

comprehensive index which includes the *ALR*, first series. There are several separate digests for this series but again, American lawyers seldom use them. In addition to AutoCite which does give ALR cites as you indicate, ALR2d-5th and Federal are also online in full text on Lexis so that any word or phrase in the text can also be searched.

Understanding and Using American Cases

To understand the structure of the American court system, it would be well worth any Australian lawyer's money to invest in the annual *BNA Directory of Federal and State Courts, Judges and Clerks* which has good charts explaining the individual state and Federal court systems as well as addresses and phone numbers. Two alternatives which are not updated as often are the *Want's US-State Court Directory* and the

American Bench, a hardbound volume. This is a case where pictures are often worth a thousand words.

I could not tell in this article whether you were trying to explain *Uniform System of Citation* form or giving citation the way an Australian court would expect to see them. If you were trying to recreate Bluebook form, your citation example for Gideon at the top of p.6 contains a couple of errors. The *Supreme Court Reporter* is cited S.Ct. not Sup.Ct. and there should be commas, not semicolons between the reporter citations I believe. (I don't have my Bluebook with me.)

I realise many of these are niggling little points and probably more than you or any other Australian lawyer actually cares to know about the details. I applaud your efforts to educate Australian lawyers about American legal research. □

The Readers Course - February 1993 - A Reader's Perspective

38 Barristers, 34 Queen's Counsel, 1 Chief Justice, 1 Immediate past Chief Justice, 1 Attorney-General, 3 Registrars, 1 Deputy Chief Magistrate, 3 Supreme Court Judges, 1 District Court Judge, 1 Land & Environment Court Judge, 1 Family Court Judge, 1 whacky NIDA teacher, 1 Commissioner for the Star Chambers, 1 Chief Judge of the Compensation Court, 1 Coroner, a few dead bodies and many other members of the profession all contributed to our readers course.

They are those who gave their time, energy and commitment to what was a gruelling, pleasurable, horrible, entertaining, educational and downright tiring four weeks for members of the profession who mistakenly thought it was a good idea to test their powers of persuasion against others in our time-honoured adversary system by coming to the bar.

Of those 91 mentioned above, 89 posed varying interrogatories to the following effect:

"Well, I don't know why you are coming to the bar. I guess you are all masochists, fools, independently wealthy or certifiably insane."

These gratuitous offerings were then coupled with:

"Well, I suppose you thought it was hard passing law school, going to the college, becoming solicitors and then doing the readers course because that's nothing compared to the curtain of financial adversity through which you will now pass!"

and other such words of encouragement.

Generally though, the Bar Association and specifically Phil Greenwood, who doubled as a 60 minute man and Kelly Wright who doubled as a mother, organiser, educator, photocopier person and many other roles, provided a thoroughly worthwhile course of training.

The contributions included a welcome from the President who cautioned us to watch out for the demon drink and to also take care of your relationships. Whether the two were related was not clear - one suspects so.

Also a practically instructive lecture from the Chief Justice who compelled us to prepare, prepare, prepare and then

prepare some more.

Paul Donohoe QC won the most appeared lecturer award as well as receiving the inaugural Readers Award for "Contributions to Sexism", which he later sought to clarify.

Peter Graham QC left no stone unturned nor any reader unflummoxed as he briefed us on interlocutory procedures as used in the great brick supplier case.

Rick Burbidge QC lectured us on how to ask questions in cross-examination while telling us not to ask him any questions.

The Honourable Attorney-General, Mr Hannaford, won the prestigious "you can believe me" award.

All in all - no-one this writer knows had bad words to say. All were educated. Some were educated a lot. Most had a good time and everyone was glad the 12 hour days were over.

The course finished off with a sumptuous dinner which most attended. Esprit de corps was the order of the night with close new friendships forged in revelry.

Thanks Kelly and Phil; and thanks Phil for being the worm; and thanks Eva for all the photocopying.

□ Lewis Tyndall

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