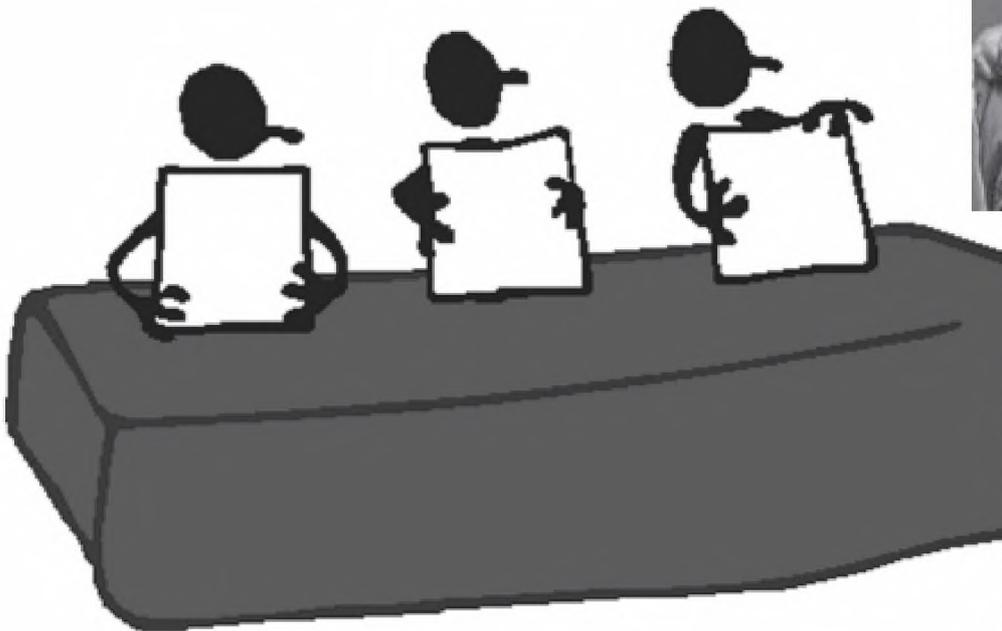
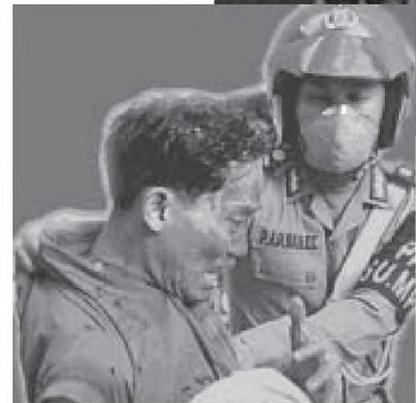
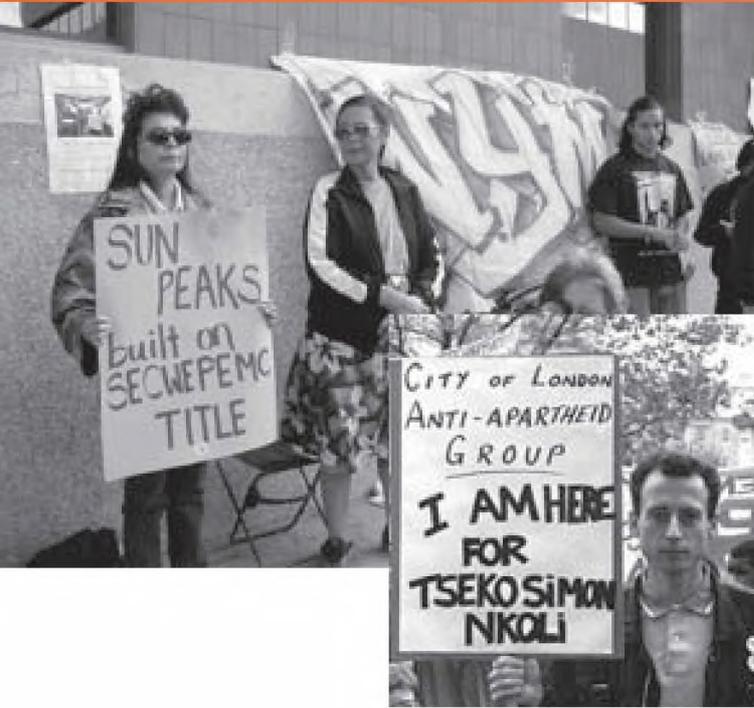


# BALANCE

LAW SOCIETY NORTHERN TERRITORY

Edition: August 2004



- \* **Human Rights Observer Panel**
- \* **Review of the Evidence Act**

# Congratulations to the Law Council's new President

Earlier this month, Steve Southwood QC and I attended another Law Council of Australia (LCA) Tort Law Reform meeting in Sydney. I then attended the Masters Conference on legal practice and management, which is organised by the Legal Practice Section of the LCA. It was a very worthwhile conference and I recommend it to others in future years.

In the middle of the month I attended a talk by the Australian Insurance Law Association (AILA) which was held at the TIO offices. AILA is an Australian body for insurance lawyers. We currently do not have a formal chapter in the Northern Territory, however representatives from the South Australian chapter travelled to Darwin to assist with starting a NT chapter. For further information contact Rhona Miller at Minter Ellison.

On 13 August 2004, the Northern Territory Bar Association (NTBA) celebrated its 30th anniversary with a formal dinner at Pee Wees. The dinner was most enjoyable and Tom Pauling QC gave an entertaining speech. It is an admirable quality of the Northern Territory legal profession that solicitors enjoy a close relationship with the independent bar and it is a relationship which will hopefully continue.

As previously reported, the LSNT Council has nominated Tony Whitelum, from Morgan Buckey in Alice Springs, as the interim Vice President due to Duncan Maclean leaving. This left a position vacant on Council and in accordance with the constitution, Allison Robertson (from Cridlands) was nominated to take up the position of interim Councillor. Allison agreed to sit on Council as an interim Councillor and the LSNT Council welcomed Allison at our meeting held on 26 August 2004.

As is clear from my previous columns, and information

contained in both *Balance* and *The Practitioner*, the Law Society is busier than ever and we really require a full quota of councillors to deal with all of the work involved.

Recently the Martin Kriewaldt Memorial Addresses were held in Darwin and Alice Springs. The Law Society, with a grant from the Public Purposes Trust, hold these biennial addresses commemorating the contribution Justice Martin Kriewaldt made to the Northern Territory's legal profession. Justice Kriewaldt was appointed as an acting Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory in 1951. His appointment was made permanent in 1952 and he served on the bench until 1960.

Justice Susan Kiefel, from the Federal Court Brisbane Registry, was our guest speaker this year. Justice Kiefel's paper was entitled "European, English and Australian Law – Convergence or Divergence?" The address was very informative.

The Darwin lunch, held on Monday 6 September, was very well attended. Two years ago we moved the Kriewaldt address from an afternoon lecture to a lunch and it is very pleasing that attendance levels have improved as it is an important function for the Territory legal profession. I would also like to thank all those who attended the Alice Springs dinner on Friday 3 September.

Barbara Bradshaw and I will attend the next Law Council



Merran Short, President

meeting in Canberra on 17-18 September 2004. At this meeting, Steven Southwood QC will take up the position of President of the Law Council of Australia. This is a fantastic achievement by Steve, and indeed it is a great achievement for the Northern Territory.

Steve was the first Northern Territorian to become a member of the Executive of the Law Council of Australia and will be the first Territorian to become President. I take this opportunity to congratulate Steve and acknowledge his contribution to both the Law Society Northern Territory and to the Northern Territory legal profession through his continued work with the Law Council of Australia.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual General Meeting. If you are unable to attend I encourage you to provide your proxy to somebody who will be attending.①