

Congratulations

Congratulations to newly admitted Northern Territory practitioners:

- * Katie O'Connor-Burger from NT Treasury;
- * Gene Truan from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority;
- * Sarah Riley from Clayton Utz; and
- * Matthew Walsh from Cridlands.

Movers and Shakers

Joanna Martin and Merran Short have commenced work at Policy in the Department of Justice.

Rumours and gossip

Congratulations to Territory's new Chief Magistrate Jenny Blokland. Speculation has now started about who will take up the seat on the bench vacated by Magistrate Blokland.

Lawyer Joke 1

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman. He was being cross-examined by a defense attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the policeman's credibility...

Q: "Officer -- did you see my client fleeing the scene?"

A: "No sir. But I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away."

Q: "Officer -- who provided this description?"

A: "The officer who responded to the scene."

Q: "A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?"

A: "Yes, sir. With my life."

Q: "With your life? Let me ask you this then officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?"

A: "Yes sir, we do!"

Q: "And do you have a locker in the room?"

A: "Yes sir, I do."

Q: "And do you have a lock on your locker?"

A: "Yes sir."

Q: "Now why is it, officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?"

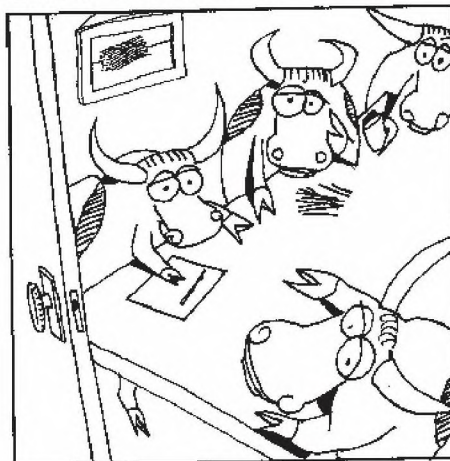
A: "You see, sir -- we share the building with the court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room."

The courtroom erupted in laughter, and a prompt recess was called. The officer on the stand has been nominated for this year's "Best Comeback" line - and we think he'll win

Lawyer Joke 2

A lawyer runs a stop sign and gets pulled over by a

The Muster Room



policeman.

The lawyer is arrogant and thinks that he is smarter than the cop because of his education and training.

He decides to prove this to himself and have some fun at the cop's expense.

Cop: "Licence, please."

Lawyer: "What for?"

Cop: "You didn't come to a complete stop at the stop sign."

Lawyer: "I slowed down, and no one was coming."

Cop: "You still didn't come to a complete stop. Licence, please."

Lawyer: "What's the difference?"

Cop: "The difference is, you have to come to a complete stop; that's the law. Licence, please!"

Lawyer: "If you can show me the legal difference between slow down and stop, I'll give you my licence and you give me the fine, if not you let me go and no fine."

Cop: "Okay, get out of your vehicle, sir."

At this point, the cop takes out his baton and starts beating the lawyer and says: "Now, do you want me to stop, or just slow down?"

Don't ask the question if you don't know the answer.

Lawyer Joke 3

Lawyers should never ask a grandma from the Southern States of America a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand.

He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams, I've known you since you were a young boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappoint-

ment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The lawyer was stunned! Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know the defence attorney?"

She again replied, "Why, yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him."

The defence attorney almost died.

The judge asked both counsellors to approach the bench, and in a very quiet voice, said, "If either of you bastards asks her if she knows me, I'll throw your sorry asses in jail for contempt."

Puzzling judgment

Early this year Justice Peter Smith, a judge on Britain's High Court of Justice, handed down his judgment in a copyright dispute over the *The Da Vinci Code*.

The judgment attracted attention not for its content, but because of the inclusion of a code. In the spirit of *The Da Vinci Code*, Justice Smith's judgment included a series of italicised letters throughout the 71-page document. These formed part of a code, which sent code-breakers into a frenzy.

In the first seven paragraphs the letters spell out "smithy code".

Justice Smith has been quoted as saying: "I can't discuss the judgment... but I don't see why a judgment should not be a matter of fun".

"Judges have been known to write very sophisticated and amusing judgments," lawyer Mark Stephens said.

"This trend started long ago... one did a judgment in rhyme. Another in couplets. There has been precedent for this.

"It adds a bit of fun to what might have been a dusty text."

The code has since been revealed as: "Jackie Fisher who are you? Dreadnought".

Jackie Fisher was a British admiral and was the chairman of the Committee on Designs which produced the outline design for the first modern battleship, HMS Dreadnought.

Family Violence, Drug and Alcohol Use in Remote Communities

On August 18, the Australian Institute of Criminology will host a conference on *Family Violence, Drug and Alcohol Use in Remote Communities* at the Crowne Plaza in Darwin.

According to the AIC, the conference aims to:

"identify family violence issues in remote settings with an emphasis on underlying factors which exacerbate family violence, such as illicit drug and alcohol use, and mental health issues."

Appropriate interventions will be discussed and a panel of experts will comment on future directions.

Conference themes are:

- Family violence issues in remote settings.
- Contributing factors including illicit drug and alcohol use, and mental health issues.
- Appropriate interventions – what works?

Topics to be covered, include:

- * Family Violence: settings and contexts
 - Family Violence in the wider Australian setting
 - Family violence and Indigenous in the NT
- * Illicit drugs, alcohol use and mental health issues
 - Patterns of substance use in the Northern Territory
 - Mental health issues and the Indigenous population in the Northern Territory
- * What works?
 - Intervention programs
 - Policing illicit drugs in remote communities
 - Education as a preventative measure
- * Where to from here?

A registration form is available from <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2006-familyViolence/regbro.pdf>

The AIC, an Australian Government agency, is Australia's national centre for the analysis and dissemination of criminological data and information.

The AIC aims to be responsive to the needs of government and the community with respect to policy issues in the fields of justice and the prevention and control of crime. It provides authoritative information at a national level in these fields, as well as disseminating timely, policy-relevant advice.

The AIC conducts in-house research and also brings together researchers and practitioners to work cooperatively in building our knowledge base. The AIC's work is communicated to government, media and the public through its conferences, seminars, workshops and publications.