



Launch of “The Law of Liability Insurance”,
Third Edition, Authors D K Derrington and R S Ashton
Supreme Court Library
Wednesday 20 November 2013, 5:30pm

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice

I am very pleased to launch this afternoon this important further contribution to legal scholarship in a wide-ranging and practically significant field, and I congratulate the authors, the Honourable Des Derrington and Mr Ron Ashton.

Our former judicial colleague has been academically very active in his particular variety of “retirement”.

Legal practitioners, courts, academics and citizens who need to deal with insurers, and indeed insurers themselves, are indebted to Des Derrington and Ron Ashton for this third edition of what is a seminal work.

While thankfully the work is not, in the technical sense, an “authority”, we may certainly say it is “authoritative”, and that is the result of the authors’ wide experience and expertise in the field, recognised both nationally and internationally.

I had the opportunity this morning to dip into the book. It is, if I may say, quite amazingly comprehensive. The material and analysis are presented in an extremely useful way. The authors display an acute appreciation of a wide, difficult field of law, and related fields, contract law especially. Their reference to authority is wide-ranging, extending to the USA. The effort which has gone into the publication is nothing short of daunting.

Natural disasters of recent years, including floods in Queensland, have exposed a range of complex insurance issues, and the pendency and resolution of those issues have had a



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substantial, sometimes destructive, effect on people's lives. I mention this to emphasise the contemporary significance of the field.

And it is significant that we acknowledge the publication this afternoon in the Supreme Court Library, of which then Justice Derrington was Committee chairman from 1994 to 1998.

So it is, with both appreciation and congratulations to the authors, that I am very pleased now to launch this valuable further emanation of their considerable scholarship and worthwhile contribution to legal learning in an important and challenging field.