

ports of their proceedings and whether it is necessary.

#### Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC)

- *The Law of Homicide in Victoria: the Sentence for Murder*, 1985. No 1. First report of the Commission tabled 25 September 1985.
- *Corporate Crime*. DP on computer crime prepared and DP on corporate crime in preparation.
- *Unsworn Statements*. Report to be submitted by end of September 1985.
- *Role of Juries*. DP to be published shortly.
- *Medicine, Science and the Law*. WIH.
- *Commercial Sales and Leases of Goods*. WIH.

#### Victorian Legal and Constitutional Committee (VLCC)

- *Burden of Proof*. The Committee is presently examining a draft interim report on this subject which will be presented to Parliament in October 1985.
- *Delays in Courts*. Priority is still being given to delays in Criminal Courts from commission of alleged offence to time of trial. An Issues Paper has been released on the Preliminary Examination (Committal Proceedings) for comment by the legal profession and interested persons.
- *Australian Constitutional Convention*. First report on this subject tabled in Parliament in June 1985. Consideration being given to reporting on the recent Brisbane Plenary Session.

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

- *Local Courts*. Report being drafted.
- *Administrative decisions: judicial review*. Report shortly to be submitted.
- *Limitation and notice of actions*. Discussion paper in preparation.
- *Alteration of ground levels*. Comments on discussion paper being considered.
- *Justices Act*. Comments on discussion paper being considered.
- *Privacy*. Report in preparation.
- *Criminal proceedings and mental disorder*. Discussion paper being drafted.
- *Wills: substantial compliance*. Report being drafted.
- *Problem of old convictions*. Work in progress on drawing up final recommendations.
- *Pawnbrokers*. Report submitted.

## obituary

### Professor Julius Stone

Professor Julius Stone recently died after a long illness. He was 78. Professor Stone was born in Britain of Russian Jewish parents. He was educated at Oxford, Leeds and Harvard Universities and later taught as a visiting Professor at universities in England, United States, New Zealand and Australia. Most of his academic life was spent at the University of Sydney where he was Challis Professor of International Law and Jurisprudence from 1942 to 1972. His appointment to the University in 1941 was surrounded by controversy but he surmounted these difficulties and went on to greater achievements as with the credit for the proposal of the idea of a hotline between Moscow and Washington. From 1972 until his death, he was visiting Professor of Law at the University of New South Wales. He had a great ability as a teacher. From his estimates, he taught, 8015 students including High Court, Supreme Court and District Court Judges and a number of prominent politicians. Mr Wran, an ex-student, recently commented that 'Julius Stone made an unparalleled contribution to the understanding and development of the law'. He was a man of great talent and achievement and will be remembered for his substantial contributions to law.

## Personalia

### NSWLRC

The term of office of Mr Julian Disney, part-time Commissioner, concluded on 1 June 1985. Mr Disney had been a full-time Commissioner from 1 June 1976 to 1 June 1982, and part-time since. He played a major, indeed pivotal role in the preparation of all four of the Commission's reports on the legal profession, as well as five background papers and six discussion papers. Mr Disney was also principally responsible for preparing an options paper on *Solicitors' Costs and Conveyancing*. Mr Disney's formidable knowledge of the legal profession, his prolific work output and his wealth of experience have enabled the Commission to produce publications of consistent quality under the legal profession reference. The Commission is most fortunate to have had the benefit of Mr Disney's talents over the period of his membership. Two new part-time Commissioners were appointed, to join the Artificial Conception Reference. They are Dr Susan Fleming and Eva Learner. Both were appointed for a period of two years from 10 April 1985. Dr Susan Fleming is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She has a distinguished record in medical practice, teaching and research, both in Australia and overseas. She has also published extensively in her specialty, and holds visiting appointments to two teaching hospitals in Sydney. Dr Fleming is a former member of the New South Wales Advisory Committee on Human Artificial Insemination, established by the Minister for Youth and Community Services in 1982. Eva Learner is Principal Staff Development Officer in the New South Wales De-