

National Judicial College of Australia

TWILIGHT SEMINAR FOR THE JUDICIARY

“PEOPLE TRAFFICKING”

Monday 15 June 2009, 4.30pm
State Library of New South Wales

The number of people trafficking cases coming before the courts in Australia is increasing. The nature of offences in which people are forced into labour, including sexual servitude, is that there are likely to be few witnesses and limited physical evidence. The credibility of victim-witnesses and their capacity to be understood can be critical to the outcome of proceedings.

These cases may be complicated by the fact that most victim-witnesses in trafficking cases:

- originate from foreign cultures
- are from low socio-economic backgrounds
- have low level English skills
- lack support networks in Australia
- experience shame resulting from public disclosure at trial of compromising conduct
- have been systematically exploited (physically, sexually, psychologically), and
- distrust law enforcement officers and the legal system.

This twilight seminar will explore the difficulties that arise for judicial officers presiding in legal proceedings in these cases. It will also look at the broader issues such as whether organised gangs are behind the ‘trade’ in people and the scope of the problem internationally.

Speakers

Judge Ken Taylor AM RFD (District Court of NSW & NSW Privacy Commissioner) presided in proceedings (*R v McIvor & Tanuchit*) in which the defendants were convicted and sentenced for multiple offences of possessing and using a slave.

Judge Michael McInerney (County Court of Victoria) sat in the first two trials concerning slavery offences under the Commonwealth Criminal Code. The conviction in one of the cases (*The Queen v Tang*) was subsequently upheld by the High Court.

Dr Anne Gallagher is the Technical Director of the Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons Project, an AusAID project that is working with national criminal justice agencies in South-East Asia to strengthen their legal, technical and institutional responses to human trafficking.

Ms Wendy Abraham QC has appeared as counsel in a number of people trafficking cases.

Date and time

The seminar will be presented from 5pm to 7pm, Monday 15 June. Refreshments will be available from 4.30pm

Venue

The venue for the twilight seminar is:
State Library of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW



Parking is available at
Secure Parking 131 Macquarie St, Sydney
Metro Parking 8 Hospital Rd, Sydney
Domain Parking, St Mary's Rd, Sydney

Registration

Registration is free. Please register by 10 June 2009.

Registration by Phone Fax Email or Mail:

Phone: 02 6125 6655

Fax: 02 6125 6651

Email: ea@njca.anu.edu.au

Mail: The Director, National Judicial College of Australia
PO Box 8102, ANU, ACT 2601

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Title: _____

Court: _____

Postal Address: _____

Telephone:(work): _____

Email: _____

Special requirements (dietary or other) _____

The National Judicial College of Australia acknowledges the financial support, in meeting the administrative costs associated with the seminar, provided by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department under the Commonwealth's Anti People Trafficking Strategy.