

EDITORIAL

In one sense the message in the wide ranging talk by Rodger Pannone (published in this edition) was the importance of combination and co-ordination by plaintiffs as a balance to the economic power wielded by the defence in the shape of major corporations and their insurers. The central theme of the talk was disasters, and it offered a change of perspective from that more usually heard. In addition to a view of proceedings, negotiations and settlements with reference to particular disasters, views on the future of the legal profession and civil proceedings were also put forward.

The theme of practitioners' perspectives on combination and co-ordination continued at another lunchtime meeting, this time in May when the Defense Research Institute's executive committee came to town, and whilst here gave a lunch-time presentation. A paper from Archie Robinson setting out the aims of the DRI is in this edition.

Another body features in this edition whose *raison d'être* is the co-ordination of another area of specialisms for the purposes of litigation. Providing the wherewithal to identify experts to meet needs even more exotic than an urgent manifestation of the prudent underwriter, the British Academy of Experts is, as Michael Cohen's article will tell you, a repository of specialists.

A mention of Dr Malcolm Clarke's new work, *The Law of Insurance Contracts*, which has won the BILA award this year serves to bridge the practice of litigation and the academic world. Also in the sphere of academic activity, *The Times* recently reported that Leverhulme Trust fellowships have been awarded to Professor JR Birds and Mr C Graham of Sheffield University for research into complaints procedures in the insurance industry.

You will see that in this edition there is a new section called "Noticeboard". It is primarily to serve as a focus for forthcoming events and similar announcements.

JRMF

NOTICEBOARD

Annual Conference and AGM: Tuesday 18th September 1990 at University College, London.

President's lunch: Friday 7th December 1990, Chartered Insurance Institute's Hall, London