

NOTICES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Solicitors are needed as volunteers for the Alphaline Roster in Melbourne. Alphaline is a 24-hour emergency legal advice line for young people in trouble with the police. The commitment is usually one night (12 hours) per month. If interested call Kate on (03) 419 3744.

PUBLICATIONS

■ The Fitzroy Legal Service has recently launched the *Youth Advocates Guide*. The Guide is aimed at assisting workers with young people and covers areas such as advising young people of their rights and duties at the police stations and courts, and the preparation required for pre-court reports. The Guide is available at the Fitzroy Legal Service for \$10. Write to 181 Brunswick St, Fitzroy, 3065, or phone (03) 419 3744.

■ The 1993 *Law Handbook* will be available in November this year. The 1992 edition is sold out. Please call Fitzroy Legal Service (number above) for details.

■ The Welfare Rights Unit has produced a book *A Guide to Defending Social Security Prosecutions and Overpayments* aimed at legal practitioners. The book outlines the relevant legislation and explains the procedures and considerations for lawyers acting in this area, and also includes the administrative appeal process available to social security recipients. The price of the book is \$40 for private legal practitioners, \$20 to community groups and free to people receiving social security payments. Phone

the Welfare Rights Unit on (03) 416 1111 for details.

■ The *Report of the Inquiry into HIV and AIDS-Related Discrimination* has been published by the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board. The report examines discrimination in the media, accommodation, education, employment, the funeral industry, ambulance services, the law, police and superannuation. Relevant legislation is included together with 74 recommendations. Copies are available free of charge from the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board on (02) 318 5400.

■ The Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic.) has released its report *Policing Offensive Behaviours - a Critique of Labor and Coalition Policing Policies*. The report makes a number of recommendations targeted at increasing police accountability. For further information contact Donna Swan at the Federation on (03) 419 2752.

■ The Community Languages in the Professions (CLIP) Unit of the National Languages and Literacy Institute of Australia, Monash University has published a report titled *Cross-cultural Communication in Legal Settings*. The report is aimed at lawyers, legal workers and students of clinical legal education who deal with people who speak little or no English. The report is available from the CLIP Unit for \$20 plus \$2.50 postage, tel. (03) 565 2237.

SEMINAR

The Free Speech Committee (NSW) will hold a seminar on *The Latest Developments in Media Law* at

Parliament House, Sydney, on Friday, 4 December 1992 at 4.00 p.m.

Topics: the use of stop writs, prosecuting policy in relation to contempts, suppression orders, protection of sources and others.

Generous students concessions. For information and registrations ring (02) 389 4009 or fax (02) 399 8564 or write to P.O. Box 55-s, Bexley South 2207.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION

The Criminal Justice Coalition is a network of agencies, organisations and individuals committed to promoting the reform of the criminal justice system within Victoria. The aims of the Coalition are:

- the use of imprisonment as an option of last resort;
- ensuring the recognition of the value and dignity of the lives of those who are imprisoned;
- protecting the rights of the families of those who are imprisoned;
- the controlled use of non-custodial sentences;
- the elimination of unfair or unethical discrimination in all penal measures;
- promoting the development of resources for victims of crime and services to meet their needs.

Those interested in joining should contact Father Peter Norden on (03) 427 9163, or write to him at 291 Sydney Rd, Brunswick, Vic., 3056.

See also inside back cover.

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Claim period for undelivered or damaged copies is 6 months.

REVIEWS

Units. I commend them all.

DAVID BRISSET

David Brisset teaches legal studies at a Melbourne Secondary college.

MAKING AND BREAKING THE LAW The Legal System and the Attainment of Justice

by Jules Aldous and Dianne Levy;
VCTA Publishing, Melbourne, 1991;
\$34.00.

Victoria has a reputation for producing some of the most useful and interesting legal studies textbooks for high schools in the country. *Making and Breaking the Law* is no exception to this broad trend.

The book takes the view that 'our

legal system is a dynamic network that both responds to the needs and demands of the community as well as shaping relationships between individuals and groups in society'. It focuses on exploring the role of the law for individuals, the community and legal institutions. It does this by examining first, the role of law, law-making institutions and law-making processes; and second, dispute settlement, institutions, and process and procedures evaluation.

The book provides a useful description of the main institutions and issues relating to the law in society and the uses and processes of the law in Victoria. Each chapter has a particular theme (e.g. role of Parliament, civil procedure, the jury). Work requirements – such as analytical exercises, case studies, investigation and research projects – accompany each area. A liberal use of subheadings, margin notes, figures, cartoons and recent newspaper reports also break up the text. The book covers a comprehensive range of ideas and informa-

tion, and while it is well written, would certainly challenge intellectually more than a few of its student readers.

Making and Breaking the Law takes a relatively uncritical perspective on the social function and position of law in society, although it covers particular legal problems such as access to justice. Its main strength is that it provides a very useful reference point for high school students to develop their understanding of the law and legal processes, and to gain a substantial knowledge of its many different facets. Books such as this are valuable in another way: they can serve as models for the legal studies resources in other States, such as Western Australia, where the process of producing similar material is still in its initial stages.

ROB WHITE

Rob White coordinates the Legal Studies Program at Edith Cowan University, Perth.

References continued from p. 241

References

1. This article is based on a workshop conducted by the authors at the 14th Annual Conference of Community Legal Centres in May 1992.
2. See, for example, Combined Community Legal Centres Group (NSW) *Submission to the Costs of Justice Inquiry by the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs* (1989), Office of Legal Aid and Family Services *Community*

Legal Centres: A Study of Four Centres in New South Wales and Victoria (1991).

3. There are, of course, obvious overlaps between each, and even disagreements as to whether a particular activity is, for example, undertaken because of its educative or reform aspect.
4. Details of the campaign can be found in Real Rape Law Coalition *No Real Justice. Interim Report of a Confidential Phone In on Sexual Assault* (1991).
5. See Australian Financial Counselling and Credit Reform Association *Need or Greed: A Study of Consumer Credit Insurance*

(1987) and *37c in the Dollar* (1991) and Trade Practices Commission *The Market for Consumer Credit Insurance* (1991).

6. We have used the word campaign loosely. While CLC law reform work includes (and is sometimes dominated by) reactive responses to an unsavoury government proposal, the strategies are essentially similar to a premeditated and thoroughly planned 'campaign'.
7. A recent example was an early 1992 7.30 *Report* which surrounded a story on WA juvenile legislation with sensational car chases and police sirens.

FURTHER NOTICES CONFERENCES

LAW AND SOCIETY CONFERENCE 1992

Sponsored by Legal Studies Department and National Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, La Trobe University.

Dates: 4, 5, 6, December, 1992

Venue: Bundoora Campus, La Trobe University

Contact: The Convenor, NCSLS, fax (03) 479 1607

AUSTRALIAN FAMILY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Australian Institute of Family Studies is holding its fourth research and policy-related conference. The

conference will provide an opportunity for public discussion of both Institute and wider research.

Date: 17-19 February 1993

Venue: Manly Pacific Parkroyal, Sydney

Contact: tel (03) 608 6888 or fax (03) 600 0886