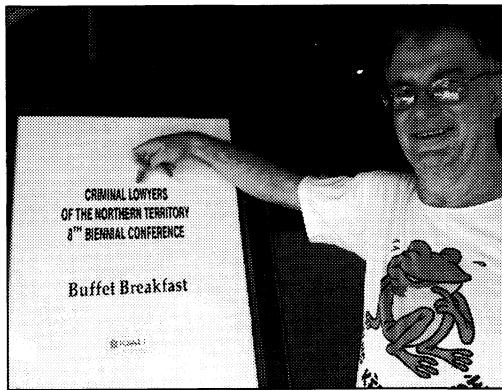


Want to be a millionaire?

According to US Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor contingency fees paid to victorious lawyers, especially in class-action lawsuits, "have made more overnight millionaires than almost any other business". Whilst the judge is critical of the "perverse incentives and untoward consequences" the fees are creating, Muster Room bets there are some struggling lawyers out there whose eyes lit up like dollar signs at her words.



A special thanks to Peter Tiffin, right, for taking photos at the Bali conference and allowing Balance to print them in this issue

The Low Down on Bali

It is repeated ad infinitum that lawyers are ranked down there on the bottom of the "favourite people" list, along with used car salesman and journalists.

Still, Muster Room thinks the Bali Hyatt Hotel were a bit rich calling delegates at the Eighth Biennial Conference in Bali: "*Criminal Lowyers*". See photo below left.

Down on their luck

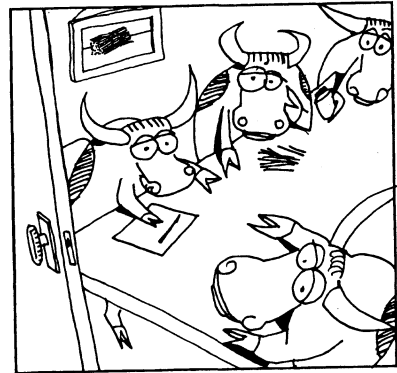
Despite the small size of their firm (three lawyers and an articulated clerk) Darwin firm Halfpennys managed to enter four teams into a recent volley ball competition between firms.

Rumour has it that Halfpennys also managed to stack these teams with as many A grade volley ball players they could find amongst their friends and families, no doubt hoping to leave all other competition in their wake.

To no avail!

Despite A grade assistance Halfpennys didn't quite make

The Muster Room



it to the play-off. De Silva Hebron and DCIS took that honour, with DCIS winning by six points.

Anyone for squash?

Darwin lawyers at the Supreme Court recently complained to sitting judge Justice Angel about an apparent lack of space at the Bar Table:

"Justice Angel: I must say that the complaint of the lack of facilities hasn't been made until now. I've never seen such a squashed up group of barristers in my life.

Mr P Elliot: I have, but it was about 11o'clock in the barristers' social rooms..."

PEOPLE AND THE LAW

Tim Jacob

Tim Jacob became a partner at Darwin firm Ward Keller on 1 July 2001.

Tim Jacob is also a Council member of the Law Society Northern Territory.

Nardine Collier

Nardine Collier gave birth to baby Rebecca Simpson who entered the world weighing 2.5kilos on 2 July 2001.

Tom Berkley

From 12 July 2001 Tom Berkley began practising as a barrister from Edmund Barton Chambers. He can be contacted at the Chambers:

Edmund Barton Chambers
National Mutual Building
9-11 Cavenagh Street
DARWIN NT 0801
Tel: 08 8941 3070
Fax: 08 8941 9978

John 'Darcy' Dugan in Darwin

Former Victorian Chief Magistrate John Dugan will be guest speaker at the Kormilda College Speakers Forum in Darwin on Thursday 23 August.

Mr Dugan, usually known as Darcy after the notorious NSW criminal and jail breaker who was in the headlines early in his career, retired in 1990 after serving 40 years in the courts.

Mr Dugan is known for his wit and engaging speeches. He will entertain guests at the Rydges Plaza Ballroom in Darwin on Thursday 23 August.

For bookings or information please contact Mary Geddes or Juliette Chester at Kormilda College on 08 8922 1611.

Kormilda College Speakers Forum

- Guest speaker John 'Darcy' Dugan
- Thursday 23 August 2001
- Rydges Plaza Ballroom
- 7.30pm
- \$55per head, includes three course dinner

To book tables or for further information please call: Mary Geddes or Juliette Chester at Kormilda College on 08 8922 1611.