From the Editor

Welcome to the March 2008 edition of *Computers & Law*. Thank you again to all who submitted articles for inclusion in this edition of the journal.

Computers & Law aims to include a wide range of articles on legal issues of relevance to technology generally, e-commerce and information technology, as well as articles relating to the use of technology by lawyers themselves.

Given the frequency of new legal developments and issues of importance in this field, it is perhaps not surprising that articles exploring new legal developments and providing analysis of topical legal issues often fill the pages of *Computers & Law*. In this particular edition of *Computers & Law*, we seek to address this balance somewhat, by providing an edition with an increased practical focus on the use of technology by lawyers themselves. Hopefully there will be something in it for all readers.

The impact of the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006* (Cth) has been felt across a broad range of organisations. Others are still coming to terms with its impact on their particular area of operation. In our first article, Daniel Dwyer considers the impact of this relatively recent legislative regime on online payment facilitators (internet payment services).

Daniel's article considers important questions for this industry, including who must comply with the legislation (and associated framework), what steps must they take and by when? Daniel also considers the ongoing costs of compliance as well as the approach taken by the regulator to date.

Our next article is the first of two articles in this edition with a focus on the use of technology by lawyers. In his article, *"The 3 E's in Litigation – e-Discovery, ESI and Exchange Protocols"*, Linesh Maharaj focuses on the increasing use and regulation of technology in litigation.

The opportunities presented by technological solutions for increased efficiencies and consequentially decreased costs in court proceedings are attractive to both courts and potential litigants. Yet actually achieving these efficiencies and cost reductions can be difficult, particularly in large cases involving multiple parties and extremely large volumes of discovered documents. In this article, Linesh considers some of the steps taken by courts to encourage the use of technology and the steps that can be taken by parties (and their lawyers) to use such technological solutions efficiently and effectively in a way that is likely to actually achieve time and cost savings.

Our third article focuses on a key agreement for every information technology lawyer – the IT Transition Services Agreement. In *"Making the Transition – Key Legal Issues and Risks in IT Transition Services Agreements"*, Lucille Hughes highlights the key issues and risks to be considered and dealt with when entering into a transition services arrangement.

In particular, Lucille also considers the important question of whether a Transition Services Agreement is, in fact, the best option for parties wanting a smooth transition at the completion of an M&A transaction as well as looking at ways in which transition services agreements differ from traditional IT services arrangements.

In our final article for March 2008, Simon Berglund considers a key piece of technology in the offices of many lawyers – the dictation device. As many law firms, big and small, consider moving from tape-based dictation devices to digital solutions, Simon's article on *"Selecting a Digital Dictation Solution"* sets out a list of key practical questions that any organisation should consider when deciding if and how to make the move. In particular, Simon considers the different parts of an organisation potentially impacted by this piece of technology and the way in which their needs should be taken into account when sourcing a new solution.

We hope all our readers enjoy this March 2008 edition and remember, we always enjoy hearing your ideas or requests for articles, as well as receiving any articles you may wish to submit yourselves.

Happy reading.