

Janet Terry welcomed as Federal Magistrate

Janet Terry was welcomed as a Federal Magistrate at a ceremonial sitting of the Federal Court in Darwin recently.

The sitting, on 23 April at the Commonwealth Law Courts, was presided over by Chief Federal Magistrate John Pascoe AO, and Federal Magistrates Michael Baumann, Stewart Brown and Kate Hughes travelled from interstate to attend.

The speakers, including Attorney-General for the Commonwealth, Phillip Ruddock and Jon Tippet QC, paid tribute to Ms Terry's achievements, in particular raising four children as a single mother.

During her response, Ms Terry paid tribute to her parents, Marcel and Margaret, for their financial support while she completed her studies. A proud Mr and Mrs Terry traveled from New South Wales to attend the ceremony, which concluded with a morning tea.

Allison Robertson speaking on behalf of the Law Society Northern Territory and the Law Council of Australia, said Ms Terry is widely acknowledged as one of Darwin's foremost Family Law practitioners.

"She's made a long term contribution to the legal profession in the



The Honourable Phillip Ruddock, Attorney-General for the Commonwealth with new Federal Magistrate, Janet Terry

Northern Territory," Ms Robertson said.

Early in her career, Ms Terry worked with the Attorney-General's Department in Darwin and the Northern Territory Department of Law, before choosing to concentrate on raising her young family between 1981-1988.

She returned to legal work as a sole practitioner in 1988. Ms Terry's work in family law increased, and in 1993 she joined Darwin legal firm, Morgan Buckley. During her time as a Partner at Morgan Buckley she focused primarily on family law, and in 1996 she obtained accreditation as a Family Law Specialist through the Law Society of NSW.

In 1999 Ms Terry established her own family law practice.



Colin McDonald QC, Attorney-General Phillip Ruddock and Member for Solomon David Tollner MP



Diana Dibden, Federal Magistrate Kate Hughes, Barbara Bradshaw and Margaret Orwin



Chief Magistrate Jenny Blokland, Magistrate John Lowndes and Sally Gearin, Barrister



Justice Dean Mildren RFD, Eileen Terrill and Allison Robertson



Federal Magistrate Janet Terry addresses the Court



Katarzyna Rutkowska, Diana Dibden and Kris Norrington

Book Review

The No-Nonsense Guide to Human Rights

REVIEW BY PAULA GERBER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CASTAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, MONASH UNIVERSITY

As books on human rights proliferate, this slim volume stands out as a sensibly condensed guide on the subject, reducing such iconic works as Steiner & Alston's *International Human Rights in Context* to readable proportions.

In tracing the historic development of human rights, the authors note that they existed long before they were recognised by international law in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In particular, the authors identify historical examples of human rights principles in all cultures and religions, taking the reader back to the contributions of the ancient Greek philosophers, Aquinas, Jean-Jaques Rousseau, Thomas Jefferson and Karl Marx.

In such a compact book as this, one would not be surprised to find that the authors have shied away from difficult and complex issues, but this is not the case. Problems that plague human rights discourse, such as universality versus cultural relativism, and whether human rights should be sacrificed for security, are addressed. One of the attractions of this volume is that it is inter-disciplinary – it is about human rights, not just human rights law. Thus Chapter five begins with the observation that “Law is not the only, or

even the most important means to assert rights and seek redress for their violation”. This chapter then explores non-legal avenues that victims of human rights abuses can pursue, including an analysis of the part played by civil society, truth commissions, ombudsmen and national human rights institutions. The authors also address the powerful role that human rights education can play in building a culture of human rights.

While this scholarly volume does not claim to add anything new to the existing literature, it is by far the best condensed summation of the modern human rights movement anywhere. In addition, the foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu reflecting on the human rights struggles of his South Africa makes moving reading. With human rights legislation in place in the ACT and Victoria, and the current proposal to introduce a Federal Human Rights Act, there is a growing need for awareness and understanding of human rights. This book will be a useful tool in that quest for greater knowledge.

Olivia Ball and Paul Gready, The No-Nonsense Guide to Human Rights, 2006, New Internationalist Publications Ltd, paperback \$25.