

# Protect Victims' Rights Campaign

Angela Sdrinis, Ryan Carlisle Thomas, Melbourne

For the last few months, the Victorian APLA Committee has been focused on our "Protect Victims' Rights Campaign" which is gaining momentum. Lee Carmody has been employed as campaign coordinator. Lee can be contacted at Level 25, 367 Collins Street, Melbourne: telephone (03) 9221 6204 or fax (03) 9221 6161.

## The campaign is gaining momentum

A publicity campaign is underway, which will in the first instance, involve advertising in the written media. Television ads are also being prepared, which will focus on marginal country electorates.

APLA is preparing a more detailed briefing kit, which will be provided to the media, politicians and other interested persons. If you require a copy of the kit, please contact Lee Carmody.

The APLA function for members of the Bar, which was held in June was a great success. Almost 80 barristers attended, following which a number of them joined APLA and/or pledged support to the organisation.

More importantly, following our meeting, the Common Law Bar met to discuss ways in which the Bar could become involved in any campaign against further changes to the Transport Accident and WorkCover Scheme. APLA understands that the meeting was well attended with a number of barristers pledging donations and discussing concrete ways in which the Bar could actively campaign against any further changes, particularly any further restrictions to Common Law rights.

## Injured Persons Association

The "Protect Victims Rights" Committee supports and welcomes the establishment in Victoria of an office of the Injured Persons Association (IPA) Ltd. A brochure has been produced by the Association publicising their campaign. A number of large plaintiffs' firms have already undertaken to forward a copy of the brochure to their clients under cover of a letter seeking support for the campaign and encouraging injured people to contact their local member of parliament protesting any further charges and seeking their active involvement in the cam-

paign.

If you require copies of the brochure to forward to your clients, please contact Lee Carmody or Robyn Wade from IPA on telephone (03) 9663 8832.

Finally, regional meetings will be taking place in various suburban and country areas. The purposes of the regional meetings is to introduce APLA to suburban and country practitioners and to inform them of the current state of play in relation to the Protect Victims' Rights Campaign.

We also recently held a seminar at Le Meridien on 29 July 1997 on the AMA Guides.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our many activities. ■

Should you wish to have further contact with APLA Victoria, please contact the President, **Angela Sdrinis** on **phone** (03) 9238 7816 or the campaign coordinator, **Lee Carmody** on **phone** (03) 9221 6204.

## LBC to sponsor APLA activities

The Australian Plaintiff Lawyers Association (APLA) is pleased to announce a major sponsorship arrangement between LBC Information Services and APLA. LBC Information Services publishes a range of professional books, looseleaf publications and electronic services for plaintiff lawyers.

The National President of APLA, Mr Peter Semmler QC, welcomed the link with LBC. "APLA appreciates the support of LBC Information Services, a premier supplier of information services to plaintiff lawyers.

At this rapid stage of our growth it is gratifying to know that our Association enjoys the confidence of a company which



▲ Managing Director of LBC, Eddie Costigan, meets APLA National President, Peter Semmler QC.

has served plaintiff personal injury lawyers so well for so long. We look forward to a partnership over 1997 and 1998 which will benefit plaintiffs and

assist in the continuing education of the lawyers who represent them."

Mr Eddie Costigan, Managing Director of LBC, says LBC is pleased to support APLA in its formative years. "Our organisations have much in common, and we are keen to show our support to an impressive professional body which has great potential. Our titles are very relevant to Australia's plaintiff lawyers, so we are actually both serving the same group of dedicated professionals."

The sponsorship agreement is for 1997 and 1998. LBC will be a major sponsor of APLA's National Conference, the Membership Directory, Plaintiff and select Litigation at Sunrise seminars. ■