

[1] THE LAW SCHOOL NOW AND THEN: FROM 1928 TO THE JURIS DOCTOR

A lecture given by Winthrop Professor Peter Handford in February 2013 on the occasion of the centenary of the University of Western Australia

When the University of Western Australia was established in 1913, it had no Law School. As I will explain in a moment, the only way at that time in which lawyers could qualify for admission to practice was by undergoing a period of practical training – service of 5 years in articles with a practising lawyer. As early as 1920, the Professorial Board resolved to recommend the establishment of a Faculty of Law, and agreement was reached with the Barristers Board (as the authority regulating the legal profession in Western Australia was then called) under which students would complete a 4 year LLB and would then be qualified for admission to practice after service of 3 years in articles instead of the usual 5. But implementation of this plan was delayed, because it was thought to be too expensive. For the first time, but certainly not for the last, financial problems stood in the way of progressing the development of legal education.

Eventually these problems were overcome, as a result of the Barristers Board agreeing to contribute £500 annually to the cost of the Law School, and this sum was found by imposing a levy of £6 on each practising lawyer. The Faculty of Law was established by Senate resolution, and in September 1927 Frank Beasley, a graduate of Wadham College, Oxford and Sydney University, was appointed as the first Professor. [2] Teaching began a few months later in early 1928. This means that in 2013 the Law School is celebrating its 85th anniversary, and I have been asked to talk to you about what has happened over the last 85 years.

I suspect one reason that I have been selected for this task is that I am now the oldest inhabitant of the Law School, and having lived through some of that history I might be able to say something about it. I arrived at the Law School in March 1977, for what I thought at the time was a 6 month visit while on study leave from my university in Eng. As you can see, I eventually stayed rather longer. In 1977, the Law School was celebrating its 50th anniversary, by holding a series of lectures, later published under the title *Law under Stress*. If you do the maths you will appreciate that 1977 was only 49 years after 1928,

but the Law School had chosen to date its 50th anniversary from the arrival of Professor Beasley in 1927. [3] In 2003 the Law School celebrated its 75th anniversary – by this time, we had decided that the holding of the first classes in 1928 was the proper date from which to mark the beginning of the Law School’s hist. The 75th anniversary was a great occasion, with the presentation of the first Beasley medals to two distinguished graduates – Sir Francis Burt (former Chief Justice and Governor of Western Australia) and Sir Ronald Wilson (our first High Court judge) – and a dinner in Winthrop Hall attended by graduates of every vintage from 1937 to 2003. I look forward to being present on the occasion of the 100th anniversary, if I live long enough.

What I am going to do is to take you through a number of aspects of how the Law School has developed over the last 85 years – covering the student body, the staff, the buildings, the course, the Blackstone Society as the focus of student activities, and the graduates and their later careers. But first, I want to put the history of the Law School into context by talking a little more generally about legal education.

History of Legal Education

The idea that intending lawyers study law at university is comparatively recent. In England (from which of course Australia has inherited its law and legal traditions), courts were created in the Middle Ages, and a legal profession came into existence in the wake of the creation of the courts [4] – see for example these lawyers arguing before the Court of Kings Bench in the 16th century. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were in existence, but law was not taught there. Lawyers instead learnt law by a sort of apprenticeship. In England, the legal profession has always been divided into barristers and solicitors – barristers, who argue cases before the courts, joined one of the four Inns of Court, and learnt by following the example of more senior practitioners. Attorneys and solicitors had to serve a period of 5 years in articles with a practising solicitor. This requirement was formalised by a statute of George II with an interesting title: “An Act for continuing, explaining and amending the several laws for the better regulation of attorneys and solicitors; and for preventing the spreading of the distemper among the horned cattle.” [5] In 1753, Sir William Blackstone, then Professor of Law at Oxford, commenced giving a course of lectures on English Law, eventually published as

Blackstone's Commentaries, a very famous work of legal scholarship, but after his time the teaching of law at Oxford effectively lapsed, and it was not until the 19th century that the teaching of law commenced in the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London. Other Law Faculties did not appear until the early 20th century. Even then, for many years those who intended to become practising lawyers often passed up the chance to read law at University, and read something like classics instead – law was thought to be something which could easily be picked up later on.

I shd add one qualification here – lawyers who practised in a special area called the civil law – which covered such things as succession on death, family law and admiralty – in the words of Sir Alan Herbert, wills wives and wrecks – did study law at university, and they became Doctors of the Law. This is an area of law which was much closer to the European continental tradition inherited from Roman law, which had been studied in universities since the 12th century. My own Cambridge college, Trinity Hall, was founded in 1350 for the study of civil and canon law, and supplied lawyers for this particular area of legal practice for hundreds of years – but all this was very much the exception.

Turning to the situation in Australia, we find that Australia followed and in some respects may even have anticipated the English example. Law teaching commenced at Melbourne University in 1857, at Sydney University in 1859, at Adelaide University in 1883, and at the University of Tasmania in 1893. I suspect that one reason why it quickly became the norm to acquire a law degree was that Australia lacked the other institutions such as the Inns of Court by which in England it was possible to acquire some sort of legal education.

In Western Australia, as soon as the first courts were established in 1830 there was of course a need for lawyers, and the roll of practitioners kept at the Supreme Court dates back to 1836. To show how small the legal profession was in those days and for long afterwards, let us look at some figures. In the 90-odd years between 1836 and the admission to practice of the first Law School graduates in 1930, only about 400 persons were admitted to legal practice, and No 1000 was not reached until 1971. Since then, expansion has been rapid. It only took another 10 years to reach number 2000, and 30-odd years later we are well past the 10,000 milestone. It should be said however,

that many lawyers admitted in Western Australia in recent years are lawyers from other states whose primary practice is not in Western Australia.

The Law School, 1928 onwards – Student numbers

What sort of impact did the UWA Law School make when it started teaching Law in 1928? [6] In the early days, the Law School was very small. This is a photograph of the student body in 1928 - all 21 of them. Moreover, most of these never graduated – they were simply law clerks who were taking law classes at the University, and they continued to qualify for admission in the old way, by serving 5 years in articles, and this remained common until World War II. However, there was one important group of students for whom this method of qualification was not really open, and for whom getting a degree offered the only opportunity to break into legal practice – the female students. Women found it very difficult to get articles in the early days, and so it is that among the early students there was a high percentage of females.[7] Enid Russell (who wrote the standard work on the history of the law in Western Australia) was the first woman to graduate in 1931, and she was followed by others such as Molly Kingston and Sheila McClemons, who formed the first all-female legal firm in 1934 – Molly afterwards became only the second woman to go to the bar in Victoria, and Sheila was the first woman to appear as counsel in the Supreme Court of Western Australia. Another important early female student was Joan Heenan, who continued in practice in Western Australia until the 1980s. Of the 59 students who graduated between 1930 and 1939, 11 were women.

After the first year or two of the war, the Law School virtually shut down. Professor Beasley, at that time the only full-time staff member, was on active service. No classes were held in 1942 or 1943, and no students graduated between 1942 and 1947. However, classes resumed at the end of the war, and there has been a steady period of growth from then on. Let us look at a few figures which shed light on the increasing numbers of students over the past 60-odd years. [8]

First, the number of students admitted. Numbers at first were fairly low, but gradually increased. There was no quota for admission, and everyone who met entrance requirements was accepted for enrolment. This meant that there was

a high failure rate – something like 25 per cent at the end of first year. However, there was an important change in 1972, when a quota of 110 was increased to 160. The quota was further reviewed in 1989 or thereabouts, round about the time that plans were announced to open a Law School at Murdoch, and was increased to 210. This increase was agreed at a point in time when it looked as though Murdoch's Law School was not going to proceed, but even though, as we know, Murdoch did open its Law School in 1991, the UWA Law School quota was not reduced. Through the 1990s and the 2000s, the quota became less rigidly enforced and eventually in effect disappeared – and because there were lots of well-qualified students applying for entry to Law (the TEE/ATAR cut-off remained constant at round about 97per cent), there was pressure from the University to expand the number of students admitted. By 2011, the last year in which the Law School admitted students to the LLB degree (as I will explain), the Law School was taking in about 350 students every year.

[9] Another way of tracking the growing size of the Law School is by looking at the increasing number of graduations. Here are some figures tracking the annual number of graduations at intervals of 10 years, from 1939 to 2009. These figures show that the 1960s and 70s were a growth period, but that the figures then remained steady through the 1980s – no doubt due to the effect of the quota. In the 1970s it was in fact suggested that there was a shortage of lawyers in Western Australia, and at this time the number of lawyers admitted to practice who had qualified overseas, notably in Southern Africa, increased considerably. The increase in the quota at UWA and the advent of Murdoch began to remedy the shortfall, and with rising numbers at these two universities, and other new Law Schools at Notre Dame, Edith Cowan and now Curtin, far from there being a shortage of lawyers, the position is that the legal profession cannot absorb all the law graduates that are now being produced. However, this seems to matter less than it once did. It is now accepted that Law is a very good grounding for all sorts of things, and Law graduates go into all sorts of careers – politics, the public service, corporations, journalism and much more – rather than just into private practice.

[10] Another trend the figures show is the increasing number of female law students and graduates. Though, as I have said, there were a number of

women students in the early days, female students were almost non-existent in the 1940s and 50s, and even in the 1960s the number of female students was fairly low. As can be seen from the figures, it is very different now. Here is a graph showing the increasing proportion of female students between 1959 and 1997: 1986 was the first year in which female graduates outnumbered male graduates, and this trend has continued ever since.

The staff of the Law School

Professor Beasley became the first Dean of the Law School, and he remained Dean for the staggering period of 36 years. This is because, for much of that time, he was the only full-time staff member – he simply had no alternative but to keep going. The subjects he could not teach were taught by part-time teachers who were members of the legal profession – as time went on, they were of course the cream of the Law School's graduates: Burt, Kennedy, Wilson, Toohey (all names to be mentioned again in a moment) and many more. However, as the Law School began to expand after World War II, it became clear that more full-time staff were needed – even though at one point the Barristers Board opposed this on grounds of cost. However in 1947 a second full-time staff member was appointed; 10 years later in 1957 there were 5, by 1967 there were 9, and in 1977 when I arrived as a visiting lecturer, there were 17. Numbers have continued to increase and as at the beginning of 2013 there were over 40 full-time or fractional staff members.

[11] The way in which the Law School staff has expanded over the years can be illustrated by tracking the appointment of Professors. It can be seen that when I became a Professor in 2004, I was only the ninth such appointment in 75 years, but there have been another eight since, including our first female Professor, Holly Cullen.

Professor Beasley eventually retired in 1963 and was succeeded as Dean by Professor Douglas Payne, who came to UWA from Oxford University. There have been another 12 Deans after that. **[12]** Here are 2 of them, Eric Edwards and Bill Ford, both UWA graduates and long-serving members of the academic staff who served substantial periods of time as Dean. Now in 2013, we have our first female Dean, Professor Erika Techera.

Buildings

[13] In 1928 when the first classes in Law were held, UWA was still in the city, and so Law classes were held in the University building on the corner of Irwin St and St Georges Terrace – familiarly known as ‘Tin Pot Alley’. This building, of course, has now been re-erected on James Oval on the Crawley site. In 1932, with the completion of Winthrop Hall and other early buildings on the Crawley site, the Law School moved to Crawley. **[14]** For a few years, the Law School was accommodated in rooms in the Winthrop Hall complex, but in 1936 it was given space in an unused wood and asbestos building on the western edge of the campus, where it remained for the next 21 years.

1967 was a very important year for the Law School, because it moved to its present building, here on the eastern edge of the Crawley campus. This building, designed by Gus Ferguson, was formally opened in 1967 by Sir Garfield Barwick, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. **[15]** As you will have seen when you came in, it is designed round a central courtyard, with teaching rooms on the north side, the Law Library on the south side, and staff studies on the other two sides. **[16]** The building is one of the earliest examples of the use of off-form concrete, and won for Gus Ferguson the inaugural bronze medal of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects for the most distinguished building erected in Western Australia during the years 1965-67. The building’s lasting qualities were recognised in 2010, when it was given the Royal Institute of Architects’ 25 year award for Enduring Architecture.

There have been a number of changes since 1967. The Library was extended outwards towards the Oak Lawn and the Guild in 1986, **[17]** and then the Link Building was added in 1991 between the Law School and the Economics and Commerce Building, on what was previously an open space used by law students for informal games of cricket. This gave some extra space to a growing Law School, and in 2009, when the new Business School was opened, Law expanded again, to fill most of the former Economics and Commerce Building, which in due course will be given a new name.

The Law Course

2013 is a very significant year in the Law School’s history, because it sees the launch of the new Juris Doctor degree – the JD. Since this lecture is entitled

‘from 1928 to the Juris Doctor’, it is important for me to tell you something about the JD and why it is so significant. Following the English tradition, law students have generally studied for the LLB, an undergraduate degree programme which students generally enter straight from school. However, in the United States, for many years now, there has been a different tradition: American students commence their university studies by doing an undergraduate degree in a different discipline, and Law is a postgraduate degree course for which students must qualify by getting a first degree. The United States postgraduate law degree is called the JD. It is not a doctoral degree, and graduates cannot call themselves ‘Doctor’ – ‘Juris Doctor’ is best translated as ‘teacher of law’. In recent years, other countries, such as Canada and Hong Kong, have followed the trend by creating postgraduate JD courses, and in Australia Melbourne became the first Australian university to go over to a postgraduate JD instead of an undergraduate LLB in 2007. UWA now becomes the second. Other universities now offer the JD as an alternative to the LLB.

[18] At UWA, from 1928 to 1972, students enrolled in the undergraduate LLB degree, a four year degree which initially contained some Arts units, but later consisted entirely of Law units. The separation between the academic and professional stages of legal training was recognised by the fact that after graduating and while serving 2 years in articles students had to study for and pass examinations in Accounts, Taxation, Conveyancing, and Procedure.

In 1972, in a move which can now be seen as a forerunner of the latest changes, students were no longer admitted straight from school, but instead had to do a first year of Arts or some other discipline, and then on the basis of their first year marks were admitted to a new 3 year degree called the B Juris – Bachelor of Jurisprudence. The LLB became a one year degree which followed on from the B Juris, and consisted largely of professional units such as Conveyancing and Procedure. In effect, the Law School had taken over responsibility for the professional as well as the academic stages of legal training. Other consequences were that the period of articles was reduced to one year and a period of restricted practice following admission was introduced. The new system was to some extent a reflection of the American model that suggested that students should not be admitted to Law School until

they had some experience of study at tertiary level. It was as part of this new system that the quota of 110 was introduced.

The new system lasted for the next twenty years, but came under pressure from two directions. First, many students who had completed the first year of another degree wanted to go on and finish that degree, and so there was pressure to introduce joint degrees. Secondly, by this time, most other Australian Law Schools offered a five year joint degree programme, and this was the kind of programme which Murdoch proposed to offer in 1991. In 1992, therefore, the UWA Law School abandoned the pre-requisite year requirement and went back to admitting students straight from school, but now instead of a four year LLB school leavers were required to enrol in a five-year joint degree programme, such as BA/LLB. The B Juris degree passed into history. Students who already had a degree could enrol in a single degree programme, the 3 year LLB. These are the programmes that the Law School has been offering since 1992.

One of the disadvantages of the joint degree programme was the number of units that students had to do to satisfy the requirements of both degrees. As in all other Australian Law Schools, a law degree has to incorporate a large number of compulsory units. Each unit represented 6 points: students were required to complete a total of 192 points of Law plus 96 points for their other degree, a total of 288 points. At the normal load of 48 points a year, this would take six years, whereas joint degree students were attempting to complete in five years. Many understandably found this difficult, and took longer. By about 2005, therefore, plans were under way in the Law School to streamline the Law course, reducing the number of units so that students could complete the Law part of the programme in three years without overloading. By 2007, Law had a new 24-unit Law degree programme ready to be introduced.

[19] However, these plans were overtaken by more major changes. In 2008 the University announced a general review of its undergraduate degree structure, and what resulted were the reforms now known as 'New Courses 2012'. As from 2012, all students now enrol in one of five undergraduate degrees, organised according to a uniform structure. As part of this plan, there are to be no more joint degrees: all courses leading to a professional qualification – not only Law, but also Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Education and so on – are

to be studied at postgraduate level, after students have completed an initial degree. Under this plan, Law is phasing out the undergraduate LLB – we admitted our last students to this degree in 2011, and they will graduate in 2015 (or later). In 2013, we admit the first cohort of students to the JD. Initially the class will be small – about 75 are expected in 2013 – but in 2015, when those who commenced university in 2012 arrive in the Law School, we expect to go back to something like the former numbers. The work we did from 2005 to 2007 has not been wasted: the JD consists of a 24 unit Law degree, based on the plans we drew up then. What is different, of course, is that the students will be more mature and instruction will be at a higher level. In the language of higher education, the JD is ‘Level 9’, the equivalent of Masters programmes, whereas an undergraduate degree is ‘Level 7’.

It shd be noted that the Law School has been teaching at masters level for many years. The LLM by coursework was introduced in the 1980s, and has been followed by other Masters degrees such as the Master of Criminal Justice and the Master of Commercial and Resources Law. This reflects the work of the two specialist centres which have been established within the Law School – the Crime Research Centre and the Centre for Mining, Energy and Natural Resources Law. The first PhD in Law was awarded in 1986 and the number of PhD graduates has increased steadily since then.

Law students: the Blackstone Society and the Jessup Moot

In 1928, Professor Beasley and the original group of students set up a student law society, called the Blackstone Society in honour of Sir William Blackstone, whose important place in legal education has already been referred to. There is a long and distinguished list of Blackstone Society Presidents - including many who have gone on to achieve great things in later life – among them Joseph Starke, Geoffrey Kennedy, Nicholas Hasluck, Wayne Martin, Stephen Smith and Sarah Jones – all names to be mentioned again in a moment.

The Blackstone Society Minute Book gives us some interesting glimpses into the lives of the law students half a century ago, and I cannot forbear from quoting a few passages:

21 April 1931: The social activities of the society were discussed. It was suggested that an annual dance and a dinner be held. Mr Solomon moved

against this that “the society be one purely for the discussion of legal principles” The motion was put and lost.

14 March 1939: It was decided to allow smoking in the Law Library on the condition imposed by Professor Beasley that the room should be kept clean by the production of ashtrays.

12 March 1947: The Law Song written by Mr B Smith was adopted with thanks by the Society. (I wonder what happened to it.)

12 July 1957: The President reported that new nominations were necessary for the Society’s representatives at the Law Moot to be held in Sydney in August. Nominations were then called for: Mr Walsh was proposed by Miss Johnston and seconded by Mr Williams. Miss Johnston was proposed by Mr Walsh and seconded by Mr Williams. No further nomination being forthcoming, discussion then ensued on the advisability of sending Miss Johnston away with Mr Walsh.

Life for those students was very different from the life of law students today. For one thing, law students (the men, at least) were expected to wear jackets and ties, and it was compulsory to wear academic gowns in lectures. These requirements began to be relaxed in the 1970s, and today’s dress standards are very different!

[20] It can be seen from the Blackstone Minutes that mooting has always played a prominent part in the life of law students. In a moot, students argue the case for each of the parties to an imaginary legal problem, and are interrupted and questioned by the judge, just as in a real court. Since 1992, the Law School has competed in the prestigious Philip Jessup International Law Moot competition. **[21]** All the Australian universities compete in Canberra, and the best teams go forward to the finals in Washington. The 2013 team competed in the Australian final, losing narrowly to Sydney. This means they go into the finals in Washington as Australian runners-up. The Law School has won the Australian competition four times and has now been runners up six times, which means that the Law School has competed in the finals ten times in 19 years – six years out of nine between 1995 and 2003, three years in a row between 2009 and 2011, and now in 2013. **[22]** In Washington, the Law School

team were runners up in 1995 and 2002, before becoming world champions in 2003. The trophy was proudly displayed at the 75th anniversary dinner.

Law graduates

After 85 years of the Law School's existence, there must be something in excess of 8,000 Law graduates. Many have gone on to have distinguished careers in law and other fields. I want to conclude this morning by briefly mentioning a few of them.

[23] In 1932 Joseph Starke (formerly Staricoff) became the Law School's first Rhodes scholar. Like all Rhodes Scholars, he went on to study at Oxford, and afterwards had a very distinguished career at the United Nations, as an international law scholar and as a barrister. He has been followed by another 18 Rhodes Scholars from the Law School, including Geoffrey Kennedy, later Supreme Court Judge and Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, Grant Donaldson, now Solicitor General (seen here with Travers McLeod, one of our most recent Rhodes Scholars) and James Edelman, Professor of Law at Oxford and now WA Supreme Court Judge. Some others will be mentioned in a moment or two.

[24] The Menzies Scholarship is another very prestigious award. Sarah Jones, now Beshar, was the first winner in 1982. She is now a high-flying corporate lawyer on Wall St, responsible for several record-breaking corporate floats. Here she is, along with her family, President Obama and ex-President Clinton.

[25] The Law School has produced three High Court judges: Sir Ronald Wilson (1979-89), John Toohey (1987-98), and Robert French, the present Chief Justice, appointed in 2008 (and incidentally, a forerunner of the future JD students, since he completed a BSc in Physics before he commenced his Law degree).

[26] Sir Francis Burt was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia before becoming Governor of Western Australia. The present Governor, Malcolm McCusker, is another distinguished UWA Law graduate.

[27] Sir Francis Burt was followed as Chief Justice by David Malcolm and then by the present Chief Justice, Wayne Martin.

[28] As you would expect, most of the judges of the Supreme, District and Family Courts of Western Australia have been Law School graduates. But here are three who have achieved judicial status elsewhere: Maurice Cullity, Rhodes Scholar and Judge of the Supreme Court of Ontario; Elizabeth Hollingworth, our first female Rhodes scholar and Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria; and Kevin Parker, until recently a Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

[29] Many Law graduates have had distinguished careers in politics. Among them are former Prime Minister Bob Hawke (another Rhodes scholar) and a leader of the opposition, Sir Billy Snedden; **[30]** a number of federal Cabinet Ministers, including two Attorneys General, Peter Durack and Daryl Williams (two more Rhodes Scholars) and the present Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith. **[31]** Among State politicians, we have a former Premier, Peter Dowding; Ian Medcalf, Attorney General 1975-1983, plus every Attorney General since then; and several other members of State Cabinet, including for example Alannah MacTiernan.

[32] Alannah is just one of a long line of distinguished female graduates. Here are some more – clockwise, starting top left, Toni Kennedy, District Court Judge, the first female judge in Western Australia, and the first female Chief Judge; Carmel McLure, the first female President of the Court of Appeal; Cheryl Edwardes, the first female Attorney General; Jaye Radisich, the youngest ever member of the State Parliament, who tragically died much too young; Christine Wheeler, the first female QC and the first female Supreme Court Judge; Bronwyn Keighley-Gerardy, WA's first female detective, and later the first Freedom of Information Commissioner; Val Kerruish, the first female Lecturer at the Law School; and Judy Eckert, the first female President of the Law Society of Western Australia.

[33] We also have a number of distinguished Aboriginal graduates, notably Sue Gordon, WA's first Aboriginal magistrate, Chair of the Inquiry into Family Violence and holder of various other important positions; Ben Wyatt, currently one of the leading opposition members in the State Parliament; and Ambelin Kwaymullina, another member of the Law School staff and a well-known writer for children.

[34] Like Ambelin, there are many law graduates who have achieved much in areas far removed from Law. Here we have, on the left, Professor Alan Fels, former Chair of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission; Robert Holmes a Court, millionaire entrepreneur; in the centre Ralph Honner, hero of the Kokoda Trail in World War II; on the right George Grljusich, a well-known sports broadcaster; Nicholas Hasluck, Rhodes Scholar and Supreme Court Judge, but best known as a novelist; and below, Duncan Rock, a young baritone marking his mark on the English opera stage; and Kelly Newton-Wordsworth, well-known singer and songwriter in Germany. If Jeremy Sims had completed the course, we would also have had an actor.

[35] Finally, some sporting heroes. Alan Reid, footballer for Essendon and Geelong, and subsequently a corporate lawyer and trade commissioner in China; Vanessa French, an athlete who represented Australia at the 1990 Commonwealth Games, now a solicitor in England; and Paul Nicholls, WA state cricketer and later a magistrate.

So the UWA Law School has achieved a great deal in its 85-year history. In 2013, it faces a new challenge as it moves into a new era of Law teaching. But I am confident that with its proven track record, and the support of its many distinguished graduates, who are the mainstay of the legal profession in Western Australia, that it will meet this challenge and maintain its proud position as not only the leading law school in WA, but one of the premier Australian law schools.