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Chairman's Message

It is a great honour for me to succeed an illustrious line of predecessors as Chairman of the Business Law Section. I wish to pay particular tribute to the energy and good humour with which Alan Cameron discharged his duties over the past two years. The BLS is now the largest of the seven sections of the Law Council, having over 1,000 members. Through its committees it is continually making representations to the Federal Government under the auspices of the Law Council. Thousands of hours of valuable expert time are spent each year by members of the BLS Committees in examining proposals for changing our Federal Laws and in many cases those laws are made more effective as a result of that contribution.

During my term of office I wish to see the Committees of the section becoming more widespread geographically and having a significant presence in Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane in particular. Members of the BLS wishing to participate in the activities of Committees are invited to contact me or the section Administrator in Canberra, Carol O'Sullivan. We are looking for people with that rare combination of expertise and energy who will be able to contribute significantly to the work of the BLS in influencing Government so that good laws are effected and appropriate policies adopted.

To encourage membership in Tasmania, we have decided to waive BLS meeting registration fees on the mainland for Tasmanian members.

Our twilight and travelling seminar programme will continue. These afford to BLS members who are not on Committees opportunities to discuss developments in the law and to exchange views with fellow practitioners.

The highlight of 1988 will be the visit to Australia as the guest of the BLS of Professor Roger Fisher of the Harvard Law School, Director of the Program on Negotiation and author, with William Ury, of "Getting to Yes — negotiating agreement without giving in". I have had the advantage of attending two Harvard Summer

School Workshops on negotiation and have found the Fisher negotiation exercises to be both stimulating and immensely practical in the day to day conduct of a legal practice. For this reason, in addition to the presentation at the convention of a plenary session entitled "Negotiating with the Russians and with your spouse — is there a difference?" Professor Fisher will conduct two workshops, in Sydney and in Melbourne during the week immediately preceding the convention (21-28 August, 1988). These will replicate the Harvard negotiation exercises which normally form part of the summer school. Attendance must be limited to no more than 40 at each workshop and accordingly those wishing to express interest in attending are invited to notify me or Carol O'Sullivan at the Law Council. It is expected that the registration fee will be in the region of \$1,250 for the two and a half days.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to Professor Bob Baxt on his appointment as Chairman of the Trade Practices Commission. Bob has been a member of the executive of the BLS for several years and has been particularly active as a member of its Trade Practices Committee and as editor of the Australian Business Lawyer since its inception. Bob is known to most BLS members as extremely energetic in an amazingly wide variety of activities, all devoted to the pursuit of knowledge and the improvement of our expertise. It is an exciting thought that, as Chairman of the Trade Practices Commission, he will be channelling his enormous energies into only one activity. We can certainly expect the sparks to fly!

Alan L Limbury

Editorial

This is the last Australian Business Lawyer that I will be editing before assuming the Chairmanship of the Trade Practices Commission.

I have enjoyed very much my involvement with the Business Law Section and the Australian Business Lawyer. I hope through the pages of this Journal, we have been able to provide our members and others with some stimulating commentary on a wide range of matters relating to the broad area of Business Law. I look forward
