



The Gavel

Volume 1, Issue 1

15 May 2006

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New Face of CLSS

The Chinese Law Students Society (CLSS) at the University of Sydney recently held its 2006 AGM and election.

In a tightly contested series of elections, a number of new executives from second and third year were elected this year, signaling the injection of new blood and new ideas into the fast growing society.

Since 2004, the society has grown four fold in membership, and has held a number of successful activities, catering mainly to law students studying on main campus.

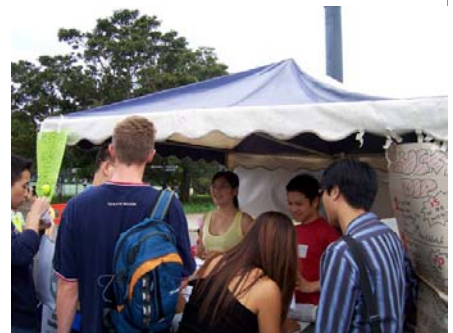
The new President, **Collin Wong** (Commerce/Law IV), is enthusiastic about the coming year: "I can as-

sure you that we are going to have a good year this year."

He will be working with re-elected Vice President, **Enoch Lau** (Science/Law III), newly elected Treasurer **Daniel Nguyen**

(Economics/Law III), and Secretary **Catherine Feng** (Commerce/Law IV (Hon)).

The four main portfolios are: Careers Director **Andrea Ho** (EconSS/Law III), Education Director **Bobby Yeh** (Commerce/Law IV), Publications Director **John Lee** (Commerce/Law I), and Social Director **Tian Cai** (Commerce/Law II). A further four executives



The CLSS Stall during O-week

were also elected: **Jane Ma** (Commerce/Law II), **Lorraine Hui** (Commerce/Law III), **Emily Liu** (Commerce/Law IV) and **Yi Xia** (Commerce/Law IV).

The AGM also passed several constitutional amendments to restructured the executive and moved the next AGM to October, which will ensure smooth executive transition

Welcome to the Gavel

Welcome to the first issue of **the Gavel**, a fortnightly newsletter published by the **Chinese Law Students Society**.

We hope that you will find this newsletter informative and entertaining. Through this news-

letter, we aim to keep our members as well as all law students updated on what's happening at CLSS, around uni, and in the legal world.

This newsletter will be distributed at law school and in main campus. To

make sure you never miss out on an issue, see our website at <http://usydclss.tripod.com>

For enquiries and contributions, email: usydclss@gmail.com

The Editorial Team

Legal Digest

States challenge IR laws

The High Court continues to hear the case against the Commonwealth's so-called WorkChoices laws. All states and territories have now either joined the case or are intervening. The case hinges on the interpretation of s51(xx) of the Constitution, the Corporations power. The states have also raised objection to 31 individual pieces of legislation, some of which question whether the Commonwealth law has "covered the field" or simply purported to exclude state law.

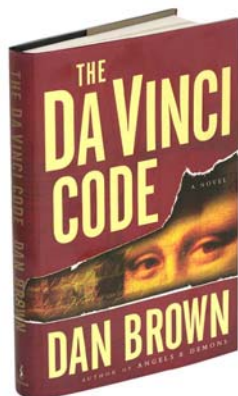
In heated exchanges, Bret Walker SC's arguments were called "sloppy talk" and Michael Sexton SC was told to do his homework by Hayne J.

A decision is expected in about six months.

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/HCATrans/2006/235.html>

Smithy's Code

Smith J, the British judge who decided the IP case involving *the Da Vinci Code* has devised codes of his own. The discovery came after readers of the judgment noticed italicised letters placed in strange places. The italics in the first page spelled out "Smithy's code". Law-



Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* - inspiration for Smith J.
Photo: Herbert A. Ortillano

yers have reportedly solved the riddle. A variety of techniques have been used, including several discussed in *the Da Vinci Code* novel. Try it yourself:

http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk/images/judgment-files/baigent_v_rhg_0406.pdf

France to break iTunes monopoly

The French Senate on Thursday began considering a bill that would mandate digital music providers to allow their music to be played on other brands of music players.

This would break Apple's monopoly over music downloaded via iTunes. Internet user groups have opposed amendments to water down the bill.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/breaking/french-senate-mulls-music-downloads-bill/2006/05/05/1146335896784.html>

Outlaw powers stripped

The Security Legislation Review Committee, chaired by Sheller J of the NSW Supreme Court, has recommended to federal parliament that the Attorney General's wide-ranging powers in declaring terror-

ist organisations be stripped. Under existing laws, once a group is proscribed, a "formal or informal" member could be jailed for 10 years, whether or not he or she knows of any planned terrorist activities.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/ruddock-rebuked-over-outlaw-powers/2006/05/07/1146940414167.html>

Federal government yet to respond on gay union laws

The Attorney-General, Phillip Ruddock, said he will study the details of the ACT's new laws permitting homosexual civil unions before responding. There are concerns the laws may contravene the Marriage Act 1961 (Cth).

Tax cuts for the high earning

Treasurer Peter Costello unveiled the 2006-2007 budget. This brings good news to those in the higher earnings brackets and self-funded retirees, who will enjoy substantial tax savings. Income tax savings alone will total \$37 billion over four years. Critics say, however, that these tax savings come at the expense of health, education, and employment opportunities for youths.

<http://www.budget.gov.au/2006-07/index.htm>

"Bret Walker SC's arguments were called 'sloppy talk'"

Information

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President of the CLSS

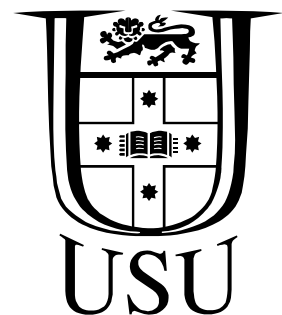
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