

# From the Dean's Desk

By Jenny Blokland, Dean, Faculty of Law, NTU

## Introduction

This article is the first in a series which seeks to keep the profession informed about developments at the NTU Law Faculty. During the course of next year it is proposed to deal in greater depth with some of the questions often asked by friends in the profession: What is the present composition of the student body at the Law Faculty? What is "happening" about professional legal training? What are the employment prospects/destinations of today's law graduates? How is the NTU LLB/BJuris "holding up" nationally? All of these questions deserve some considered comment. In fact, the study of law students has become the subject of serious academic study in its own right. A variety of reports concerning these questions and generally the position of legal education in Australia are provided on an ongoing basis by the Centre for Legal Education, based in NSW and funded by the Law Foundation. These reports are most informative. Any members of the profession who would like to access the research are welcome to contact me and I can arrange forwarding of the relevant reports.

## Copping the Cuts

Nationally, most law faculties have had to cope with Federal government funding cuts. Although those cuts are of concern, the placing of "law, legal studies and justice studies" in the highest bracket of HECS is of greater concern to most law schools. The Committee of Australian Law Deans has sought to lobby to remove law from the highest bracket of HECS. Recently the Dean of the Sydney Law School, Professor Weisbrot noted that given the low rates of government funding to law, legal studies and justice studies, today's law students will be paying back more money to the government than their law schools receive to educate them.

At our Law Faculty there is still enormous interest from potential students (judging by the rate of applications received for next year). We have resisted the temptation to increase our student load, a strategy used by some schools to

cope with reduced funding in the future. The NTU Law Faculty seeks to remain a small school, providing a high quality legal education in a friendly atmosphere. Over the next two years, elective units with small enrolments may be cut from the law program as a form of savings. Our major response to the budget has been to raise funds to make up the shortfall (in part) through community and professional legal education. A number of short courses will be offered by the Faculty, some will be promoted nationally.

## Short Courses for 1997

Presently the short courses program being developed for 1997 is as follows: (\* denotes the program is directed at non-lawyers but may be of interest to lawyers seeking to enter the field):

Indigenous People and Property Law (divided into 3 parts)

March 1-2 Indigenous Law Ways (part I)

April 19 - 20 Land Rights, Native Title, Sacred Sites, The Claims Process (part II)

May 10 - 11 Resources - Wildlife, Mining, The Sea, Intellectual Property, International Law and Resource Management (part III)

March 22 - 23 \*Employment Law

April 14 - 18 Migration Law

No date set \*Intellectual Property

No date set \*Islamic Law

No date set \*Using International Law Remedies

No date set \*Searching Legal Databases and the Internet (what's out there, how to search it, what to buy)

No date set \*Constitutional and Administrative Law for Public Servants

Further the Centre for Southeast Asian law will be offering the following units in its summer school for the LLM program as short courses:

July 14 - 18 Indonesian Law

July 14 - 18 Malaysian Law and Society.

Further details, including teaching arrangements and costs will be circulated

to the profession next year.

## Present staff of the Faculty –

### Area of Teaching/Research

The following are the present members of the full-time academic staff

#### Professor:

*Ned Aughterson*

LLB (Hons), LLM, PhD (Qld), Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Barrister & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, Foundation Professor of Law, NTU

**Research interests:** International criminal law, criminal procedure

**Teaching areas:** International law, legal research & writing, Jessup international moot

*Jesse Wu*

BA (Hons), LLM (London), CertEd (B'ham), Director of Centre for South-east Asian Law, NTU

**Research interests:** Southeast Asian law, particularly contemporary systems of Malaysia and Singapore, and Malaysian business law

**Teaching areas:** Commercial law, trade practices, law and society in Malaysia.

#### Senior Lecturers

*Jenny Blokland*

LLB, LLM (Adel), Barrister & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the NT

**Research interests:** Criminal law, evidence, Aboriginal legal issues

**Teaching areas:** Evidence, international law, criminal law

*Bill Herd*

BCom, LLM (Qld), Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Barrister & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the NT

**Research interests:** Military law

**Teaching areas:** Legal process and legal research & writing, equity, trusts, succession, military law

*Peter McNab*

BJuris, LLB (WA) Barrister & Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the NT

**Research interests:** NT constitutional law, ethics in government, comparative constitutional law, SE Asian public law

**Teaching areas:** Constitutional and administrative law, jurisprudence, advanced legal research &, writing

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# **F**rom the Dean's Desk

(continued from page 6)

*Sue Oliver*

LLB(Adel), GDipLP(SAIT), LLM(Wm & Mary), Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of SA, Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the NT

**Research interests:** privacy, defamation, medico-legal issues

**Teaching areas:** Legal research & writing, legal process, contracts, employment law, labour law

*Kerry Mulqueeny*

LLB (NSW), DipEd, LLM (Syd), Barrister of the Supreme Court of Qld

**Research interests:** Criminal responsibility

**Teaching areas:** Torts, criminal law, administrative Law

**Lecturers**

*Freya Dawson*

BSc, LLB (NSW), Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the NT

**Research interests:** Environmental law

**Teaching areas:** constitutional and administrative law, environmental and planning law, mining law, advanced criminal law

*Martin Flynn*

BCom, LLB (Hons) (Qld), Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria, Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Qld, Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the NT

**Research interests:** Aborigines and the legal system, criminal justice issues, international law, land law, human rights law

**Teaching areas:** Aborigines and the legal system, legal process, legal research and writing, computer skills, contracts, vendor and purchase, securities, advanced criminal law

*Stephen Gray*

BA, LLB(Hons) (Monash), Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the NT

**Research interests:** Aboriginal legal issues, intellectual property law, jurisprudence

**Teaching areas:** Legal process, jurisprudence, Aborigines and the legal system, criminal law and procedure, moots, intellectual property law

*Jamila Hussain*

BA, LLB (Syd), DipEd (UNE) Dip Shariah Law & Practice MCL (IIU), Academic coordinator for the Centre for Southeast Asian Law.

**Research interests:** Southeast Asian law, Islamic law

**Teaching areas:** Property law, trusts  
*Rebecca LaForgia*

LLB (Hons)(Adel), LLM (Cant), GDLP (SAIT)

**Research interests:** Human rights law, gender and the law, international law

**Teaching areas:** Human rights law, international law, constitutional law, torts

## **Town and Gown**

Many members of the profession presently teach or have taught within the Law Faculty, just as many members of the Faculty have practised (or continue to practice) within the profession. All members of the Law Faculty hope that 1997 will provide greater opportunities for meaningful collaboration between the practising profession and the Faculty. An example of such collaboration is the "Retreating from the Refugee Convention" Conference, to be held at the NTU on 7 - 11 February 1997. This conference is being jointly sponsored by practitioners in the field (primarily Ken Parish and Colin McDonald) and the Law Faculty.

I have recently started to "sound out" members of the profession in relation to obtaining collaborative industry grants with a view to establishing a body of legal research of practical relevance to Northern Australia. Some interesting suggestions have been made which I hope to pursue next year. Similarly, there appears to be some support for a joint law faculty/profession approach to professional training for graduates. 1997 may provide the opportunity to develop this idea further.

To those of you in the profession who have taught in the law courses, whether paid or 'pro bono', guest speaker or in a more structured program - many thanks for your valuable contributions. Similarly, thank you to those of you who provide prizes in the academic support program and support our students through providing work experience and sit on our various boards and committees.

On behalf of the Law Faculty, best wishes for the Season and 1997.

*Jenny Blokland, Dean*

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