

Litigation Lawyers group underway

The inaugural meeting of the Litigation Lawyers Group was held on Saturday 15 August.

Interest was keen and minutes of the meeting have been circulated to all practitioners.

Please note that the Chairman for the next meeting will be John Neill from Ward Keller.

The topic will be courts listing procedures.

John will prepare a discussion paper outlining present and perceived problems which will be distributed prior to the meeting at 9.30am on Saturday 12 September at William Forster Chambers.

A list of recommendations will be

made to the Attorney-General about how the system of listing can be improved and made more efficient.

It's your system and your input is valuable.

Please contact Danny Masters at Cridlands or Sally Gearin at William Forster Chambers if you require further information.

Use *Balance* as forum for ideas

Dear Ed,

Geoff James recently circulated an interesting and thought provoking letter amongst the profession.

Geoff's point is one of importance to the Territory, and indeed, to the national profession.

Whether or not it is valid (and I have not examined it in detail so express no opinion) it is worthy of publication in *Balance*.

Before the days of a regular Law Society publication, discussion by circular letter was standard practice.

But, with the advent of a periodical from the body representing most, if not all, of the practitioners in the Territory, and as one very much interested in the encouragement of discussion and dissemination of ideas within the profession, it would be beneficial for *Balance* to be the new forum.

I hope many other practitioners, including judges and magistrates, will be moved to voice their views through this medium, hopefully thus fostering a dynamic and exciting atmosphere in which to practice, perhaps even resolving issues confronting the profession, and certainly reducing paper and postage costs below those incurred in circulars.

Cameron Ford [hear, hear! Ed.]

Profession responsible for millions in Australia's balance of payments woes

Dear Ed,

Do you know that our country is dying as a result of an import-induced balance of payments deficit?

Do you know that we in the legal profession create a significant proportion of the national trade imbalance?

Do you know that industries all over Australia are closing or contracting because of Australian consumers purchasing foreign goods?

Do you know that, contrary to the belief of our leaders, this is bad for our economy, our culture and our way of life?

Do you know that our leaders are doing nothing about it?

The legal profession in Australia has an annual turnover of \$3069,000,000 (source: TPC draft Legal Profession Issues paper, July 1992).

If five per cent of this turnover is spent on paper, file covers, printer prerequisites, ball point pens, highlighters and other analogous goods, that means our profession injects into the merchandise sector of the Australian economy \$150,000,000 per annum.

We are a significant sector of the national market place.

These figures do not take into account expenditure on technological goods or office furniture.

If 50 per cent of the profession's expenditure on minor goods relates to imported products we, as a group, are contributing \$75,000,000 per annum to the national trade imbalance.

We must consider whether we really want to do that.

It is not good for our country.

Think how much worse we make it for our country with all the additional

expenditure that we pour into foreign made technical goods.

We don't have much choice about that.

We do have a choice about minor goods.

Insist that your suppliers stock and provide Australian goods and you will save our country \$75,000,000 per annum off its balance of payments.

The flow-on to the economy will mean at least another 2000 jobs available for Australians.

This is what we in the legal profession can do for our country.

Please help Australia to recover.

Tell your suppliers to insist on local paper, ball points, file covers, etc.

Tell your clients what you are doing.

Tell anyone who will listen.

Geoff James