
Editorial

In 1979 the Sony Walkman was launched; Margaret Thatcher became Britain's first female Prime Minister; Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize; 'Y.M.C.A.' was the top selling hit of the year in the UK; and the first issue of *Business Law Review* was published.

Those thirty-four years ago almost all of our information needs were supplied by the medium of hard-copy, as they had been for the previous 700 years (case reporting having started in England in the reign of Edward II¹ – although it was 1865 before case reports, as we would now recognize them, were published). The revolutionary 'Apple Macintosh' and the 'Amstrad PCW' would not be released for another five years. It would take more than another decade before law publishers began to contemplate and wrestle with the new challenges of delivery of information in electronic or digital form when, in 1995, the Internet was commercialized (when NSFNET was decommissioned, removing the last restrictions on the use of the Internet to carry commercial traffic).

Although *Kluwer Law Online* provides, with easy navigation, a digital version of all volumes of *Business Law Review*, today we expect much more as we have come to take for granted the provision of nearly-instant, categorized, updating material delivered, not to librarians or information-retrieval personnel, but to our desk-tops. As Professor Bob Berring so eloquently put it in his article 'Chaos, Cyberspace and Transition: Legal Information Transmogrified':² [the]

"primacy of the old paper sets [of print law reports] is fading, and a vortex of conflicting claims and products is spinning into place."

In order to take account of these developments *Business Law Review* is being relaunched with effect from this issue. We are shifting its emphasis from (largely) punchy, practical articles accompanied by reportage to a greater weight of more-academic consideration of topics of current concern, together with an increased number of comments on cases. In order to achieve this we are reducing the number of issues per annum from 11 to six (although the overall number of pages-per-volume will be maintained) and have appointed an exciting and invigorated new team of distinguished contributing editors from the worlds of both practice and academia.

We recognise, however, that many of our readers do still value not only the practical, shorter articles, which we shall continue to publish, but also the ability to browse, in print and at leisure, developments in topics related to their own speciality. We do not intend to throw the baby out with the bathwater so our features 'In Court', 'In Parliament' and 'In Prospect' will continue, as will our opinion pieces and coverage of new publications–both by way of reviews and notes.

We hope you will enjoy our new presentation and trust that it will enhance your information needs as advisers to the business community.

Alan Wells
Editor

¹ 1284 – 1387.

² *Berkeley Technology & Law Journal* 12: 189 at III.A. <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/journals/btlj/articles/vol12/Berring/html/text.html>.