

Profile

Young Gun from the DPP



Gina O'Rourke, DPP (and friends)

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Darwin boasts the youngest prosecutor in Australia to run and win a case.

Darwin's Channel 8 news team brought this fact to light after interviewing prosecutor Gina O'Rourke following her win in the case of R-v- Gonzales

earlier this month.

Gina, 26, completed her law degree in Hobart and was first admitted in both the ACT and the NT in 1994, after completing articles at the Tasmanian Legal Aid Commission and the DPP.

She has been a prosecutor since May 1994.

Legal Firms' Access to Taiwan Improved

The Law Council of Australia has supplied all constituent bodies with a letter from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade detailing an agreement which allows for an increase in the scope of legal opportunities in Taiwan for Australian legal firms.

This agreement has come about as a result of recent bilateral negotiations in the context of Taiwan's accession to the World Trade Organisation.

The key feature of the agreement allows legal firms to engage in profit sharing arrangements with local firms and to use their firm name. The agreement will come into effect once Taiwan becomes a member of the WTO.

Other aspects of the agreement include the allowing of preparation and appearance in international commercial arbitration and the potential change of the five year legal experience rule to include experience gained in other jurisdictions.

Further information may be obtained from the Law Society.

Book Review

Butterworths Tutorial Series: Contracts

Sam Cusamano, Leanne Wiseman and Sharon Christensen
Butterworths, \$39.00, 332 pp.

Reviewer: Robyn Davis

This text contains an introduction and 22 chapters, dealing with specific topics consistent with a straightforward and sensible analysis of the law of contract.

At the end of each chapter there is a tutorial type question with an example answer. There are also extensive footnotes for those interested in exploring more issues.

The book is a valuable aid to understanding the more recent developments in the law of contract and contains a comprehensive table of cases and table of statutes. Throughout the text reference is made to relevant sections of Com-

monwealth, state and territory acts.

Because of the large amount of commercial transactions conducted between the Northern Territory and other Australian states, the table of statutes would be particularly relevant to practitioners in the NT.

I found chapter 2 to be both informative and interesting. This particular chapter deals with the topic "Agreements". Following a discussion of the 'postal acceptance rule', the authors explore the concept of acceptance by means of facsimile, telex and other forms of instantaneous communication.

As business interest in the Northern Territory expands both interstate and internationally, complex contractual issues are bound to rise with far greater frequency. Complexities are particularly likely to arise as the Internet becomes a more accepted forum for conducting business. Whilst this book does not deal in great details with contract law and the Internet it still provides clear explanations of the essential elements of a con-

The publishers have targeted this tutorial series towards law students. The value of the text to legal practitioners lies in its reflection of the law current as at December 1995.

The text is not suitable for a law of contract specialist. A specialist in this area who has made any attempt to update their knowledge should already be familiar with what is set out in the text.

Legal practitioners who are not specialist in this area would undoubtedly be assisted by the book. The text sets out clearly the principles of the law to be applied together with the law as it now stands.

It is a good reference book for those requiring an authoritative answer to practical problems.

The book has an excellent and comprehensive index. For those who studied the law of contract more than six years ago, it is a quick easy and relatively inexpensive update.

My only regret after reading this was that it was not available when I was a law student.