

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

I am now a 'Tassie barrister', erstwhile New South Wales Bar. Whereas most legal practitioners down here are admitted as both barrister and solicitor - a practice adopted due to the shortage of lawyers originally in this state - I can look back at the state of the New South Wales Bar and, I would imagine at those around Australia, and wonder at the lack of cultural diversity in our profession.

Where are the graduates and admissions from the vast population west of the CBD, I wonder? Many names, like that of Street, keep cropping up like perennials.

There is no such thing as 'one of us', I hope, in the mindset of the majority of the bar but it was said more than once to me when I began my own career in 1971 in Phillip Street.

It's important that class sterility be avoided. Very often, I imagine, it is simply a matter of economics for the 'westies' and vast numbers of foreign settlers in our fair land, that they either do not want their children to take the step as a barrister or are excluded by an unsympathetic establishment.

I am now 73 and I have not long to go in my race, but I counsel the future New South Wales Bar to seriously consider the need for the fresh blood that only new immigration can bring.

This is not a criticism, but rather a request based on my years here on Earth and as a barrister. Sponsor some students from the migrant areas - Fairfield, Blacktown, Penrith - and show that the profession is for *all* Australians.

The later judiciary will thank you for taking this lead.

Rod Skiller
Sandy Bay, Tasmania

Correction

An article in [2016] (Spring) *Bar News* regarding the appointment of the Hon Justice Stephen Burley reported that Noel Hutley SC spoke on behalf of the New South Wales Bar at the ceremonial welcome. That was incorrect. It was

Chrissa Loukas SC, treasurer of the Bar Association, who spoke on behalf of state and territory bars. *Bar News* apologises to Loukas SC for the mistake and regrets any confusion it might have caused.

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