

## Newsletter - July 2003

### **Health and Safety**

In December 2002 the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 ("Act") was amended, bringing in tough new provisions for workplace safety. Those provisions came into effect on 5 May 2003. The effects of the Act are far reaching and employers (and other) will need to ensure compliance. The key changes are set out below...[MORE](#)

### **Hiring Staff - What to ask?**

As an employer you may wonder what you should ask during the employment process. In a recent case, a company's pre-employment questionnaire asked "Do you have any medical problems of any kind? If yes, please detail what and when". The employee disclosed a problem with her hip joint, but failed to disclose irritable bowel syndrome and a pre-cancerous condition in her mouth. She was dismissed for failing to disclose those conditions...[MORE](#)

### **The Courts - A safe haven for lawyers?**

What can you do if your lawyer fails to act in your best interests, provide adequate advice, or exercise reasonable care in respect of your Court proceeding? In New Zealand layers involved in court work (usually known as barristers) are immune from being sued for negligence for their conduct at a Court or Tribunal hearing or for any work they complete that is directly related... [MORE](#)

### **What to do when trustees can't agree?**

Trustees are appointed under a person's will, or under a deed of trust. Unless otherwise stated in the will or deed, trustees must act unanimously. What options are available to trustees if they cannot agree on a matter?...[MORE](#)

### **Construction Contracts ACT 2002**

The Act came into force on 1 April 2003 and aims to address the major problems in the construction industry. The Act came about from a need to address power imbalances between developers, mainly to solve problems with payments and dispute resolution...[MORE](#)

### **Boy Racers**

Recent media coverage has made most people aware of the Land Transport (Unauthorised Street and Drag Racing) Amendment Act 2003 ("Act") that came into effect on 1 May 2003. The most controversial part of the Act is a provision allowing impounding of motor vehicles...[MORE](#)