

iNFORMATION for lawyers



COVER STORY

18 *Courting respect* New Family Court Chief Justice Diana Bryant

Diana Bryant's legal career has been characterised by outstanding results gained through hard work and a willingness to lead. As the new Family Court Chief Justice she will need all these attributes to head the country's most controversial court.

By Jason Silverii



(fair trading)

32 **More firepower for the Director of Consumer Affairs**

Stronger powers of enforcement now mean that the Director of Consumer Affairs can take targeted action against businesses where *Fair Trading Act* contraventions occur in Victoria.

By Richard Wilson



(mediation)

38 **Mediations: a cautionary approach**

Mediations are now a critical step in the litigation process and mediators should be alert to their responsibilities as well as the boundaries within which they may operate.

By Michael Edelstein



(arbitration)

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The once treasured art of arbitration has unfairly been devalued. It has much to offer, especially in the field of commercial alternative dispute resolution management. By Peter Condliffe

(Magistrates' Court)

46 **Magistrates' Court developments**

Changes proposed for the Magistrates' Court during the coming months include an increase in its civil jurisdiction to \$100,000, a revitalised Industrial Division, the possibility of judicial registrars and the continuing development of the Street Sex Workers' List. By Ian L Gray

(corporations law)

50 **Broken wings: corporate high fliers and disqualification orders**

The *Corporations Act* 2001 (Cth) allows for a person to be disqualified from taking part in the management of a corporation, sometimes for life, and it seems that disqualification orders are becoming an established part of the corporate enforcement landscape. By St. John Hibble

(information technology)

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(legal practice)

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Unqualified legal practice is a serious concern for regulatory authorities, for the wider legal profession and for our entire community. By Sarah Gaden

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