

I am delighted to welcome to the ranks of CLANT a man who once upon a time was, like I still am, a resident of Alice Springs. Back in 1997, the Hon John Elferink MLA, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Correctional Services, lawyer, former cop, and assertive citizen (which latter status, as we know, permits the exercise of the power, in appropriate circumstances, to effect an arrest) did the unthinkable: he won an apparently unwinnable bush seat from Labor, and in doing so, he showed the way and sowed the seeds for the Country Liberals' remarkable return to power on the day we originally scheduled for this dinner, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2012. When we met a couple of weeks ago, he started by telling me two things: as a legislator, he is duty bound to enact for the welfare of the people of the Northern Territory; and as the Attorney-General, he is duty bound to support the judiciary, and in particular, to defend the exercise of judicial discretion. Moreover, he was astute and candid enough to acknowledge that discharging both of these obligations can be difficult, because they can on occasion pull in opposing directions. I won't pretend that CLANT is likely to agree with all the policies and measures Mr Elferink's government embarks on. CLANT has been criticising governments of all persuasions for the last 25 years, and doubtless will continue to do so whenever we think such criticism is warranted. But I can tell you, I was mightily pleased to hear John Elferink articulate so clearly, and with respect, so correctly, the fundamental features, and the fundamental challenges, of his office. It is a tradition for the Attorney to open our Bali Conference, and we very much look forward to having John Elferink with us in Sanur on 22 June 2013 to continue that tradition. In the meantime, tonight, he gets as a token, our totem, the Silver Dingo.