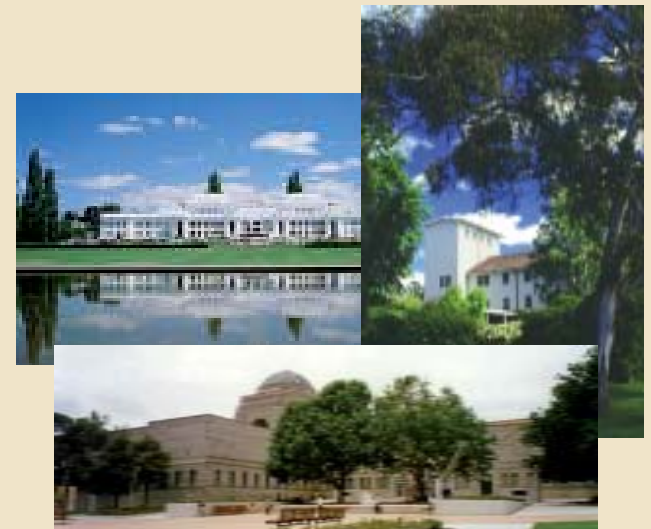


Phoenix Judges Program

19 - 22 May 2008

**Peer-led professional development
for judges**



Program

Monday 19 May 2008

8.30 Registration

9.00 Session 1 – Welcome, familiarisation

9.15 – 12.00

Session 2 – Judicial Conduct and Ethics –

An interactive discussion session in which participants give their views on ethical issues and principles arising out of scenarios circulated in advance to participants as pre-reading material.

12.00 Lunch

1.00 – 4.30

Session 3 – Court craft – The trial from hell

This session is concerned with both civil and criminal trial management. Participants will review pre trial and trial management issues.

Tuesday 20 May 2008

9.00 – 11.00

Session 4 – Psychological indications of witness credibility

A psychologist discusses what psychological research says about capacity to assess credibility or accuracy of cooperative witnesses and of those who are attempting to deceive.

11.30 – 12.30

Session 5 – Contempt

This session is conducted as a panel session by three experienced judges and will be based around a discussion with participants of scenarios (handling contempt in the face of the court: situation involving litigants, witnesses or counsel).

12.30 Lunch

1.30 - 2.45

Session 6 – Caring for our colleagues

A physician speaks about how to recognise the symptoms of the 'impaired professional' affected by stress, burn out or other problems and what his or her colleagues can usefully do to assist. Participants discuss the responsibility of judges for the welfare of their colleagues, and how they discharge that responsibility.

3.00 - 4.30

Session 7 – Judicial behaviour in court

An experienced judge leads participants in a discussion of judicial behaviour in court.

4.30 Close

Wednesday 21 May 2008

9.00 - 10.30

Session 8 – Expert evidence in civil proceedings

This session will look at moves to use single experts in civil proceedings, assessing expert evidence and the role and duties of experts.

11.00 - 1.00

Session 9 – Grappling with issues from a multi disciplinary viewpoint

This session will offer participants the opportunity to share insights about complex dilemmas confronted by other courts. It will be a shared learning exercise in which participants examine the process whereby a judge in a criminal matter determines a sentence and their reasons for doing so. Students from the Australian National University will participate.

1.00 Lunch

Thursday 22 May 2008

9.00 – 11.00

Session 10 – Ex tempore judgments

A session based on group discussion, practice of preparation and presentation of ex tempore decisions based on case examples

11.30 – 1.00

Session 11 – The psychology of judicial decision making

A psychologist discusses recent psychological research on implicit prejudice, explicit statements which are the expression of implicit bias, benevolent sexism, the 'Glass cliff', modern racism/modern prejudice; whether professional decision making methods are effective in excluding bias/stereotyping and the effectiveness of psychological tests in these areas.

1.00 Lunch

2.00 – 4.00

Session 12 – Cultural barriers in the Court Room

An interactive session in which participants discuss with community representatives:

- problems encountered in the courts by people from other cultures
- techniques for successful oral communication in court
- cultural barriers between a witness and the court

4.00 Afternoon Tea & Close

What is the aim of the program?

The event is a 'refresher program', with the aim of giving experienced judges the opportunity to revisit key areas of their work, to reflect on their role as judges, to exchange information on how they discharge that role by interaction with experienced colleagues from other jurisdictions.

What style of program?

The College aims to create a stimulating learning environment for judicial officers by offering courses which use and build on the knowledge, experience and skills of participants. Most sessions will feature small group discussion and problem solving. To ensure an effective level of interaction among participants, the program is limited to a maximum of 25 participants.

What have previous participants said ?

"A thought provoking program; time for reflection and for building relationships"

"Really enjoyed interchange of ideas and discussions"

"Mix of jurisdictions and levels of experience worked very well"

"I appreciated the opportunity to stand back from day to day concerns in order to think about the larger picture"

"Excellent presentations. Will alter our behaviour in appropriate circumstances, a least for a few years. A good reason for refresher courses like this"

"I am not alone – others have similar challenges to me and I can talk with others if I need to"

"the dinners at Old Parliament House and the War Memorial were excellent; the venues had iconic status"

When?

The program will be conducted over 4 days (Monday to Thursday) commencing 19 May 2008.
