

Senate Select Committee on Legal and Constitutional matters
Canberra

Dear bipartisan politicians,

Family Courts Amalgamation Bill- hold The Law Society accountable

If this Bill is the best the two mainstream political parties can do after years of public complaints about the industrial scale of fraud in family courts , then don't bother showing up in May.

This Bill only speeds up 1,200 divorces out of 50,000 per annum. Doesn't solve even one of them. This Bill is better than nothing but it is just so wet. Lawyers are not the solution to the many family law problems we have- lawyers are the problem.

Make the system work by amending this Bill so as to drive real savings:

1. In a long marriage no one should get 33% while the other gets double or more. If some deranged bitter lawyer wants to argue beyond that then get a QCs opinion, table it within 30 days, and get written permission of the judge that its has a reasonable chance of success- not a punt. Stop those grubby little spivs wasting other people's money and misleading everyone so they can sell delay and not justice. This is a licence for justice not for inane ambit claims.
2. Pay 50/ 50 and then argue for an adjustment, not pay in 2 years or 19 years or whenever the lawyers feel like it. A pay now argue later rule would do more for family violence than all the press releases you lot have all generated in the last decade.
3. Clients first, lawyers last unless the other side has no lawyer- unlikely if you pay up front. Cap lawyers fees to 1% paid at the end. This is what Johnny Howard did with the ambulance chasing scum and it worked. Everything else is a waste of time. If lawyers whinge, fine- take away the monopoly because they just aren't very good anyway.

Add on to this Bill that there will be the Royal Commission that 100,000 of us have already signed a petition demanding, starting in March. Let's cross examine the lawyers with oodles of complaints against them that the law society is doing nothing about, just for a change. Great TV to see all the sleaze and fraud ooze out of the Family Court.

Make Lionel Murphy proud of you. No more half-hearted small stuff. No more political spina bifida with the law society. Stand up to them. Get it done.

Regards

Nick Jones