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THE AUSTRALIAN LAW JOURNAL: VOLUME 90 AND BEYOND

Justice François Kunc

The new General Editor sets out his ambitions for the Journal as it enters the last decade of its first century. He reflects on the purposes of the Journal and the constituencies which make up its readership. While what makes the Journal distinctive may remain the same, it must reflect the new and rapidly changing world of legal practice and scholarship both in Australia and overseas.	397
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THE STATE OF THE AUSTRALIAN JUDICATURE

Chief Justice Robert French AC

The delivery of the State of the Judicature Address by the Chief Justice of Australia on 29 April 2016 marked the revival of a tradition which had lapsed with the last Australian Legal Convention in 2009. At a dinner hosted in Hobart for that purpose by the Law Council of Australia (LCA) and the Australian Bar Association (ABA), the Chief Justice discussed the national character of the Australian judiciary and, in that connection, the functions of the Council of Chief Justices (CCJ), the LCA and the ABA. Particular reference is made to guidelines developed by the CCJ for Communications and Relationships between the judicial branch of government and the legislative and executive branches. Specific issues on which the CCJ, the LCA and the ABA have focused in recent times include the implications of Australia's cultural diversity for the effectiveness of its judicial system, access to justice for Indigenous and migrant women in domestic violence cases, the relationship between international dispute resolution and the court system, and the development of opportunities for cross-border co-operation between the Australian judiciary and the courts of other countries. Indigenous imprisonment rates under mandatory sentencing regimes and family violence raised by the LCA and the ABA are identified as matters of national concern warranting the attention of the national legal profession. So too does the recent Report of the Australian Law Reform Commission on the encroachments by Commonwealth law on traditional common law rights and freedoms. While the Australian judiciary generally meets reference points advanced by Sir Gerard Brennan in his State of the Judicature Address, it must respond to new and testing issues domestically and an internationalised legal environment. 400

THE FUTURE OF LAWYERS: BLUE SKY OR DARK CLOUDS AHEAD?

Fiona McLeod SC

The future for the legal profession is upon us, requiring vision and dexterity to adapt to the next generation of artificial triage, analysis and problem solving. Our prior inclination to national isolationism must be set aside and a commitment to preserve the rule of law, particularly equality before and in the practice of law, will position us well. Steps taken now to create new work, new ways and new places to work will support the next generation of lawyers. 408

CHANGE DRIVERS AND THEIR LIKELY EFFECTS: SHIFTING SANDS BENEATH AUSTRALIAN SOLICITORS

S Stuart Clark AM, Robert Leeder and Nicholas McBride

This article examines the changes likely to affect the Australian legal profession in the next decade. Focusing on the solicitors' branch of the profession, it considers what it can do to respond to and influence change. A review of the recent history of efforts to respond to change, both domestically and internationally, is followed by an examination of the current key "change drivers" in the legal profession. The likely effect of these drivers on specific aspects of Australian legal practice is then discussed, mindful that changes in one area may be affected by changes in others. It is hoped that this article will facilitate debate within the profession about issues related to its future. 413

THE EVOLVING ROLE AND FUTURE OF IN-HOUSE LAWYERS

Gillian Wong and Emma Langoulant

This article considers the evolving nature of the role of in-house counsel and the future of in-house legal practice focusing on: the changing role of in-house counsel; the emerging legal issues affecting in-house counsel; and the impact of disruption and innovation on in-house counsel. 420

THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND LEGAL
EDUCATION: THE BEST OF THE OLD WORLD AND THE NEW

Carolyn Evans

As the legal profession undergoes significant changes, law schools are challenged to re-examine the meaning of a quality legal education. It is important to recognise the value of some important elements of traditional legal education, including research, critical thinking and analytical skills. However, legal education is increasingly shifting to also assist students in developing capacities to work in the digital world, across cultural boundaries and in inter-disciplinary teams. This blend of old and new capabilities will provide law graduates with the best chance to thrive in a rapidly changing world. 427

THE LAW AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN THE NEXT DECADE: THE
STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Paul Melican, Alex Bell-Rowe, Albert Patajo and Hannah McDonald

Law students are currently entering their legal education with extremely unrealistic expectations of the legal profession. The increased expectations of the profession and the cost of legal education have increased the pressures on modern law students, as opposed to those in previous generations. This article examines the changing graduate market, the wellbeing of law students and the changes in legal education from the perspective of law students. The conclusion of this examination is that the role of the legal graduate is changing and law students need to be more informed about the realities of the legal profession. 434

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