

ADVOCACY

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if you are seen to be candid. You should avoid any suggestion or possible perception that you are trying to deceive them. It is better to confront bad facts and endeavour to explain these rather than be thought to be avoiding them. The members of the jury are told to bring their commonsense and experience of the real world to bear in making decisions. They are unlikely to be impressed by nice distinctions or subtle arguments that do not confront the important issues of the case.

Obviously when appearing in the presence of a jury you should demonstrate confidence in your own skills and confidence in your client's case. That confidence should not transgress into arrogance or be marred by flippancy about the case or sarcasm regarding the case for the other side.

You must to the best of your ability make your presentation simple, interesting and to the point. You should keep the special needs of the jury in the forefront of your mind at all times including when you are engaged in preparation for trial.

AROUND THE NT BAR

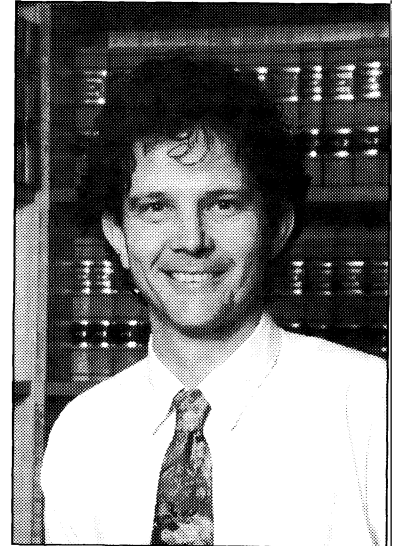
Richard Bruxner

Richard Bruxner is a barrister at William Forster Chambers in Darwin, Northern Territory.

Richard was admitted to practice as a solicitor in the Northern Territory in February 1990, having obtained an Arts Law degree at the University of Queensland.

He was employed by Cridlands between 1989 – 1990 and 1992-1997, becoming a senior associate of that firm in July 1996. He spent two years working in Canberra between 1990 and 1992 with Canberra firm Crossin Power Haslem (now Barker Gosling).

Richard joined William Forster Chambers in February 1997. He is a member of the Northern Territory Law Reform Committee. Richard has appeared and advised in a variety of commercial litigation matters. He has acted for and against the ACCC in enforcement proceedings under the Trade Practices Act. He has also appeared before several administrative tribunals both as counsel assisting and on behalf of interested parties. He is currently involved in a number of



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matters arising under the Native Title Act and the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act. He has particular interest in the areas of professional negligence, government liability (private and public law), restitution and equity.

Despite his enthusiasm for carpentry and fishing (and the invaluable contributions of his four and six year olds to those pursuits) he is unlikely to give up his day job.

ACTION IN 'HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES': EFFICIENCY, RESPONSIBILITY AND POLITICS SEMINAR

On Friday 12 October 2001 the Australian Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are hosting a full day seminar at the Carlton Hotel in Darwin.

This seminar seeks to raise issues surrounding increasingly dire situations of humanitarian need world-wide, often coinciding with armed conflict, in which various actors play roles which may be complementary, overlapping, unclear, or even mutually-exclusive. Is it right to label such situations 'humanitarian emergencies' or are they really political emergencies with humanitarian consequences? What are factors which influence the actors' behaviour? What are the cures proposed by the international community for such

situations? What is the legal framework for action? And how do government, international organisations, NGOs, and the Defence Force tackle these issues in a way which is efficient, responsible, and attuned to the victims' needs?

Registration

Full: \$44.00 GST inclusive (Registration on or before 1 October) or \$55.00 GST inclusive (after 1 October)

Concessional: \$27.50 GST inclusive (Registration on or before 1 October 2001) or \$33.00 GST inclusive (after 1 October 2001)

Full time students, pensioners and unemployed are eligible.

The seminar presents an opportunity for all groups and individuals interested in

the practical, political, and structural problems surrounding humanitarian assistance in situations of internal violence and armed conflict to share their ideas with knowledgeable representatives of humanitarian organisations, the Defence Force, academia and government. The interactive format of the seminar is designed to allow for ample discussion and exchange of views.

Contact:

Seminar Secretariat - IHL Seminar
Australian Red Cross - NT Division
GPO Box 81
Darwin NT 0801
Or contact Michelle Fadelli on 8981 4499 or austredcross.ihl@octa4.net.au to get your registration form.