

CORPORATE LAW TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2003

This Report covers the activities of the Corporate Law Teachers Association (CLTA) for the year ending December 2003.

Executive Committee of the CLTA in 2003

The CLTA constitution in clause 4(b) provides that the Executive Committee of the Association shall be comprised of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, the immediately preceding past President and four other members. Clause 6(d) provides that, in addition, the Executive Committee may co-opt up to three additional members to form part of the Executive Committee.

Based upon these provisions of the constitution, the Executive Committee of the CLTA for 2003 comprised:

- Stephen Bottomley, ANU, (President)
- Ian Ramsay, University of Melbourne (Immediate Past President)
- Paula Darvas, Monash University (Secretary and Treasurer)
- Christopher Symes, Flinders University
- Ross Grantham, University of Auckland
- Jennifer Hill, University of Sydney
- Dimity Kingsford-Smith, Monash University
- Vanessa Mitchell, Victoria University of Technology
- Vijaya Nagarajan, Macquarie University
- Ralph Simmonds, Murdoch University
- Michael Whincop, Griffith University

John Nelson of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries also participated in all meetings of the Executive Committee during the year.

Members will be aware of the tragic death of Michael Whincop during the year. Michael's commitment and contribution to corporate law teaching and scholarship was remarkable, as is evident in the many emails that I received expressing condolences and sadness on the news of his death. On behalf of the CLTA I wrote to his family, and I now pass on their thanks for the kind wishes of the CLTA membership.

The Executive Committee met (by teleconference) on four occasions during the year: 5 February, 2 September, 21 October, 2 December.

2003 CLTA conference

As members will be aware, unfortunately the 2003 CLTA conference, due to be held at the University of Auckland, was cancelled because of insufficient registrations. Much of the Executive's attention this year has been directed towards identifying the

reasons for this and seeking to ensure the success of future conferences. The Executive initiated a short email survey of members to gauge opinions about the timing and location of future conferences (and related matters). 25% of members responded to this email survey. The responses showed that the timing of the conference (with February as the highest preference) and the costs of travel were the two most important factors in members' decisions about attending.

2004 CLTA conference

The 2004 CLTA annual conference is being hosted by the Centre for Commercial Law at the Faculty of Law, Australian National University on 8 – 10 February 2004. The theme of the conference is “Regulating Corporations”. The conference program, registration and accommodation details, and other information are available on the CLTA website.

The conference organising committee at ANU is: Stephen Bottomley, Peta Spender, and Anthony Forsyth.

Future CLTA conferences

The venue of the 2005 CLTA will be discussed at the CLTA AGM and the meeting of the Executive Committee to be held at the ANU conference. The Faculty of Law, University of Sydney has expressed an interest in hosting the conference.

Membership of the Executive Committee for 2004

The Association seeks to ensure that the Executive Committee of the CLTA has a geographic spread of members as well as members representing different institutions.

Jennifer Hill has expressed her willingness to stand as President for 2004. At the time of writing this report, the composition of the Committee for 2004 has still to be determined. Any expressions of interest can be sent to me.

CLTA website

The CLTA website contains information about the CLTA including events, the CLTA constitution, and some useful links.

Members are reminded that a feature of the website is the development of a section which allows members of the CLTA to include information on the website about the subjects they teach, their research interests, and the topics of postgraduate students they are supervising. I encourage all members to update their details (at the moment this can be done by contacting the website administrator, Michellé Mabile at clta@law.anu.edu.au

The website address is “<http://users.austlii.edu.au/clta/>”.

Expressions of appreciation

First, my thanks go to Dr John Nelson of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries. In addition to looking after the financial affairs of the CLTA, John also participates in all meetings of the CLTA Executive Committee - indeed he organises the teleconference facilities for these meetings. On behalf of members, I also thank John and the Institute for its continued sponsorship of the annual conference and its sponsorship of the prize for the best paper presented at the annual conference.

I also thank the other three sponsors of the annual conference: Butterworths, CCH, and LBC Information Services.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to members of the Executive Committee who have participated in what has been a challenging year for the Association, and to Michellé Mabile, who has managed the CLTA website.

Concluding comments

This is my final report as President of the CLTA. It has been a privilege to serve in that capacity for the past two years. I hope that members will continue to support the work of the Association. In particular, I hope that the annual conference will continue to perform its role as a unique opportunity for a diverse range of corporate law teachers to meet and share their ideas and research.

The Executive Committee welcomes suggestions from members for initiatives such as workshops and seminars. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Professor Stephen Bottomley
President
Corporate Law Teachers Association