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Law
Institute
Victoria

LIJ: Volume 78: No.11 (November 2004)

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Cite as: (2004) 78(11) LIJ, p. 80

This month we review the new Legal Profession Tribunal site, the Federal Court's eCourt system, as well as a series of sites that provide access to UK case law. We also look at a law humour site that will get you smiling.

Legal Profession Tribunal

<http://www.legalpt.vic.gov.au>

The Legal Profession Tribunal (LPT) has launched its new website. This comprehensive site provides an explanation of the types of matters brought before the LPT as well as disciplinary findings, disciplinary charges and the procedure for the cancellation of costs agreements. Decisions are available – but this is limited to only those decisions which are deemed to be of assistance in future cases. The decisions are searchable by legislation, practitioner involved or catchwords. An index is also available from 1997-2004. Decisions which are likely to be of interest to the legal profession will appear on the website for a limited period.

Federal Court of Australia eCourt

<http://www.fedcourt.gov.au>

To access the latest technology at the Federal Court, eCourt, hover over the "eCourt" link on the Federal Court's front page and select "eSearch" from the menu. eCourt's eSearch facility allows you to obtain information on cases that have commenced in the Federal Court or the federal law division of the Federal Magistrates Court. Decisions and proceedings from 1984 to the present are included. Data is added in real time so it is possible to follow a matter almost as it is happening. The site warns that, in relation to a proceeding, "the information on the database is not the formal record of the Federal Court or the Federal Magistrates Court".

Privy Council Office, UK

The website of the Privy Council Office contains judgments from the Judicial Committee since 1999. To enter the judgments section of the site, follow the "click here" link under the Judicial Committee heading. This will take you to a listing of the current year's decisions. (Judgments from before 2004 can be accessed by selecting from the dropdown list box in the top right corner.) To view a particular judgment, click on the title of a case and it will open as a Word document. To search for a party name you will need to use Control F, which searches the list on the screen. Unfortunately, the search button in the site's banner will search the whole of the Privy Council site – not just the judgments section.

House of Lords Judgments

<http://www.parliament.uk>

House of Lords decisions can be accessed via the UK Parliament site. At the front page, click on "Judicial Work" from the menu on the left, followed by the "Judgments" tab in the next page. You will then need to click on the word "judgments" once again to get access to House of Lords decisions from 1996 onwards. Unfortunately, the decisions are a little hard to navigate as judgments from the past eight years are all listed on this page in date order. Control F will allow you to search the list or you can simply scroll down if you know what you are looking for.

Court Service Judgments, UK

<http://www.courtservice.gov.uk/Judgments.do>

The Court Service database is maintained by the Court Service executive agency within the Department for Constitutional Affairs. The database contains selected UK judgments dating back to 1996 from various English courts and also includes search functionality. Unfortunately, advanced searching is not available. The search link will take you to a simple search screen that searches keywords, judgment summaries and case particulars. To view a decision, click on the judgment's party names. This will take you to a summary of the case. To access the full judgment, click on the file icon at the bottom of the summary.

LawHumour.com

<http://www.LawHumour.com>

It took a long time to review LawHumour.com because I got stuck playing LawHumour Hangman. If you don't get the word out after several tries, a Donald Trump-like message flashes up stating, "You're fired. Send Resume". Move over lunchtimes spent playing Blackjack on the computer, LawHumour.com has enough games, articles and music to keep you going into billable time. Maintained by New York lawyer, Lawrence Savell, it will appeal to anyone in the legal industry (despite the American slant). If an article entitled, "Lawyers (Allegedly) at Leisure" or the adventures of Typo-Man sound intriguing, you too will become engrossed.

Website reviews are provided by the Law Institute library. For more information on legal websites, see the Guide to Legal Internet Sites at <http://www.liv.asn.au/research>.

insites@liv.asn.au

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ACN 075 475 731, ABN 32 075 475 731, 470 Bourke Street Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia.
Tel:(61 3) 9607 9311, Fax:(61 3) 9602 5270 DX 350 Melbourne.