Visit of Professor Richard (“Ricky”) Revesz

As foreshadowed in the last Newsletter, Professor Revesz, Director Designate of the American Law Institute, met with Fellows of the Academy in Sydney and Melbourne last week. Professor Revesz will succeed Professor Lance Liebman as Director of the ALI in May.

Professor Revesz landed in Sydney early on Monday morning, 24 March, after a 29 hour trip, including 6 hours on the ground in Los Angeles. Showing some stamina, he allowed us to entertain him at a cocktail party that evening at the Sydney offices of Herbert Smith Freehills. The Academy is grateful to Don Robertson and his partners for hosting this event.

The following day, the Academy’s Patron, Chief Justice French, welcomed Professor Revesz over lunch at the High Court in Canberra.

Melbourne members of the Academy met our visitor at a cocktail party at the Federal Court on Thursday evening, 27 March. The event was organised by Justice Middleton of the Court and the Academy is indebted to the Court and Chief Justice Allsop for allowing the Academy the use of the Court premises.

Professor Revesz has expressed his enthusiasm to pursue the collaboration between the ALI and the AAL.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an email dated 7 March from Marianne Walker, the Publications Director of the ALI, which will give Fellows an idea of some of the possibilities being explored.

Finally, may I again thank Professor Jane Stapleton, Fellow of the Academy and the first non-American member of the Council of the American Law Institute, for her assistance in bringing this collaboration with the ALI to fruition.

Website

The revamping of the Academy website is now complete.

As from Friday 21 March the “new” website has been up and running. All Fellows are encouraged to view it: www.academyoflaw.org.au.

Fellows will, I am sure, agree that the format and content of the website have been greatly improved.

Much of the credit for this must go to the Chair of the Publications and Website Committee, Professor Michael Adams, as well, of course, to the contracted web designer, Digerati Solutions (Ainslie Freeman).

There is something that all Fellows should do to ensure the accuracy of the website: this is to check that the details recorded for them in the “Members” section are correct. Positions occupied, titles and post-nominals change from time to time and it is difficult to be sure that the details recorded remain up to date.

If you see an error, may I ask you to advise the Secretariat, Justice Alan Robertson, the Chair of the Membership Committee and me of the correction to be made:

aal@law.anu.edu.au
Jennifer.Farrell@fedcourt.gov.au
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In the next Newsletter information will be provided concerning two different “functionalities” of the new website, a member log in and a forum, so watch this space.

Tasmanian AAL event for 2014

The AAL event for Tasmania was held at the Law School at the University of Tasmania on the evening of Wednesday 19 March.

The Hon Paul Finn spoke on “Reflections on Fiduciary Law” to an audience of 27, drawn from the judiciary, academia and the practising profession.

The question time and discussion after the lecture demonstrated that those present greatly appreciated hearing from one who has thought so much over so many years and so deeply about the subject.

AAL events for 2014 in other States and Territories

Academy events have been planned or are in the course of being planned for the other States and Territories. Those that now have dates assigned to them are as follows

Queensland: On the evening of Tuesday 29 July Professor Lucia Zedner of the Faculty of Law, University of Oxford will deliver a lecture in the Banco Court, Supreme Court of Queensland. Lecture title to be advised.

Western Australia: On the evening of Monday 28 July The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG will speak on “North Korea, International Law and Political Reality”. Venue to be advised.

Northern Territory: On the evening of Thursday 4 September, The Hon Frank Vincent AO, QC will deliver the Austin Asche Oration, which is jointly sponsored by Charles Darwin University and the Academy. Venue and lecture title to be advised.

May the good work done by the local Organising Committees in these jurisdictions be an encouragement to the others.

Fellows will be given, through the Newsletter and also now through the website, further details of the Academy events in all States and Territories as they become available. In addition, in due course the usual flyers will be distributed locally for each event.

New Fellows

Since the last Newsletter ([2014] No 1 of 26 February 2014) the following have become fellows of the Academy:

Emeritus Professor David Hambly
Professor Jeffrey Goldsworthy
Professor Margaret Allars SC
Professor Helen Irving
The Hon Justice Ruth McColl AO
Mr Grant Donaldson SC
Mr Walter Sofronoff QC

I am sure that all Fellows join me in extending a warm welcome to these new members.

President
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31 March 2014