

# Letters to the Editor

## Billing System

The article by Paul Blacket in the Summer 1991 edition of *Bar News* discusses a computerised billing which was thought to be the only one tailored for the needs of barristers. There is now an even greater choice with at least four other such barrister accounting packages mentioned in the 1992 edition of the *Australasian Legal Software Directory*.

In fact, a wealth of computerised tools from which barristers can benefit have recently emerged. For example, a program called *Ready for Trial!* was developed for no other purpose than transcript analysis. Others such as *Personal Librarian*, can be used not only for transcript but also for a barrister's own specialised database of research, opinions and precedents.

Complete books including *FindLaw*, the electronic version of the popular *Finding the Law* are now available to search on computer. The ability to locate words irrespective of whether they have been properly indexed, make "ScreenBooks" considerably more useful than the paper version.

With such options, some types of computers are really starting to live up to the promise of giving users at the Bar an edge.

Simon Lewis  
Legal Management Consultancy Services Pty Ltd.

## Re: *Bar News*, Summer 1991 Edition

In the film *My Mother's Castle*, currently showing in town, the narrator has a line to the effect, translated: "Such is the life of man, moments of joy obliterated by unforgettable sorrow".

I know exactly what he means.

When I received my latest *Bar News* it fell open, naturally enough, at your photographic centre spread "Bench and Bar Dinner 1991". My spirits soared. There was I, top-centre, in fair focus, bow tie reasonably straight, thoughtfully positioned between your distinguished deputy editor ("the musical QC") and Delaney. Had fruitless years of scanning the columns of Diana Fisher et al. ended? Had I cracked it? But no. The viper of sorrow struck back in the very instant as I read your subscribed misappellation - "Tony Young".

As the remainder of December 1991 passed my identity crisis grew. Members of the profession, spying me in the curial corridors and lifts, would greet me with "Hi Tony" and then snigger and walk away.

Can even fulsome apology compensate? Careers can wobble and deflect under blows such as this.

Sack your proofreader!

Malcolm Young  
5th floor Selborne Chambers

P.S. I wonder how the real Tony Young feels?

Dear Editor,

The Hon Mr Justice Miles asks why a witness taking the oath is required to hold the Bible in his right hand (*Bar News*, Summer).

My octogenarian memory is a somewhat unreliable instrument but I recall being told that in mediaeval times a convicted felon was debarred from taking the oath. On his conviction, the palm of his left hand was branded with the letter F. When about to take the oath, the potential witness was obliged to hold up his open left hand to disclose a possible brand. Only his right hand then became available to hold the Bible. Q.E.D.

David Selby  
Warrawee

## BOND UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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Applications are invited for the position of Dean of the School of Law. The School currently has approximately 600 students, 60 of whom are undertaking postgraduate degrees. Centres reflecting major interests of staff and the School's current focus include:

Taxation and Corporate Research Centre  
Asia Pacific Law Institute  
Centre for Law and Medicine  
Centre for Tourism and Hospitality Studies  
Dispute Resolution Centre

The Dean has overall responsibility for the management and development of the School of Law. The person appointed should be able to provide innovative leadership for a young and expanding school. A personal academic record and reputation of the highest quality is essential.

Working with the Associate Deans, the Dean is expected to maintain and develop programs of the highest quality in undergraduate, postgraduate and professional legal education. The traditions of the School include a close working relationship with the legal profession, and emphasis on teaching competence, and the integration of academic study with training in legal skills and the use of technology. The person appointed should be committed to, and capable of, developing these traditions.

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The Dean is also part of the senior executive team of the University. The person appointed should be enthusiastic about the role of a private University and keen to work towards the development of the University as a whole.

The salary package is subject to negotiation.

Further information may be obtained from Professor Phillip Lader, Vice-Chancellor on (075) 95 1048 or facsimile (075) 95 1026 or from Professor Eric Colvin (075) 95 2274 or Professor Di Everett (075) 95 1060 all of whom are members of the selection committee.



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