

## President's farewell comments

As this is the August issue of *Balance* and the Annual General Meeting of The Law Society is looming, this will be my last column as President.

It is therefore unfortunate that I feel the need to finish up on a negative note.

I think it no exaggeration to say that the support given by the profession to the recent Martin Kriewaldt Memorial Address at the Supreme Court, Darwin, by The Honourable The Chief Justice of New South Wales, Chief Justice Gleeson, was the greatest disappointment of my term as President.

The Society — with the assistance of the Public Purposes Trust and His Honour Justice Angel — went to considerable trouble to establish the concept of a bi-annual memorial address, to ensure that it would be of a very high calibre and to obtain a speaker of the standing of Chief Justice Gleeson.

For all that, the attendance was nothing short of abysmal.

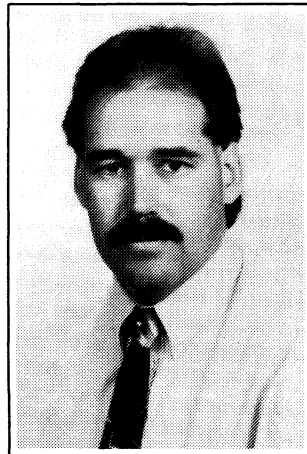
It was a serious embarrassment to the Society and to the profession.

For those of you who didn't attend (and there were probably no more than a dozen practitioners who did), the profession was almost outnumbered by judges ... no mean feat in this jurisdiction.

Those few who did attend were privileged to hear a superb address on an issue of great significance and importance to both the profession and the Australian legal system generally.

I can only urge all of you to read His Honour's address when it is published in the Australian Law Journal.

It may be, of course, that we at The Law Society are simply wrong to assume that



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members of the profession would be interested in the broader issues relevant to the profession and the legal system of the type of which His Honour spoke.

I sincerely hope that this is not the case, although in light of the support given to this event the Society will have to carefully consider whether

it is worthwhile having a similar address in two years.

Having made that observation, I take this opportunity to thank all those members of the profession who supported The Law Society and myself during my term as President, by contributing to such projects as Law Week, social events and generally assisting the Society.

Thanks also to members of The Law Society Council for their efforts and commitment over the last two years and, last but not least, to the secretariat — Jim Campbell, Julie Davis, Vicky Civils-Wood and Fiona Halliday — for their efforts throughout the year, which have made my task as President immeasurably easier.

Finally, I wish the new President and Council every success in the future.

## Judgments and new books at Supreme Court Library

NT judgments for 1992 have now been compiled and the master set is available from the Supreme Court Library for photocopying by legal firms.

Practitioners who wish to loan the master set should call Leslie on 89 6580 or fax 89 6181. Requests will be processed on a "first come, first served" basis.

Northern Territory and *Ors v Mengel and Ors* (NT Court of Appeal, April 12, 1994) has now been reported. The reference is 95 NTR 8.

Copies of the 1994 list of Serial Holdings for Law Libraries in the NT are also available. This list has been compiled by the staff of the Supreme Court Library for the Australian Law Librarians' Group (NT division). The cost for the 64-page list is \$20. Interested members should contact the library by fax or post. An inspection copy is available.

The following titles are among the new books in the Supreme Court Library:

**Aboriginal Justice Issues: proceedings of a conference held on 23-25 June 1992.** Australian Institute of Criminology, 1993; **Advocacy.** Avrom Sherr. Blackstone Press, 1993; **Drug Law in the Code States.** Peter Alcorn. Federation Press, 1993; **Gender Bias and the Judiciary.** Report by the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, 1994; **Turning the Tide: conference on indigenous peoples and sea rights.** NT University, Faculty of Law, 1993; **Using Computers in the Law: law office without walls.** Mary Ann Mason and Robert Harris. West Publishing, 1994.