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Profile of Geoff Coates

G Geoff Coates has been around the labour lawyer beat. He started his career at Ryan Carlisle Thomas. He then went on to Slater & Gordon before moving to Warrnambool where he was employed by Maddens Lawyers. Having returned home to Ryan Carlisle Thomas, he currently runs their Ballarat office.

Commencing his education at Coatesville State School (believe it or not), Geoff was always going to feel a part of the big picture. (The area was in fact named after the Coates family.)

At APLA, especially in Victoria, Geoff is an integral part of the association. While he is stepping down as the Managing Editor of *Plaintiff* and Victorian State Secretary in July, his involvement and hard work will continue. Geoff will remain on the *Plaintiff*

Editorial Committee and he has undertaken to compile a Victorian APLA newsletter.

Geoff is a representative on the National Council and will continue to represent the interests of Victorian members also on the Victorian Committee.

One of Geoff's most notable contributions has been his role as Master of Ceremonies at APLA Conferences at both State and National level. Geoff's easy going manner, his sense of humour and his unique style of dancing have made him well known to most of us. His repertoire of jokes about his beloved Ballarat demonstrate that he is really just a country boy at heart.

But it is his concern for the protection of plaintiff's

rights and the care he has for his clients that have earned him the respect of his peers. Geoff is an accredited specialist in personal injury law, and his practice covers many areas of the law.

His undying support for the underdog is perhaps best illustrated by his continued support of the St Kilda Football Club, despite their less than perfect performance record.

In his spare time he could once be spotted jogging around Lake Wendouree at Ballarat, but today he prefers to lie at home caring for the first APLA baby. Geoff now has three children - Alice, Harry and Isla.

He is a great lover of music and a keen but not so great golfer. Geoff also appreciates a nice glass of wine and a good chat. **PL**

