

## Kudos on rule change

The Society's joint announcement with the Attorney-General of the amendment to the advertising rule in the Professional Conduct Rules resulted in some unexpected but welcome publicity for the profession.

It was somewhat surprising that the *NT News* devoted an editorial to the matter, but perhaps that reflects the public interest in the mechanics of the legal system.

The profession has now been circulated with the amended Professional Conduct Rules.

The Society's attention has been drawn to a couple of anomalies in the Rules, however we cannot make any changes without the approval of the Chief Justice.

Council is presently working on a series of administrative

amendments to the Rules (for example a reference in Rule 4.5 to Rule 3.9 which no longer exists).

There are also references to the Bar Rules. The Bar has adopted an extensive national set of rules, so there will be further amendments in respect of the old Counsel Rules.

Any practitioner finding an anomaly is asked to contact the Society to ensure that we are aware of it.

**T**he Opening of the Legal Year is upon us and we are delighted to have the President and Secretary-General of the Law Council of Australia as our guests.

Robert Meadows, the President, will address luncheons in Darwin and Alice Springs, and I urge practitioners to support these functions.

**S**ally Kift is leaving Darwin to return to Brisbane.

Practitioners will be aware that Sally was instrumental in setting up the Public Purposes Trust and, particularly, the Inter-School Mock Trial competition in the Northern Territory.

She has also served for several years on the Allocations Committee of the Public Purposes Trust.

Her dedication to her job and her students at the University is well known, and for that she has earned the respect of her colleagues, students and administrators.

Sally will be a loss to the Law Faculty and to the Law Society.

I take this opportunity to thank her and to wish she and her husband, Phillip, the best. It will be our gain if they return to Darwin one day.

The CLE sub-committee has been working on a programme for the first quarter of this year.

The programme includes seminars on the *Work Health Act*, the *Local Court Rules* and Court Etiquette/Professional Conduct Rules.

See the advertisement in this issue.

A programme will be circulated to all practitioners and the practice of video taping presentations for Alice Springs practitioners will continue.

**I**t has also been suggested that the profession present a seminar for the benefit of journalists in relation to the reporting of matters legal.

The initial request arose out of the Sanby trial during which there was substantial evidence on the voir dire. Several scribes were unsure of what they could and couldn't report.

A seminar is being prepared which covers the reporting of voir dire, sub judice, contempt, defamation, suppression orders, leave to appeal and the reporting of juvenile court matters as they relate to journalists.

**T**he Chief Justice officially takes up his role of Administrator in March.

There will be a farewell sitting for him at 9.30am on Friday 26 February in Court 1 of the Supreme Court in Darwin.

Happily, we will not be losing him all together and, like his predecessor, I'm sure he will maintain a keen interest in, and close association with, the profession.

Indeed, he has agreed to adjudicate the grand final of the 1993 Ansett Inter-School Mock Trial competition, as has been his practice as Chief Justice in the past.