

THE HONOURABLE REX MASON PRIZE

An annual prize for legal writing has been established by Miss Henrietta Rex Mason in honour of her brother, the Hon. Rex Mason, Q.C. The Hon. Mr. Mason was Attorney-General and Minister of Justice from 1935 to 1949 and from 1957 to 1960 as well as holding other Cabinet portfolios. He was a pioneer in the field of law reform, and was responsible for the establishment in 1937 of the Law Revision Committee, the forerunner of the present Law Reform Commission. His work resulted in many important and badly needed reforms.

Miss Mason has provided a fund of \$5,000, the income from which will provide the prize. In agreeing to act as trustee, the Wellington District Law Society has expressed appreciation of the generosity of Miss Mason in establishing the prize which should encourage the publication of articles of high calibre to the benefit of the profession and ultimately of the public. The prize is to be awarded each December for the best article appearing in the New Zealand Law Journal or in any other New Zealand legal publication during the preceding twelve months.

In determining the best articles the judges are to be guided by:

- (i) the educational value of each article;
- (ii) the literary value of each article;
- (iii) the ability of each article to stimulate awareness in young lawyers of the nature and function of law as seen in, and derived from, practical experience;
- (iv) the extent to which each article draws attention to the need for development of the law in times of social change;
- (v) the extent to which each article stimulates the interest of practicing members of the legal profession.

The judges will be the Chief Justice of New Zealand or his nominee, the Editor of the New Zealand Law Journal and the Dean of the Law Faculty of Victoria University of Wellington.