

Editorial

With this issue (Volume 5, Number 4) the *Journal of Business Systems, Governance and Ethics* completes its fifth year as a peer reviewed online journal. We have every intention of continuing to produce the journal for many more years to come.

The first article in this issue: *The Failure of Professional Self-Regulation: The example of the UK Veterinary Profession* is by Eddie Blass from the University of Hertfordshire in the UK. In this paper the author argues the case for professional bodies to lose their right to self-regulate wholly within their membership. He uses the example of an analysis of six cases reported to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) as cases of false certification in the last 3 years to demonstrate that self-regulation allows moral integrity to be sacrificed at the expense of economic imperatives and that individual judgements are preferenced over fair process and procedure. The need for professional regulation beyond those provided by the professions themselves is presented if only by the inclusion of lay-people in professional disciplinary hearings.

Michael Segon, from RMIT University in Australia, next presents an article on *Managing Organisational Ethics: Professionalism, Duty and HR Practitioners*. In the paper he poses the question: after almost 20 years of researching, teaching and consulting in business and organisational ethics, this emerging field seems to be facing an organisational dilemma. Who should manage the ethics and integrity systems that are slowly being adopted by Australian firms? Segon notes that during consulting engagements with numerous Australian businesses it has become clear that the task of managing ethics and integrity systems (- creation of codes of ethics, ethics committees, information programs, conducting of audits, etc) more often than not seems to be delegated to Human Resources Managers and their Departments. This trend appears to be unique to the Australian setting and contrary to the US where Ethics Officers and Compliance Officers assume this role. This paper then considers the question of who is appropriate to manage the ethics function in the Australian context.

Next is an article: *Using New Technology for Remote Witnessing of Legal Documents in Victoria* by Adam Darbyshire, from the University of Melbourne, and Paul Darbyshire from Victoria University, Australia. The article notes that current legal requirements concerning the witnessing of affidavits and statutory declarations require the physical presence of both the authorised witness and the deponent, but that this can be time consuming process and seriously disadvantages people in remote rural areas and even those in urban areas with transport problems. Although current laws will not at this time permit this process in this paper the authors outline a strategy for remote witnessing of documents that could be considered both secure and transparent for the legal process. The paper additionally presents the results of a survey undertaken to obtain comments from legal practitioners on this proposed method of remote witnessing.

The final article: *Lessons from the Twin Mega-Crises: The Financial Meltdown and the BP Oil Spill* is by Hershey H. Friedman and Linda Weiser Friedman from the City University of New York, USA. It explores the synchronicity of two mega-crises now faced in the US: The BP oil spill and the repercussions of the 2008 financial meltdown and examines some key common threads in both of these crises. The overarching message of the article is that firms must maintain a culture of social responsibility, must behave in an ethical manner, and must do everything possible to avoid societal harm.

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Editor

