

The “state of the art” Supreme Court, opened in 1991, now includes the Federal Court Registry. However, the Family Court and Federal Magistrates Court continue to operate in offices considered inadequate, in spite of the keenness by the Federal Magistrates and registry staff to make things work in the best manner possible. I was at the welcome function for the new Federal Court Judge Justice Reeves, where the new Commonwealth Law Courts was announced. The plans were then apparently put “on hold” by the new Labor Government, but attempts are being made to revive them again, as a stimulus for the building industry in a time of potential recession, and to better serve the public and practitioners, particularly in the family law area.

I will not deal with the Courts at Gove, Tennant Creek and Katherine, but as those operating there know, the biggest issues are perhaps with bush courts, featured in the last *Balance*. Difficulties in taking instructions under a tree or sitting in the dust outside in 40 degree temperatures cannot be underestimated. Conducting proceedings is difficult, and it is hard to see how things can be significantly improved without expenditure of great sums of money, which would appear not to be available in the current economic climate. I understand the Attorney-General, Department of Justice and Chief Magistrate who are obviously aware of and concerned about these problems are looking at options for dealing with these issues. The Society is hoping to meet with CSM Blokland and DoJ to discuss. Moving proceedings to the larger centres would be a costly, and perhaps culturally inappropriate option.

I would appreciate any feedback from practitioners on these issues, and will keep the profession informed.

# www.lawsocietynt.asn.au

## Your online legal resource

The new Law Society website, at [www.lawsocietynt.com.au](http://www.lawsocietynt.com.au), has finally been launched! Take the time to explore new features, including:

- Facility to RSVP for social events and CPD online, including making online payments.
- The opportunity for local firms/organisations to submit a legal position vacant free of charge.
- The information and forms you need to practice law in the Northern Territory.
- An interactive poll for members to tell us their opinions on current issues.
- A search facility to find a practitioner or firm.
- A listing of firm website links (if yours is not listed, please email [publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au](mailto:publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au)).

asn.au).

- An up to date listing of Law Society and other professional development opportunities (CPD).
- Facility for members to submit items to *The Practitioner* e-newsletter.
- A members only section where members can update their details and access electronic versions of *Balance*. To access this section you will need to register a login and password on the website. Please note, your login details for the old website will no longer work.
- A listing of legal books available for review.

Your feedback on the new site would be welcome. Contact Rebecca on [publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au](mailto:publicrelations@lawsocnt.asn.au).

The screenshot shows the Law Society Northern Territory website. At the top, there is a search bar and the website's name. A navigation menu on the left lists various sections like Home, About LSNT, and Legal Practice. The main content area features a search bar for finding firms and lawyers, a list of CPDs (Continuing Professional Development) with dates and topics, and a section for social functions. A central article highlights the new website launch. A poll asks about the global financial crisis. The footer includes contact details, a sign-up for the 'The Practitioner' e-newsletter, and the Law Society Northern Territory logo.