THE QUEENSLAND LAWYER

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CONVEYANCING AND PROPERTY LAW	
Real estate agents, brochures and misleading or deceptive conduct	173
TORT LAW	
Professional Standards Act 2004 (Qld)	177
ARTICLE	
From prison hulks to Penalties and Sentences in Queensland: Lessons learned or history repeated – Geraldine Mackenzie	
Understanding the history of crime and punishment allows a better contextual knowledge of current issues in sentencing. This article explores the background to modern sentencing law in Queensland, looking at the history of punishment in Britain, in particular what led to transportation, and Queensland's history of crime and punishment as a colony. It argues that the harsh beginnings of Queensland as a penal colony were significant in the development of criminal law in that State. A number of underlying themes recur, including law and order concerns and prison overcrowding, which have not abated in modern times	181
BOOK REVIEWS	193
REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF QUEENSLAND	
Carlin Auction Services (Qld) Pty Ltd v Gonchee (Torts)	195
H v Queensland (Limitation of Actions)	209

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