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## NT Criminal Law Reform: 'Speed's the watchword'...cont.

when applied in court were seen to be seriously wanting. Back to the drawing board they went, followed by amendments to amendments. Not a good look for the Territory Justice System.

We can expect more of the same.

There is talk of an election. Party two has got itself a new leader. He talks a lot about law and order issues. He doesn't just talk: he actually raises his voice when he talks about "getting tough". It doesn't auger well.

Let's end with Denzel Washington playing Frank Lucas in American Gangster:

"You're too loud, you're making too much noise. Listen to me, the loudest man in the room is the weakest in the room".

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### Recent admissions

Congratulations to Anna Ryan, Kirsty Smith, Fiona Justin and Rosemary Jacob on their admission into the legal profession on 5 February 2008.

### The boy from Bruce Rock turns 60

Justice Trevor Riley celebrated his 60th birthday recently. Happy Birthday Judge!

### Only in America

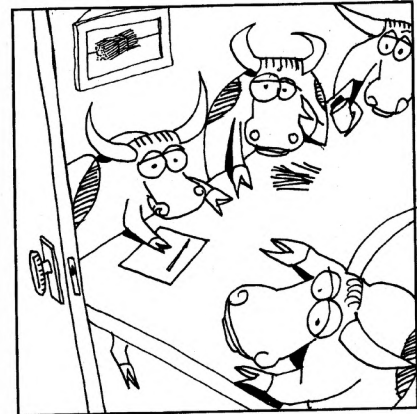
A US lawyer has been charged with assault for allegedly shaking a prosecutor's hand so hard it, "nearly ripped the prosecutors arm out of its socket".

*AAP* reported that the lawyer was arrested after attending a court hearing in which her husband was sentenced to 90 days of house arrest for violating probation.

Following the hearing, Brewer Rentas allegedly asked to shake hands with Assistant US Attorney-General, Jennifer Keene, and she shook it so forcefully it caused injury to her shoulder.

The lawyer spent a night in jail before bail was posted. If convicted, she faces up to a year in prison.

### The Muster Room



### Grandma in court

Lawyers should never ask a Mississippi grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer. In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grand-motherly, elderly woman to the stand.

He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realise you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The lawyer was stunned! Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?"

She again replied, "Why, yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him."

The defence attorney almost died, the judge asked both counsellors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said,

"If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you to the electric chair."

# Alice Springs Christmas Drinks

Friday 14 December at Sean's Bar Alice Springs



*Anna Gill, Matthew Byrne, Tom Svikart*



*Tamara Redding, Nicholas Simmons and Sally Bolton*



*Ian McMinn and Bernadette McKenna*



*Tracey Stevens and Leon Tyrell*



*Greg Borchers SM and John Stirk*

Thank you to the Law Society's Alice Springs Representative, Rennie Anderson, for his organisation of another successful Christmas Drinks function in the Centre.

## Volunteer Lawyers



Volunteer lawyers are needed for the free Legal Advice Sessions run by Darwin Community Legal Service:

- \* Monday in Palmerston 6.30-7.30pm
- \* Thursday in Darwin 5.30-7pm
- \* Saturday in Casuarina 10-11.45am

Lawyers usually commit to monthly or bi-monthly sessions

Support the community that supports you. Please contact DCLS on 8982 1111.