

- *Delays – Report on Overseas Delays Experience* – Report to be tabled in September 1984. The report will deal with the U.S.A. and England as well as some material from Canada and the Continent.
- *Subordinate Legislation (Deregulation Bill 1983)*. Report to be tabled in September 1984.
- *Burden of Proof*. WIH. Anticipated date of completion – December 1984.
- *Proposal for a Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill*. Work is in hand on this inquiry and a report will be presented to Parliament by November 1984.
- *Constitutional Convention*. The Committee has been given the reference to study reports and inquiries of the conventions and work is progressing on this inquiry.

#### **Western Australian Law Reform Commission (WALRC)**

- *Local courts*. Comments on working paper concerning jurisdiction, procedure and administration being considered.
- *Administrative decisions: judicial review*. Report being prepared.
- *Resealing of grants of probate and of letters of administration (uniformity)*. Report being finalised.
- *Limitation of actions*. Draft of DP due shortly.
- *Alteration of ground levels*. Discussion paper to be issued.
- *Justices Act*. DP on Courts of Petty Sessions has been issued.
- *Privacy*. Report in preparation.
- *Wills (substantial compliance)*. Research in progress, DP being drafted.
- *Expunction of criminal records*. Discussion paper and issues paper issued, and comments being considered.

## **Personalia**

### **Mr G Zdenkowski**

Mr George Zdenkowski, a senior lecturer in law at the University of New South Wales, has been appointed a full-time member of the Australian Law Reform Commission for three years from 23 July 1984. Mr Zdenkowski will be the Commissioner in Charge of the Reference on Sentencing of Federal and Australian Capital Territory Offenders. Mr Zdenkowski, who is the co-author of *The Prison Struggle: Changing Australia's Penal System* and the co-editor of *The Criminal Injustice System*, has had ten years teaching experience at the University of New South Wales in criminal law and related subjects. His primary research interests have been in the field of criminal law, civil rights, criminology, penology and clinical, legal education. In the early 1970's he was one of a volunteer group which assisted in the formation of the Aboriginal Legal Service. He has been actively involved with the Council for Civil Liberties for many years, has appeared in court to assist persons referred by the Council and the Redfern Legal Centre, and

was until recently a director of Glebe House Ltd, which runs a half-way house for prisoners in Sydney.

### **Mr RW Harmer**

Mr Ronald Harmer, a Perth lawyer, was appointed a full-time Member of the Australian Law Reform Commission for two years commencing on 16 July 1984. Mr Harmer replaces Mr TH Smith whose appointment expired in December 1983. Mr Harmer, a partner in the Perth legal firm of McCusker & Harmer, has had extensive practice in bankruptcy law and in company liquidations and receiverships. He has been a lecturer in bankruptcy and commercial law at the Western Australian Institute of Technology. During 1983–84 Mr Harmer was a member of the Western Australian Law Society Council and was until his appointment, Chairman of the Society's Ethics Committee. He is immediate past Chairman of the Commercial and Revenue Law Committee of the Law Council of Australia. He has been appointed Commissioner in charge of the Commission's Reference on Insolvency.

### **The Hon Justice John Spencer Purdy**

John Spencer Purdy was appointed a Judge of the Family Court of Australia on the 24 August 1984. Justice Purdy was an experienced family law practitioner at the Sydney Bar, was admitted to practice in December 1973 and spent four years to November 1983 as Chief Executive Officer and Secretary of the Law Society of New South Wales. He is well regarded in the legal profession as a person of understanding and balanced judgment with a great deal of humanity and professional expertise. These qualities fit him well for the sensitive and demanding task in the Family Court. The appointment of Justice Purdy, who is a Chess Master and former Australian chess champion, brings the number of Judges of the Court to 44.

### **The Hon Justice Geoffrey EJ Spender**

On 17 May 1984 Mr Geoffrey Spender QC was sworn in as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia. He is the second Queensland judge on the Federal Court. His background is not typical of lawyers generally, as he chose law after completing a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Mathematics from the University of Queensland in 1964. By 1966 he had completed the Queensland Bar Board Examinations and in 1968 he graduated again from the University of Queensland as a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law. His education did not finish here as he went on to complete a Master of Laws from the University of London in 1972. Justice Spender has practiced as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland since 1966 and as a Queen's Counsel from 1983. On his appointment to the bench and in reply to a question on his reasons for giving up the financial rewards of the bar he joked, 'I wanted to massage my ego and write judgements that I think are brilliant'.

### **The Hon Peter Gray**

Justice Peter Gray 38, was educated at Carey Baptist Grammar School Victoria. He graduated a Bachelor of Law with first class Honours from the University of Melbourne in 1968. In 1972 he graduated Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford University and in 1971 he was called to the Bar at

Gray's Inn, London. Justice Gray was admitted to practice as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1972. He has practised extensively in the industrial field and his appointment specifically to the Industrial Division of the Court will strengthen the industrial expertise of the Federal Court.

### **Dr Jocelyne Scutt**

Dr Scutt the Director of Research of the Victorian Legal and Constitutional Committee (See [1983] *Reform* 135) has recently been appointed by the Victorian Government to the Victorian Law Foundation. She succeeds Mr Justice Gobbo who has been a member of the Foundation since 1969.

### **Mr Daryl Williams QC**

Mr Daryl Williams QC has been elected as the new Chairman of the Law Reform of Western Australia in succession to Mr HH Jackson. Mr Williams, a barrister in private practice, has been a part time member of the Commission since February 1982. Mr Williams was awarded an LLB degree with honours from the University of Western Australia. He was the Western Australian Rhodes Scholar in 1965 and went to Oxford University, where he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law. He was admitted as a legal practitioner in 1968 and spent the next three years in private practice in Western Australia. From 1971 to 1975 he worked with the Asian Development Bank in Manila. On his return to Perth he went back into private practice as a barrister and was appointed a Queens Counsel in January 1982. For a number of years he was a part time tutor and lecturer at The Law School of the University of Western Australia. He is currently President of the Law Society of Western Australia and is also State Chairman of the Taxation Institute of Australia (Western Australia Branch).

## **Administrative Appeals Tribunal**

### **Appointments**

On 17 August 1984, the Attorney-General, Senator Gareth Evans, announced that three people with long experience in the fields of general insurance and life assurance have been appointed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal as part time members — Mr Gordon Taylor, Mr Harold Trinick and Mr Colin Stevens. Mr Gordon Richard Taylor was formerly the chief legal officer for the AMP Society. He was President of the Australian Insurance Institute from 1975 to 1976. Mr Taylor served as a member of an industry-government working party which recently reviewed the Life Insurance Act 1945. He was also a consultant to the Australian Law Reform Commission in connection with the law of insurance contracts. Mr Taylor's appointment is for a period of five years. Mr Harold Charles Trinick is former chief general manager of the Australian Eagle Insurance Co. Ltd. Between 1967–68 he was President of the Council of Fire and Accident Underwriters of Australia (later to become the Insurance Council of Australia). Mr Trinick was a member of the Council until 1978. Between 1971 and 1973 he also participated in developmental work on the Insurance Act 1973. Mr Trinick has been appointed until April 1989. Mr Colin James Stevens was formerly chief actuary of the AMP Society. He was President of the Institute

of Actuaries of Australia in 1970 and is currently a member of the Council of the International Actuarial Association. In March 1984 he was appointed to the Life Insurance Consultative Committee which advises the Government on life insurance matters. Mr Stevens has been appointed until July 1989.

## **Victorian Legal and Constitutional Committee staff changes**

Mrs Lisa O'Bryan and Mr Mark Sneddon have been appointed Research Officers with the Committee. Both Lawyers, Mrs O'Bryan was formerly an Associate to a County Court Judge and Mr Sneddon was with the law firm of Mallesons. Mrs O'Bryan is handling the report on overseas delays experience within the Delays in Courts reference, whilst Mr Sneddon is conducting research into the Burden of Proof reference. Ms Christine Skourletos has been appointed as a Research Assistant with the Committee. Ms Skourletos has a law degree and will assist the work of the Research Staff under the direction of Dr Jocelyne Scutt, Director of Research.

## **ALRC staff changes**

Mr Max Keogh a lawyer/journalist at the Australian Film Commission, recently completed a three month period of secondment with the Australian Law Reform Commission. Mr Keogh was undertaking research into the law of contempt. Mr Stephen Mason, the Commission's legislative draftsman, is undertaking a three month's secondment period with the office of the Parliamentary Counsel in Canberra. Mr Vince Robinson, a legislative draftsman from the office of the Parliamentary Counsel, has been seconded to the ALRC for three months. Mr Stephen Odgers, a Senior Law Reform Officer from the Commission's Sydney office has been granted twelve months leave without pay to study for the degree of Master of Law in the United States of America. Miss Maria Mitchell, the Commission's former Administrative Officer has been appointed to the Department of Trade to work in the overseas trade area. Mr Ian Boyd, from the Department of Defence Support, has been appointed as the Commission's Administrative Officer. Mrs Rae Hay, the Hon Justice Kirby's secretary, has moved to the N.S.W. Court of Appeal with the Judge. Ms Angela O'Neill, former secretary to Sir William McMahon, has joined the ALRC staff as a personal secretary. Ms Alma Davidson has joined the Commission's Canberra staff. She has been appointed a Personal Secretary to Professor David Hambly. Ms Kadija Ibrahim has also been appointed to the Canberra staff. She will be employed as a Clerical Assistant in the office services area. Mr Richard Phillipps, former Associate to the Chairman, has been appointed a Law Reform Officer. Ms Janet Chan has also been appointed a Law Reform Officer. She was formerly a Research Associate in the Centre of Criminology, University of Toronto.