA issued this public statement on 8 February 2005

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, expresses its deep concern for the civil and legal rights of the people of Nepal following the recent dismissal of the elected government and declaration of a state of emergency by King Gyanendra.

LAWASIA supports its member organisation, the Nepal Bar

Association, in its call to protect the human rights, political freedom and adherence to the rule of law as guaranteed to Nepali people under the constitution of that country.

Recent reports from Nepal indicate that amongst others, the former president of the Nepal Bar Association, Mr Sindhu Nath Pyakurel, has been taken into detention and that members of the Nepal Bar Association's Human Rights Project (which is investigating abuses by authorities) have been asked to report to the authorities.

"The recent Royal Proclamation has curtailed severely the constitutional and human rights of the Nepali people and contributes nothing to Nepal's struggle to find peace and stability," said LAWASIA's president, Mr GL Sanghi of India.

"This development leaves us in fear for the safety of those in that country

who work to protect these rights."

"I am also concerned about the reported decline in the rule of law, particularly in respect of delays in the hearing of habeus corpus applications", Mr Sanghi said.

"Furthermore, the reported detention of members of the legal profession and the press is intolerable, and I call on the authorities to ensure they are released immediately".

Mr Sanghi also criticised the shut down of telephone and internet communications, which made it more difficult for the outside world to monitor developments in Nepal.

LAWASIA notes the importance of continued international attention to the deteriorating situation in Nepal and joins other voices in calling for the immediate restoration of multi-party democratic institutions under a constitutional monarchy in Nepal.<sup>①</sup>