

Law Council of Australia

New Executive

Rob Meadows, of Perth, is the new President of the Law Council of Australia. Mr Meadows was elected to the office at the annual general meeting in Perth on 5 September. He succeeds David Miles. The new executive is:

President	Robert Meadows (WA)
President-elect	Stuart Fowler (NSW)
Vice President	John Mansfield QC (SA)
Immediate Past President	David Miles (Vic)
Treasurer	Michael Phelps (ACT)
Member	Barry O'Keefe AM QC (NSW)
Member	Peter Short (Qld)
Secretary-General	Peter Levy

Law Institute of Victoria

The task force set up to examine the concerns of the Law Institute of Victoria about the Law Council is continuing its work following extensive debate at the LCA's annual general meeting on the LIV's proposed withdrawal from the LCA. The task force is examining proposals put forward by the LIV, and other issues discussed at the AGM. It will report back to the council.

Australian Law News

The Law Council's monthly magazine, *Australian Law News*, is to have a major overhaul, with a new design and new features. The magazine will be printed on higher quality paper, with more colour and more articles about people in the law. The first issue in the new format is expected to be published in November.

TPC Study of Profession

The Council at the AGM asked the Executive to continue its efforts to have the scope of the Trade Practices Commission's study of the legal profession confined to relevant issues. The President later raised this matter in discussions with the Attorney-General, but Mr Duffy made it clear that he would not intervene with the TPC and that the LCA should press its concerns directly with the Commission.

Legal Professional Privilege

The LCA will be making another submission - its third - to the TPC on the doctrine of legal professional privilege. The council is concerned that the commission may be taking a limited view of the importance of legal professional privilege in the administration of justice, seeing it simply as something that gives lawyers a competitive edge over accountants - a view being fostered by the accountants.

Mutual Recognition

The LCA is continuing to make representations to Commonwealth, State and Territory governments seeking changes in the draft legislation to give effect to mutual recognition of professional qualifications throughout Australia. This legislation will give effect to "national admission" to legal practice.

COJI

The Senate Committee inquiring into the cost of justice is drafting its report (expected to run to something like 800 pages) and hopes to release it in late November or early December.

Pro bono Program

The Law Council and its constituent bodies will promote widely the *pro bono* programs conducted by those bodies. The LCA will also promote the concept of access to legal advice through the legal-advice schemes established by constituent bodies and will encourage those bodies that do not yet have such schemes to introduce them.

The council will promote the adoption by the legal profession of Community Legal Centres and/or special-interest community centres to assist with service delivery, test cases and public-interest cases.

Lobbying Program

The Secretary-General reported to the AGM in Perth that the Law Council and its Sections and committees had lodged 84 submissions with government, courts and other authorities in the six months since the previous council meeting, and that 81 matters were under consideration.

Migration Agents

A High Court challenge to the constitutional validity of the Federal Government's scheme to regulate migration agents is to be sponsored by the Law Council. The challenge will be to part of the *Migration Amendment Act* (No 3) 1992, which requires barristers and solicitors to register with a government agency in some circumstances before carrying out their normal business of giving advice to clients on migration matters.

Political Ad Ban

The High Court has rejected the Federal Parliament's ban on political advertising on radio and television. The Law Council strongly opposed the ban. □



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