

12 August 1986

Dear Prospective Member,

CRIMINAL LAW ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

At the recent International Criminal Law Congress held in Adelaide it was resolved to form the Criminal Law Association of Australia. Matters have developed further from there, and this letter is designed to bring you up-to-date with subsequent developments.

At the conclusion of the very successful Congress, delegates from all States and Territories met informally with a view to forming a national body of those involved in the Criminal Law. It was perceived that there was a need for criminal lawyers and others to debate, at a national level, the plethora of issues which arise out of the daily practice in the Criminal Courts.

Since that time, delegates have been meeting informally with a view to bringing into being a national body. Representations were made to the Law Council of Australia for support and administrative assistance. Those representations were successful. At a meeting in Sydney held on 8 August 1986, it was resolved that the national body should be formed and that there be representation on a National Executive from each State and Territory. In the interim, State and Territory delegates were appointed for administrative and constitutional reasons.

Procedures for subsequent elections have not been ironed out as yet. It is hoped that each State and Territory body will be able to organise its delegate according to its own procedures. At these initial discussions, the Territory has been represented by Mr. Colin McDonald.

It is proposed that the Criminal Law Association of Australia will come into being at the opening of the legal year at the High Court in 1987. His Honour the Chief Justice of Australia Sir Harry Gibbs has agreed to be the patron of the Association.

The Association will comprise all criminal lawyers and other persons interested in the Criminal Law who hold a law degree from an appropriate university or institute.

It is now a question for the States and Territories to form their own Associations which will be an integral part of the national organisation.

To this end, we write to you inviting you to join the Criminal Lawyers Association of the Northern Territory. It is proposed that the association will be formed at an informal dinner to be held at the Sheraton Hotel on Friday 22 August 1986 at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

Guest speakers will be Mr. Kevin Murray Q.C. and Mr. James Glissan Q.C.

The emphasis of the night will be informal and we assure you there will be no boring administration lectures. Rather, materials will be handed out at the end of the evening, including membership forms. The only matter that will be required is a resolution from the floor (for those capable of resolving anything at that time) that there be formed a body to be hereafter known as the Criminal Law Association of the Northern Territory. Thereafter an administrative committee shall be formed who will be responsible for the conduct of the association's affairs until electoral procedures have been finalised at a national level.

Future activities envisaged prior to the end of the year are a wine bottling afternoon/evening and a dinner where the guest speaker will be (hopefully) Mr. J. Coldrey Q.C. Mr. Coldrey will discuss the experience of the development of the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Victoria and the benefits that have resulted from such formation.

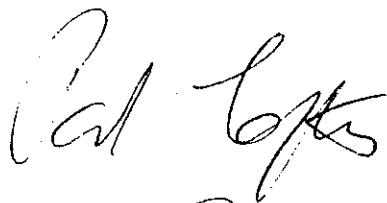
This association will only be as good as the combined energies of its members. There are within the Territory very important issues arising from the Criminal Law which do need the involvement of criminal lawyers as a group.

We hope you will give this Association your support, attend the dinner and join.

It is proposed that the interim committee will comprise Mr. M. Palmer, Mr. P. Loftus, Mr. C. McDonald and Mr. R. Minahan.

Yours sincerely,

PAT LOFTUS



COLIN McDONALD



RAY MINAHAN

