

Letter To The Editor

The article in August 1997 *Balance*, "Towards Barber-Surgeons of the Law?" by Jonathon Nolan indicated a commendable vocabulary with a lack of clarity of thought. The most serious flaw in the argument is the failure to put to the fore the ethical issues fundamental to legal practice.

The models of management which he has chosen to 'start debate' are not demonstrated to be consistent with the ethical and professional practice of the law. Indeed the summaries of the models are sufficient to place them more appropriately at the feet of advocates of pyramid sales, not advocates representing the clients of the Northern Territory.

Good management is as fundamental to a healthy legal practice as good accountancy. That is indisputable. Nonetheless I would not advise anyone who is before the Legal Practitioners' Complaints Committee to use any of the suggested management models in their defence. The mantra of 'results, results' would sound very shallow indeed. The presiding officer is likely to lean forward and counter, "did I hear you say 'schmultz, schmultz?'"

Yours in the interests of furthering debate,

Melanie Little

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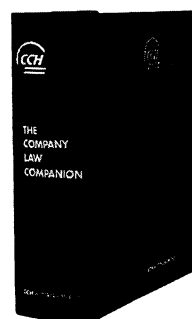
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