

The following letter and appeal for assistance were received by the Editor recently. They seem to speak for themselves and we are pleased to include them in this issue in the hope that our readership will find this a cause worthy of their sympathetic attention.

The Editor
Manitoba Law Journal

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in hope that I may solicit your help. The Law Library at the University of Papua New Guinea is in a sorry state; and to remedy the situation we have decided to launch an appeal to invite people and institutions to make a gift either of money, books or periodicals. I am attaching a sample of this appeal. Our hope is that you might be willing to help out by printing this appeal in your journal. I know that this is perhaps a rather unusual approach; but the viability of the UPNG Law Faculty does depend on our ability to improve the standard of books provision. At present it is abysmally low. Our only chance of raising the required funds is by an appeal to the legal community for help. I know that in many developed countries there is a fund of goodwill towards Third World countries; and the problem is how to make our needs known. The only way that I can conceive is by printing an appeal in law journals. I do hope that you will give this suggestion your consideration; and I know the law students and faculty of the University here will be only too grateful for any help you can give.

Yours sincerely,

A.C. BUTLER
LIBRARIAN
THE UNIVERSITY OF
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**AN APPEAL FOR HELP
FOR THE LAW LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

The Faculty of Law at the University of Papua New Guinea is the centre for legal education and research in the country, and plays a key part in producing the many trained lawyers who are needed at all levels of government and in the many branches of commerce. Modern government cannot function without a substantial cadre of legal graduates who have the expertise to draft and interpret the bills and regulations which are essential to administer the nation. Likewise commercial and industrial activities cannot grow without a pool of legal talent. The Government and the University have recognised the need by setting up the Faculty of Law.

At present this consists of a student body of 200 and a teaching staff of sixteen. It is a very active faculty, and in addition to the first and higher degrees in law also runs and services External Studies programmes, diploma courses and courses for Law magistrates. It has plans for introducing a number of new teaching courses during the period 1977 to 1981.

However the functioning of the faculty has been hindered by the inadequacies of the Law Library. Various bodies in different countries who are interested in legal education have laid down standards which a law collection should reach in order that the teaching programmes may function properly. Unfortunately the university's law collection is well below any of the minimum size stipulated. The University has given such financial support as it could but the establishment of a working law collection is a heavy investment, especially for a young institution which has many calls on its limited resources.

The Law teachers have recently completed a survey of the holdings in order to identify those areas of weakness, bearing in mind that the present policy is to acquire those legal materials which have most relevance to Papua New Guinea, with special emphasis being placed on P.N.G.'s neighbours and other developing countries. The areas where the collection is still weak are as follows:

(a) Legal materials from the South Pacific region: British Solomons, Nauru, The Phillipines, Malaya. In this respect we only hold reports and other legal materials of the most recent years.

(b) Legal periodicals and reports together with the monographs written in relation to such laws and customs of the former African Colonies in which there is a mixture of English

common law and native customs. e.g. Nigeria, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Zambia, East Africa, Ghana. etc.

(c) Law reports, periodicals and basic text books and other selected materials of other countries whose systems of law are based on the common law essential comparative purposes. Such countries are India, Pakistan, Canada, Scotland and Ireland.

(d) English, Australian and New Zealand reports and periodicals are a stronger feature of the law collection. However the need here is for extra sets of reports rather than a need for filling gaps.

(e) American materials holdings are very poor and almost non-existent. We only hold fragments of series which are either out of date, irrelevant or incomplete.

To fill in these many gaps would need the purchasing of some 30,000 volumes which is a formidable task for a developing country taking into account the current high cost of law books these days. It is for this reason that the help of readers of this journal is being sought. Any assistance will be welcome whether it takes the form of a cash donation, the gift of review copies or unwanted current editions of texts or even sets of law reports from Law Libraries that are being broken up. Help of this kind would be invaluable to a young law faculty struggling to produce the lawyers the country needs.

No modern country can function without a system of laws; to operate this a good system of legal education is essential, and to have a good law faculty a good law library is a prerequisite. Your help in this way would make a significant contribution both to the progress of the country and also of the University. Please donate whatever you can: money, monographs, subscriptions to journals, sets of law reports or journals. It will all help. Gifts should be addressed to:

Alan Butler
University Librarian,
P.O. Box 4819,
University Post Office,
PORT MORESBY. PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

Cheques should be made payable to UPNG, crossed and marked "not negotiable."

