

EDITORIAL

This past year has seen unprecedented criticism of New Zealand's judiciary. This criticism has been levelled in the context of increasing debate over whether New Zealand should retain the Privy Council as our highest appeal court – itself an issue which forms part of the current polemic over this country's future constitutional arrangements. The most notable attacks on the judiciary have come from the Honourable John Banks and the Executive Director of the New Zealand Business Roundtable, Mr Roger Kerr. While the former blatantly ignored political convention in, literally, broadcasting his views, the latter suggested that there was “nothing untoward” in challenging judicial accountability and standards of judicial performance.

Mr Kerr's comments also included criticism at the lack of rigorous academic scrutiny of cases in New Zealand law schools. However, the Auckland University Law Review has, for twenty-eight years, provided critical analysis of judicial and legislative developments. The Review is unique in New Zealand as the only student edited journal confined to student legal writing. This Review, which represents only a selection of the quality writing that is encouraged at the University of Auckland, often highlights areas of the law which require reform.

The 1995 issue of the Auckland University Law Review contains articles which examine the harmonisation of trans-Tasman developments in competition law, the need for penal reform, and the controversial application of the concept of fairness in employment redundancy. Ironically, the latter article critiques a case which Mr Kerr used as a platform for his attack on the judiciary. There is also a call for legislative reform in the areas of physical punishment in the home, the transmission of HIV, and whistleblowing. Finally, with the continuing atrocities occurring in Bosnia-Herzegovina, it is pertinent that this issue contains an article discussing the right to self-determination.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the Auckland University Law Students' Society in helping to publish and maintain this Review. Our thanks must also go to the whole editorial team, for without their efforts, the continued success of the Review would not be possible. We are also grateful for the support of the Library and the Faculty Staff of the Law School, particularly our Faculty Advisers, Janet McLean and Scott Optican.

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