

# ACT Conference 2009

By Emma Reilly



The fifth annual ACT Branch Conference was held at the Hyatt Hotel, Canberra, on Friday 19 June 2009.

The keynote speaker, His Honour Justice Richard Refshauge, opened the conference with an informative and thought-provoking discussion about the evolving court rules. Peta Spender, ANU College of Law professor and member of the new ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT), followed by providing a useful insight into the unique elements of class actions.

Following morning tea, Dr Geoffrey Stubbs provided a detailed analysis of shoulder injuries, Dr Steven Hausfeld and Steven Whybrow went through changes to the Evidence Act, and John Solomon and Deborah Rolfe conducted a discussion on the amended CTP legislation.

Our final session was devoted to the ever-popular annual case review. For the first time, this included a review of criminal cases provided by Tim Sharman, which was useful for criminal practitioners and equally interesting for those not in criminal practice. Greg Stretton and Andrew Muller followed in respect of significant civil cases over the year.

The conference closed with drinks, always a valuable social and networking opportunity.

Many thanks must go to our major partners, Furzer Crestani Services and Perpetual, and to our event partners, Ability One, Evidex, Impact Capital, ipac and LawMaster.

The conference would not have been possible without the hard work of the Alliance staff, Maja Maunic and Jessica Younan in particular. ■

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**L to R: 1** Delegates enjoying post-conference drinks **2** Clara Davies, National President, Australian Lawyers Alliance (2008/9), The Hon Justice Richard Refshauge, The Supreme Court of the ACT, Amy Burr, Branch President, Australian Lawyers Alliance **3** Noor Blumer, Blumers Lawyers, and Greg Stretton, Barrister **4** Glen Dwyer and Ian Davy from Evidex, with Faye Higgins from Pamela Coward Higgins Lawyers

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