

25th August 1986

The Honourable Mr. Justice J.A. Nader,
Judges Chambers,
Supreme Court of the Northern Territory,
of Australia,
Mitchell Street,
DARWIN. N.T. 5790

Dear Judge,

CRIMINAL LAW ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY

I am pleased to advise that on Friday 22nd August, 1986 the Criminal Law Association of the Northern Territory formed.

At a very successful dinner, attended by over 70 persons (including over 60 practitioners), it was unanimously resolved at the motion of Tom Pauling QC (and seconded by Brian Martin QC) that there be formed a body to be known as the Criminal Law Association of the Northern Territory. Guest speakers were Mr. James Glissan QC and Mr Kevin Murray QC. Mr. Phillip Scales the Executive Director of the national body, kindly volunteered to come to Darwin and also spoke to those assembled. The evening attracted the largest attendance of Northern Territory practitioners I have witnessed in my five years here.

The Territory Association received telegrams and letters of support from all State bodies. The Territory Association is automatically recognised as a constituent body of the national Australian Criminal Law Association. The national body, whilst being fully independent, will also become a section of the Law Council of Australia. The Law Council will provide funding and administrative support. Without compromising the independence of criminal lawyers, the link with the Law Council will make the national body viable in the future.

Membership of the Association is open to all criminal lawyers, i.e. those who are admitted to practice or at least have a law degree and work in the criminal law area. Judges, of course, can be members. It was decided (by a majority) at the last national executive meeting that Judges were in fact lawyers! For the record, I voted with the majority.

Thus, with the energetic support of Ray Minahan, I have in part discharged the responsibility you reposed in me when you nominated me as the Territory delegate of the national body in Adelaide in October last year. My remaining responsibility is to deliver up to

the national body an active, financially stable and vigorous body at the launch of the national Association at the High Court in February, 1987.

The first elections are to be held in or about February, 1988. Until that time, a regime of 'guided democracy' will prevail. For the first year, I want simply to get people involved in the steering committee who are prepared to work. Thereafter, the politics can surface and the various candidates face the electorate. It seems however, until that time, that the national constitution gives me powers similar to those of General Zia in Pakistan (who, incidentally, has also postponed his country's elections until early 1988)!

I will keep you informed of developments in the Association and assure you of my utmost industry in getting a few runs on the board.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colin McDonald". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

COLIN McDONALD