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Mission Law Week 1996 successful

and the wit and intelligence of the speaker, Richard Ackland. Law Society President Terry Gardner introduced Richard after a short speech recapping on the success of Law Week 1996 and paying tribute to the sponsors of Law Week activities - Sedgwick, represented at the gathering by its chief executive, John Clayton, Qantas represented by General Manager Grant Pitman and Sales Executive Mandy Bluett and above all to the major sponsor, the Law Society of the NT Public Purpose Trust.

Richard, having been welcomed to the Law Week lunch as a "Daniel into the lion's den", indicated to the crowd he saw it somewhat differently, describing his appearance as that of a reptile of the media at a shysters' lunch.

His speech focussed on the many common features of journalism and the law - the poor pay and work conditions,

lack of respect and the dedication to self interest. He proceeded to expand on the sense of propriety, ethics and justice found in both these professions and illustrated his points ably with a number of anecdotes which left his audience alternatively blushing and rolling in the aisles. After noting that it was probably true that lawyers and journalists were only in those professions because they were no good at maths or alternatively in order to make their mothers proud of them, Richard continued to regale the crowd with anecdotes collected during his time as a legal journalist.

Richard welcomed his invitation to address the Law Week lunch in Darwin as a chance to avoid Law Week in Sydney and coincidentally the journalism awards. The members of the Darwin legal community who attended the lunch to hear him speak undoubtedly felt that Sydney's loss was the Territory's gain.

After inviting the crowd to "enjoy their macerated dates" during dessert, Richard was asked to draw the door prizes and the hilarity continued as several attendees were made even happier. The 5th prize of champagne and a champagne cooler courtesy of Jeany's was taken home by Robin Dyll of the Environmental Defence Office, Peter Boyce from the Ombudsman's Office won a pack of gourmet goods and Jim Moore of Barr Moore & Co, a bottle of cognac. Both these prizes were presented by Sedgwick, as was the 2nd prize, a dinner for two at *Yots* which delighted John McCormack. The main prize of the afternoon, a trip for two to Cairns donated by Qantas went to Robyn Davis of NAALAS.

Following completion of the official part of the lunch, many opted to while away the rest of the afternoon enjoying the ambiance of the venue, the views it provided and the company of their colleagues.

It was a fitting end to a well supported Law Week and the Law Society thanks all those who supported the activities.

Amendment to Professional Conduct Rules

On 16 May 1996 the Chief Justice approved an amendment to Rule 4.1 of the Professional Conduct Rules.

The rule has been amended by adding the word "conveyancer" after the words "tax agent" and now reads:

"4.1 A practitioner shall not describe himself in connection with his profession as other than a legal practitioner, lawyer, Solicitor-General, Crown Counsel, barrister, Queen's Counsel, solicitor, proctor, attorney, tax agent, conveyancer, Notary Public or Commissioner for affidavits or by one or more of these descriptions."

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Balance is grateful to Mark Neely of Computer Manufacturers NT Pty Ltd for this snippet.

Diploma of Mortgage Lending

Securities Institute Education are considering running a program on mortgage lending either in Darwin or by remote education. As a means of identifying the amount of interest in such a course, the SIE asks that those interested contact them on 02 376 6799.

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