



**Launch of Douglas, Mullins & Grant : The Annotated Civil
Liability Act 2003 (Lexis Nexis Butterworths)
14 October 2004, 5.30 pm
Bar Common Room**

Chief Justice Paul de Jersey AC

I presumed to offer a brief summary of the considerable value of this work when I was privileged to write the foreword. I won't repeat what I said there – because no doubt you will buy the book, and of course you will at once read the foreword!

There are but two additional points I wish to raise now.

The first is to acknowledge the enduringly memorable contribution of the author of a book. Speeches come and go, with only a very few – Lincoln, Churchill, Martin Luther King – subsequently stirring even the remotest chord of recognition. CD-ROMs, web-pages, the Internet itself: these seem transmutable to the point of the ephemeral.

But books: talented people write them; enquiring people read them; resourceful libraries stock them – in the tens of thousands. The book is the unique survivor of the technological age, and culturally, the author is our unique treasure.

The intelligent application of the authors we celebrate tonight may perhaps not stir many of the creative tastebuds of their readers, but they will I believe readily satisfy a wish for information, analysis and reassurance, in fields which are litigation minefields.



**Launch of Douglas, Mullins & Grant : The Annotated Civil Liability Act 2003 (Lexis Nexis
Butterworths)
14 October 2004, 5.30 pm
Bar Common Room**

The second point I wish to make concerns the intentions of our authors: to use their experience and expertise to help others, and thereby they exemplify the best tradition of our noble profession. No-one present this evening would doubt that assertion. But if a cynical and pesky outsider did, what better confirmation than the dedication of our authors' no doubt substantial royalties to charity. The authors intend donating all of the royalties from this first edition, 1,000 copies, to the Queensland Cancer Fund, and that will amount to \$11,000. Bearing in mind the substantial time these busy and successful practitioners have devoted to the preparation of the text, that is truly commendable. Especially in my capacity as a former Chairman of the Queensland Cancer Fund, I warmly applaud our authors for their altruistic generosity.

A lot of volumes in the Supreme Court Library must be there, though they are rarely opened. Now I am pleased to note this volume is of durable quality. Why? Because I am confident it will be accessed regularly. And I believe it will very early be accepted, by a critical discerning readership, that the wish of our authors, evident here tonight, to help others, has led to the production of a text which should assist regularly, reliably, invaluablely.

Congratulating and thanking our authors, Mr Richard Douglas SC, Mr Gerry Mullins and Mr Simon Grant, I am very pleased now formally to launch 'The Annotated Civil Liability Act 2003'.