

which is largely misunderstood by the university, which perceives legal research in much the same way as it perceives scientific research. Legal research, unlike scientific research, does not reveal new truths, but merely reviews and synthesises the past legal rules. Five features will dominate future research: (a) there will be more emphasis on group, interdisciplinary and empirical research; (b) there will be an emphasis on linkages with industry; (c) there will be a move away from general and unco-ordinated research to institutional specialisation and key research centres; (d) there will be an increased emphasis on the provision of research training and university-wide research infrastructure; and (e) law school teachers will need to demonstrate the managerial skills necessary to compete for and account for the expenditure of research funds.

Modern legal education requires computers, different teaching methods, clinical programs etc. A united front in support of greater funding is required. The Committee of Australian Law Deans has outlined the minimum desirable standard of funding and facilities that should be provided to Australian law schools. This Committee has also cautiously approved the idea of law school accreditation, with an eye firmly on the American experience, as a safeguard against the decline in the quality of legal education and a way to enhance its public reputation.

The Federal Government's initiatives to promote and recognise multiculturalism are set to change the face of legal education, with the key issue being whether the principles underlying the law take adequate account of the cultural diversity of Australia. Legal education in Australia has also adopted a more international outlook

with the emergence of the global village.

Training to be a lawyer in Japan

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There are approximately 14,500 attorneys in Japan, compared with 70,000 in Britain, a country with less than half the population. Membership of the Japanese legal profession is only open to judges, public prosecutors and attorneys and is accorded high social status in a society where status is extremely important.

Becoming a lawyer in Japan is a long and arduous process. Candidates usually study at one of the 90 law schools to obtain a law degree. Places are hard to obtain and good results in high school and the faculty's entrance examination are required to secure a place. The study of law at the university level in Japan typically centres on the content and interpretation of the six Codes of Law, Japan being a civil law country whose jurisprudence is influenced by German law. Lectures are the dominant teaching method.

To become an attorney or part of the Japanese legal profession, law graduates must pass The National Examination which has been described as the most difficult examination in the world. Each year, between 30,000 and 50,000 candidates sit, yet only 700 pass. Many candidates will sit the exams six to seven times before they pass. Private law schools, referred to as 'cram schools', with the sole purpose of preparing candidates for The National Examination thrive and charge fees in the order of ¥1,000,000 (£6,000). Ninety-four percent of candidates who pass The National Examination attended the leading cram school, the LEC Tokyo Legal Mind School.

The National Examination consists of a series of increasingly difficult exams, the common emphasis being upon the ability to memorise the law. The first stage exams are designed to test the candidates' general academic ability. The second stage is a series of multiple choice tests on constitutional, civil and criminal law. Only 4,000 to 5,000 candidates pass this stage. The third stage comprises seven two hour essay style exam papers. Four of the seven cover constitutional, criminal, civil and commercial law. Candidates choose to do civil or criminal procedure as their fifth exam. For the sixth paper candidates may do the other exam not taken for the fifth exam or administrative, labour, public international or private law. The seventh paper is selected from an array of non-legal subjects such as political economy, accounting, finance, psychology and economic or social policy. The fourth and fifth stages of The National Examination consist of a series of oral tests. Not surprisingly, The National Examination is the source of much heartache, anguish and fatigue.

Those who pass The National Examination may then attend the Legal Training and Research Institute in Tokyo which is run by the Supreme Court. Training lasts for two years and is entirely practical in nature, concentrating on procedure, evidence, advocacy, drafting and legal research. At the conclusion of this course there is yet another exam, for which the failure rate is very low.

Reform of the system is unlikely. The Ministry of Justice wishes to maintain the exceptionally high standard of the legal profession. It is also of the view that more lawyers means more litigation, which is seen as an unproductive exercise and a squandering of the nation's wealth.