

Bar Council Notes

The Chief Justice

The appointment of the Hon. L. J. Herron, Senior Puisne Judge and Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, as Chief Justice, has been greeted by the Bar with satisfaction and pleasure. The Chief Justice has been on the Bench for over twenty years and is well-known, not only for his legal associations, but for his continued interest in public and sporting matters. The Bar wishes him a long and happy enjoyment of the high office to which he has been appointed.

The N.S.W. Bar Association Prize

The first award of the New South Wales Bar Association Prize for the student who graduates with the University Medal in Law was awarded for the year 1961 to Mr. Graham Hill. It is understood that Mr. Hill is now engaged on further study at the Harvard Law School.

Conference of Chief Justices

Members of the Bar will be interested to know that the Chief Justices of the Supreme Courts of the States of the Commonwealth have decided to meet regularly for an interchange of views and discussion of problems common to the various Supreme Courts.

The first official conference of the Chief Justices was held in Melbourne on 22nd and 23rd May, 1962. It was attended by:

- The Hon. Mr. Justice Herron, A.C.J.,
(New South Wales).
- The Hon. Sir Edmund Herring, C.J. (Victoria).
- The Hon. Sir Alan Mansfield, C.J. (Queensland).
- The Hon. Sir Mellis Napier, C.J. (South Australia).
- The Hon. Sir Albert Wolff, C.J. (Western Australia).
- The Hon. Sir Stanley Burbury, C.J. (Tasmania).

It has been decided that meetings will be held annually; that the next meeting will be held in Perth in September, 1963; and that the Chief Justice of New Zealand should be invited to attend.

The Australian Bar Association

During 1955/1956 the New South Wales Bar Association possessed no voting rights on the Executive of the Law Council of Australia. In that year the New South Wales Bar Council had occasion to make representations to the Federal Attorney-General on two matters which directly and appreciably affected the New South Wales Bar only to be advised that the matters had been taken up by the Law Council of Australia and had been finally dealt with.

Following these and similar experiences, and because it was considered that the Constitution of the Law Council was unsatisfactory, a view which was generally shared by its constituent bodies, the New South Wales Bar Council, on the 26th June, 1957, unanimously resolved, after a long discussion, that it favoured the formation of an Australian Bar Association and the President was requested to initiate action to that end.

The Bar Association of Queensland agreed with the proposal, subject to the reservation that the proposed Association did not in any way subvert the condition or status of the Law Council of Australia, but the Victorian Bar Association was not in favour of the proposal.

In a paper delivered to the Tenth Legal Convention of the Law Council on the 17th July, 1957, entitled "Miscellaneous Comments", *Wallace J.* (then President of the New South Wales Bar Council), the author, who had conceived the idea originally, again urged the formation of an Australian Bar Association. (*Vide* 31 A.L.J. 292, et seq.).

In 1960 a sub-committee of the New South Wales Bar Council, consisting of Bowen, Q.C., Holmes, Q.C., and Kerr, Q.C., was appointed to explore the possibility of establishing the Association and upon its recommendation a meeting was arranged to take place on the 4th December, 1960 at Bowen's residence between representatives of the New South Wales, Victorian and Queensland Bar Associations.

At such meeting T. M. Barry, Q.C. and W. B. Campbell, Q.C. represented Queensland, O. J. Gillard, Q.C. and J. B. Tait, Q.C. represented Victoria and N. H. Bowen, Q.C. and C. L. D. Meares, Q.C. represented New South Wales. A draft constitution, which had been prepared, was discussed and approved of in principle.

Following upon this meeting a further meeting was held in Sydney during the Twelfth Legal Convention in July, 1961. There were present at such meeting Graham L. Hart, Q.C. and W. B. Campbell, Q.C. representing Queensland, R. A. Smithers, Q.C. and O. J. Gillard, Q.C. representing Victoria and N. H. Bowen, Q.C. and C. L. D. Meares, Q.C. representing New South Wales.

Further details were discussed and it was decided to submit the scheme to the respective Bar Councils.

On the 16th November, 1961 the New South Wales Bar Council unanimously resolved to support it.

The scheme shortly thereafter received the unanimous support of the Queensland Bar Association and on the 15th June, 1962 the Victorian Bar Council advised that a poll had been conducted amongst its members and that a large majority were in favour.

Following upon approval from the three Associations the Association was formed at a meeting held in the Chambers of Graham L. Hart, Q.C. in Brisbane on the 27th July, 1962. At this meeting Graham Hart, Q.C. and A. K. McCracken represented Queensland, M. V. McInerney, Q.C. and O. J. Gillard, Q.C. represented Victoria and C. L. D. Meares, Q.C. and J. R. Kerr, Q.C. represented New South Wales.

At this meeting C. L. D. Meares, Q.C. was elected first President of the Association with Messrs. M. V. McInerney, Q.C. and G. L. Hart, Q.C., as Vice Presidents.

The headquarters of the Association will for the time being be located in Sydney and K. Gee and H. H. Bell both of the New South Wales Bar, have been appointed Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively.