

CORPORATE LAW TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2002

This Report covers the activities of the Corporate Law Teachers Association (CLTA) for the year ending December 2002.

I was elected President of the CLTA at the annual general meeting of the Association held at Monash University on 12 February 2002. The AGM was held during the 12th Annual CLTA conference. I succeeded Ian Ramsay who was President for 2000 and 2001. Ian's energy, enthusiasm and organisational skill during his term were greatly appreciated by the Executive and the membership in general. On behalf of all members of the CLTA, I would like to thank Ian for his work, and I look forward to his continued input to the work of the Association.

Executive Committee of the CLTA in 2001

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 2002 comprised:

- Stephen Bottomley, ANU, (President)
- Ian Ramsay, University of Melbourne (Immediate Past President)
- Christopher Symes, Flinders University (Secretary and Treasurer)
- Ross Grantham, University of Auckland
- Jennifer Hill, University of Sydney
- Dimity Kingsford-Smith, Monash University
- Phillip Lipton, RMIT
- 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.

The Executive Committee met on three occasions during the year, two of these by teleconference. Between these meetings, the Committee liaised by email on other matters.

2002 CLTA conference

The 2002 CLTA conference was held on 10 - 12 February at the Monash University's city campus. The theme of the conferences was 'Corporations and Financial Regulation in the Digital Economy'. The conference attracted speakers from Australia (including speakers from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission), New Zealand, United States, Canada, Malaysia, and Singapore.

I take this opportunity to again thank Dimity Kingsford-Smith and Elizabeth Boros for organising the conference.

The 2001 conference was the fifth occasion on which the Institute of Chartered Secretaries awarded a prize for the best paper presented at the annual conference (the criteria for the prize exclude papers presented at plenary sessions of the conference and papers presented as a result of an invitation by the conference organisers). The prize was awarded to Peta Spender (ANU) for her paper titled "Worrying About Insolvency and Class Actions as Strategic Responses to Mass Tort Liability".

Other CLTA events held during 2002

A workshop on 'Research in Corporate Law: Issues and Perspectives' was advertised for October 2002, to be held at the ANU. Unfortunately due to lack of registrations it had to be cancelled. It is planned to reschedule this event for some time in 2003.

Since 2001 the Executive Committee has encouraged members of the CLTA who are organising seminars and workshops to consider 'badging' the event with the CLTA name and advertising it to all CLTA members.

CLTA website

The CLTA website was given a major overhaul during 2002. The 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/>".

2003 CLTA conference

The 2003 CLTA annual conference will be hosted by the University of Auckland on 9 – 11 February 2001. This is the first time that the CLTA conference has been held in New Zealand, reflecting the widening scope of the Association's membership. The conference program is available on the conference website at

<http://www.clta.auckland.ac.nz/index.htm>. The conference is being organised by Ross Grantham.

Future CLTA conferences

At the time of writing this report, the venue for the 2004 conference has not been finalised. ANU has expressed an interest. This matter will be discussed at the AGM and the meeting of the Executive Committee to be held at the Auckland conference.

Membership of the Executive Committee for 2003

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.

I have indicated my willingness to stand for a second term as President for 2003. Chris Symes has indicated his wish to stand down as Secretary and Treasurer, but to continue as a member of the Executive Committee. At the time of writing this report, the possible composition of the Committee for 2003 has still to be determined. Any expressions of interest can be sent to me.

Expressions of appreciation

A special expression of thanks is due, once again, to Dr John Nelson of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries. As noted earlier, John participates in all meetings of the CLTA Executive Committee and organises the teleconference facilities for these meetings. He also manages the financial affairs of the CLTA. The Institute is one of the major sponsors of the annual conference. On behalf of members, I 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 would also like to 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 assisted with particular projects, especially Chris Symes for his work as Secretary to the Committee.

Concluding comments

Finally, the Executive Committee welcomes suggestions from members for new website initiatives, workshops, seminars, or other ideas. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Professor Stephen Bottomley
President
Corporate Law Teachers Association