

APPOINTMENT TO LAW COUNCIL EXECUTIVE A TERRITORY FIRST

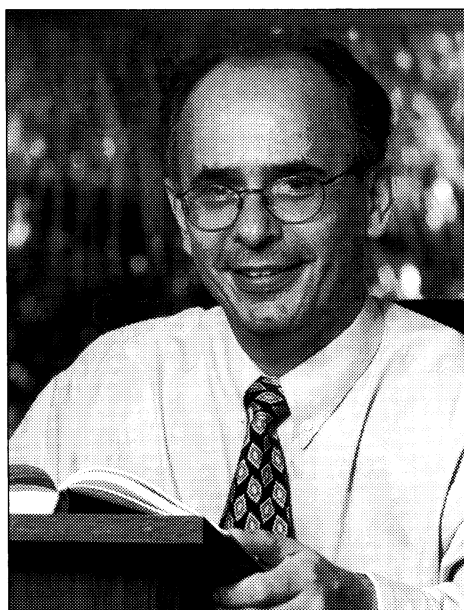
Former Law Society President and Darwin barrister Mr Steve Southwood has been elected to the Executive of the Law Council of Australia. His appointment at the Law Council Annual General Meeting held in Perth on 23 October 2000 marks the first time a Territory lawyer has taken up an Executive position on the national body.

President of the Law Council of Australia, Canberra lawyer Ms Anne Trimmer, has welcomed the appointment, saying "the recent election of Steve Southwood reflects the close relationship that has developed between the Law Society of the Northern Territory and the Law Council of Australia, particularly over the last couple of years."

Ms Trimmer believes the Territory profession will benefit from the appointment.

"One advantage for practitioners in the Northern Territory is that they become more familiar with the work done by the Law Council of Australia on a national and international level on their behalf," she said.

Steve Southwood concurs. "It means we are in a better position to raise and seek assistance in relation to specific issues which



Mr Steve Southwood, James Muirhead Chambers

are of concern to the Territory legal profession," he said.

"We can also obtain a greater and more immediate understanding of national legal issues and developments in the National Legal Service Market and how they will impact on the Territory as well as have greater input into national legal issues which are of concern to legal practitioners in the Territory."

The key matters the Law Council will be considering over the next few years include the ongoing development of the National Legal Service Market, enhancing access to justice, reform of federal administrative law and reform of the criminal justice system.

"As a member of the Executive I will continue to seek the Law Council's

support in relation to the recognition of the Rule of Law, judicial independence, ameliorating the harsh effects of mandatory sentencing, maintaining standards in legal education and any other matters the local profession wishes me to raise," said Mr Southwood.

Prior to his appointment to the Executive Steve Southwood was the Law Society Representative on the Council. That position is now held by Law Society President Mr Jon Tippett.

- **ICJ Branch for Darwin..... 7**
- **Jurists call for an Australian Bill of Rights..... 12**
- **Territory lawyer award Vogel literary prize..... 15**