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Announcements

Defamation Law - Papers by Bill Atkin and Steven Price, Victoria University of Wellington

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■ **"Has Lange Tipped the Balance Too Far?"**

[1998] NZLJ 293.

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 126

BILL ATKIN, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

Email: Bill.Atkin@vuw.ac.nz

Bill Atkin reviews a mere "refinement" in defamation law.

■ **"Lange 2000"**

[2000] NZLJ 236.

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 127

BILL ATKIN, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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STEVEN PRICE, Victoria University of Wellington School of Law

Bill Atkin and Steven Price ask whether Lange has been amplified or reconstructed.

"Let-Down in Lange"

New Zealand Law Journal, 442, 1999

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 128

BILL ATKIN, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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Bill Atkin reads between the lines of the Privy Council judgment (of *Lange v Atkinson*).

"Defamation Law in New Zealand 'Refined' and 'Amplified'"

[2001] *CLWR* 237.

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 129

BILL ATKIN, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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In recent years, the law of defamation has undergone a revolution. Whereas the protection of reputation was once considered the highest priority, legal thinking has now moved on towards favouring freedom of speech in political discourse. This article outlays the law of qualified privilege in comparative common law jurisdictions. It focuses on New Zealand, where the law was 'refined' in *Lange v Atkinson* (1998) and then 'amplified' in the follow up case of *Lange v Atkinson* (2000). Contrast is drawn between these cases and *Reynolds v Times Newspapers Ltd*. This article suggests the different path that the Court of Appeal has taken in *Lange* is not so different after all, and that it may have been preferable to simply follow *Reynolds*.

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Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers Series primarily contains scholarly papers by members of the **Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington**. Some issues collect a number of papers on a similar theme to form a suite of papers on a single topic. Others issues are general or distribute mainly recent work.

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The Victoria University of Wellington was founded in 1899 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of the then British Empire. Law teaching started in 1900. The Law Faculty was formally constituted in 1907. The first dean was Richard Maclaurin (1870-1920), an eminent scholar of both law and mathematics. Maclaurin went on to lead the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as President in its formative years. Early professors included Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), still one of the Common Law's leading scholars. His texts on jurisprudence and torts have gone through many editions and remain in print.

Alumni include Sir Robin Cooke (1926-2006), one of the leading judges of the British Commonwealth. As Baron Cooke of Thorndon, he sat on over 100 appeals to the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, one of very few Commonwealth judges ever appointed to do so.

Since 1996 the Law School has occupied the Old Government Building in central Wellington. Designed by William Clayton and opened in 1876 to house New Zealand's then civil service, the building is a particularly fine example of Italianate neo-Renaissance style. Unusually among large colonial official buildings of the time it is constructed of wood, apart from chimneys and vaults.

The School is close to New Zealand's Parliament, courts, and the headquarters of government departments. Throughout Victoria's history, our law teachers have contributed actively to policy formation and to law reform. As a result, in addition to many scholarly articles and books, the Victoria SSRN pages include a number of official reports.

Victoria graduates approximately 230 LLB and LLB(Hons) students each year, and about 60 LLM students. The faculty has an increasing number of doctoral students. Ordinarily there are ten to twelve students engaged in PhD research.

Victoria University observes the British system of academic ranks. In North American terms, lecturers and senior lecturers are tenured doctrinal scholars, not legal writing teachers. A senior lecturer corresponds approximately to a North American associate professor in rank.

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